

Rollins College Department of Music

COVID-19 Procedures

Aug 21, 2021

Overview

This document is intended to put in place a framework in which the Rollins Department of Music will operate during this fall semester of 2021 until further notice. The information outline below is provided in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we intend to modify this policy throughout the semester as more information becomes available. Updates will be communicated via Rollins College email accounts which is the official means of College communication.

Statement of Philosophy

The overall health and safety of our students and faculty is of the utmost importance and is the primary factor considered in determining best practices for conducting ensemble rehearsals and offering private instruction. There is no virtual, online, or remote ensemble experience that can fully replicate the experiences or skills learned in an in-person ensemble setting. Therefore, we endeavor to balance this curricular and musical need for ensemble experiences with the knowledge that we must be diligent in our efforts to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Related Issues

From the information currently available, it appears that the community spread of COVID-19 has two main drivers: droplet, and aerosol transmission. The following is our best understanding of this information.

Droplet Transmission

- Droplet particles are larger in size than aerosols, are expelled when coughing, talking, forcefully exhaling and singing and are likely a major driver of COVID-19 transmission.
- Because of their larger size, droplet particles are unable to travel significant distances, and fall out of the air relatively quickly once expelled.
- There is some evidence of increased droplet production with louder volumes of vocalization due to activities like shouting or singing as well as with the forced exhalation required to play some instruments.

Aerosol Transmission

- Aerosol particles are smaller in size than droplets, are expelled when coughing, talking, forcefully exhaling, singing, and are another possibly significant driver of COVID-19 transmission.
- Because of their small size, aerosols remain suspended in the air for longer periods of time and travel farther distances than droplets.
- Over time, aerosols can accumulate in a room, the density of which is determined by the cubic volume of the space, the number of people present, the type of activity in which the people are engaged, and the efficiency of room filtration and air exchange rate.
- There is some evidence of increased aerosol production with louder volumes of vocalization due to activities like shouting or singing as well as with the forced exhalation required to play some instruments.

General College/Department of Music Policy Changes Fa20

Following the Rollins College COVID-19 Team guidelines, the Department of Music will practice social distancing and require students to wear masks to classes in Keene Hall at all times.

Smoking on campus has been suspended.

Choral and Instrumental Rehearsals

Choral and instrumental rehearsals for the fall will be in-person, face-to-face rehearsals starting in September. All choirs and instrumental ensembles will operate according to the following protocol, which are designed to mitigate, as best as possible, the two main drivers of COVID-19.

Droplet Transmission

- All singers/instrumentalists will wear cloth face masks and will be encouraged to procure surgical masks if supplies allow, as both types of masks significantly curtail droplet transmission.
- All rehearsals will take place in a socially distanced format, with a minimum of ten feet separating singers while singing and woodwind/brass players while playing, six feet separating other instrumentalists while playing and the standard six feet of social distancing required when entering and leaving rehearsal.
- Rehearsal entrance and exit walkways will be designated to eliminate congestion entering and leaving rehearsal.
- Used together, masks and social distancing will likely be able to practically eliminate the possibility of droplet transmission.

Aerosol Transmission

- All face-to-face choral/instrumental ensemble rehearsals will take place in large capacity spaces such as the Tiedtke Concert Hall, rehearsal room 119, the chapel, or outside as

designated. This will increase the cubic volume of air available with which to disperse aerosols and decrease the density of potentially infectious particles.

- All rehearsal lengths changed to 45 minutes in order to minimize aerosol buildup.
- Choirs/instrumental ensembles with larger enrollment will be divided into smaller groups, and conductors will rotate rehearsal time at their discretion, thus reducing the number of singers/players present and emitting aerosol particles at any given time.

Additional Safeguards

- All students will be required to abide by college policies with regards to self-reporting of any symptoms.
- Rehearsal attendance policies will be altered to allow those students experiencing symptoms of illness to remain at home with no penalty to their grade.

Concerts

Rollins choirs and instrumental ensembles will be participating in traditional performances for live audiences as soon as possible. Decisions on how concerts will be presented will be made as we move closer to the scheduled concerts.

Department of Music Policy Overrides for Fa21 Due to COVID-19

Student Organization Meetings, Concerts, etc.

- Location: Student Handbook pg 34
- All music student organizations (Sigma Alpha Iota, Phi Mu Alpha, etc.) may hold their activities face-to-face, including concerts/musicales, and ceremonies with the understanding that masks will be worn and no more than 50 people will gather in a room at one time.

Practice Room Availability

- Location: Student Handbook pg 32
- Rooms 253 and 256 will not be open for use by students taking enrichment lessons (MUA 101 or 102). Only students studying at the music major/minor level of 201C/P, 301, or 401 will have access to practice rooms in Keene Hall.