

Recent Resources: Singing During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Research Coalition of Music Organizations (updated 6/26/20)

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>

Over 100 music organizations, including Association of Anglican Musicians, have joined forces to sponsor research on aerosol transmission of COVID-19 by instrumentalists, singers, and actors. Studies are underway at University of Colorado Boulder and University of Maryland.

- Preliminary results for woodwinds/brass by July 10
- Preliminary results for singers by July 25
- Evidence-based guidance available shortly thereafter
- Full results this fall
- Relevant Articles:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1PZ8RF3EytzUWGwfJNpu4fsyXc4E_u2Yi
Click on “Studies on Aerosol” folder for a collection of articles.

Tampa Bay Times article (6/27/20)

https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/06/26/marching-bands-arent-sure-how-to-handle-the-pandemic-so-they-commissioned-two-studies-involving-spit/?fbclid=IwAR0h7_4KwNPuDT-EIY10zyKTPKJrfxBPrVbaUKMTGgPT6_pgxYp6nIA_o

Interview with Mark Spede, Director of Bands at Clemson University and President of the College Band Directors National Association, one of the leaders of the aforementioned coalition.

Suggested possible adaptations for band to be able to resume – many could be applied to choirs:

- Improved ventilation
- Rehearsing outside when possible
- Smaller ensembles
- Seating/standing arrangements with greater distancing
- Performing off-site and recording/streaming music
- Masks
- Replacing traditional uniforms with lighter weight, easier to clean alternatives
- “The goal here is not to get to 0 percent risk...The goal is to get the risk down to a point where people can feel comfortable participating in the activity.”

Interview with Kimberly Prather, Ph.D. (6/1/20)

Distinguished Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry, UC San Diego

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU8Hf_5-oLc&fbclid=IwAR1zsQIZka4ma6n39NWgOnos9WrfE5ghffa_VU6BGW-ZYzmQOJtTrZbr7A8

- Clear, understandable explanation of the science of aerosol transmission of COVID-19
- Practical solutions to reduce risks, including masks, distance (explanation of why 6 feet is not enough), meeting outdoors, improving ventilation systems, limiting length of time of exposure

Guidance for Music Classes in British Columbia During COVID-19 (6/26/20)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KG2rE1rU-NENxbQsuYN20xnM9TBINn3Z/view?fbclid=IwAR3yd3N1b13GjMKe9ZY5ztVquUIPzdwPo7aUkeWtL6M0gPWAesaf14nZsTU>

Many school districts are beginning to publish guidelines for the coming academic year. This is one of the most thorough. See especially:

- Links to studies, pages 6-7
- Environmental Considerations for Music Classes, pages 8-11 (many would apply to choir rehearsal and worship spaces in churches – are we prepared to address these, including hand washing stations, improvements in ventilation, and 36 square feet of space per singer?)

Guidelines for Safe Use of Places of Worship in the UK (issued 6/29/20)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july?fbclid=IwAR3SFcCXG2umrZagh835-IsEfoVpgAGC7Qf4awOoJkGC3i_sWEIRlfinu0

See Item 4, Adapting practices to reduce the spread of infection; Singing, chanting, and the use of musical instruments

Webinar

When Singing Is Silenced: Addressing Anxiety (6/25/20)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLT08zSFFgg&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3d9sWc0Zj1_XoHnG7KYvigMauzGZMHT5F0gwQDsv-HoCl-qc4wGXWs0ZY

Lifelong Learning at VTS

Ellen Johnston, moderator; The Rev. Dr. William Bradley Roberts and David Hoover, panelists

Follow up webinar scheduled for 7/1/20

“Musicians are facing particular circumstances that increase the stress of Safe Distancing, not experienced by the general public. This is because making music is far more than a vocation or even a passionate avocation. Music brings health to our souls; it expresses the deep longing of our spirits; it carries thoughts and feelings that are beyond words. What then are we to do in this time of separation, when we can’t make music together? These and related matters will form the content of this webinar.”

Music Organization Websites:

American Choral Directors Association

<https://acda.org/resources-for-choral-professionals-during-a-pandemic/>

American Guild of Organists

<https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19/>

Association of Anglican Musicians

<http://anglicanmusicians.org/covid-19>

Bible Studies Related to Sacred Music

Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel’s Messiah

<https://kerygma.com/collections/bible-studies-lent-and-easter/products/hallelujah>

Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Bible and Brahms’ Requiem

<https://kerygma.com/collections/bible-studies-lent-and-easter/products/sowing-tears>