

March 16, 2020

Public Notice

Greetings.

Yesterday we announced the outcome of a poll of performers, which resulted in an open rehearsal tomorrow for woodwind, brass and percussion players. We were fully aware this might be the last opportunity for many players to meet as an ensemble for a few weeks, but we also announced we would comply with any further mandates restricting social gatherings.

Two hours after our announcement, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended all gatherings with more than 50 participants be cancelled for at least eight weeks. We have since heard from more venues the DMS utilizes that they are closing for a period of time, too.

Here is what is explored in this update from the DMS:

1. Important messages
2. What's happening with DMS events
3. How to avoid getting too bored at home
4. Longer-term considerations

1. Important messages:

"First off, I hope that this notice finds you well. The Coronavirus is scary, and we've yet to see the full implications here in the United States. All DMS rehearsals and concerts will be cancelled for the next eight weeks, but we're doing that with your health and best interests in mind. I hope that you will spend some quality time with your family and friends, and most importantly, I hope you all stay safe and healthy during this time. I encourage you to visit the [CDC website](#) to get all the facts on Coronavirus. Stay informed, stay in-the-know, and I look forward to seeing you all when our DMS events resume." DMS President and Chair of the Board of Directors, Beverly Becker.

"Sadly, there are bad actors who are looking to exploit public fears over Coronavirus. While you should make sure you are staying informed about new CDC recommendations regarding public safety, make sure your information comes from reliable sources and don't let yourself become a victim to Coronavirus fraud." Senator Gus Bilirakis

"Accept there will be times we feel powerless and out of control—but we can fill that space with kindness and be a part of the solution." Lady Gaga

"Isn't it glorious to see the improvised, unprompted demonstrations of just how necessary and fundamental live, in-person music actually is to healthy human existence? Ad-hoc community singing in various towns in Italy and elsewhere clearly show how acoustic music helps us deal with emotions in ways other means of communication simply cannot match. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, and whoever you interact with, be honest, be sensible, be sensitive, be proactive, be excited, and be aware." DMS General Director, Stephen P Brown

2. What's happening with DMS events:

March 17 - Open wind band rehearsal - cancelled

March 28 - Executive Committee - online

March 31 - Summer Sinfonia 2020 Auditions - cancelled

April 11 - Pinellas Festival of Community Bands - cancelled

April 21 - Pinellas Community Players performance - cancelled

April 24 - Dunedin Concert Band performance - cancelled

April 25 - Executive Committee - online

May 9 - DMS Board - online

May 16 - Founder's Day Spring Dance - postponed

Dunedin Concert Band rehearsals - cancelled until May 19

Pinellas Community Players Spring 2020 - cancelled.

Rhythm Kings Jazz Orchestra - cancelled until further notice

Fees paid to participate in events will be credited to accounts for future use.

3. How to avoid getting too bored at home:

Many performers now find themselves with 2 to 12 hours a week no longer filled with musical activity, plus travel time and practice time specifically for those sessions. What on earth can they do?

1. Current DCB Performers: keep your folder. Each week we will recommend some specific passages for you to practice on your own, along with available recordings to listen and follow along to.
2. Explore music new to you using free sheet music resources such as [imslp.org](https://www.imslp.org), and free streaming services if your local library offers such a service.
3. Revisit old repertoire in your library you haven't seen for a few years, even some of those student materials can focus your mind and get your fingers moving again.
4. Unless we are placed under lock-down/ quarantine, meet with one or two other performers at home, and read through chamber music, practice parts together, or chat about music over some drinks and a grill.
5. Each day, look through your contacts and choose someone you haven't spoken to in a while - call, private message or email them, just asking how they are doing and how they are keeping themselves busy (or, not bored).
6. Utilize existing resources to stay connected with other performers and fans of live music, such as the [DMS](#) and [DCB](#) Facebook pages. There are also lots of Facebook groups to have polite and encouraging conversations in.
7. Plan and write down the musical activities you would like to participate in for June and beyond, to avoid overdoing and over-committing yourself once restrictions are lifted. Look for concerts to attend as much as perform in.
8. Look out for and participate in new DMS online events such as repertoire workshops, playing

challenges, virtual ensembles, etc.

9. Read one chapter a day of a composer's biography or musical non-fiction book. The DMS will publish a list of recommendations before the end of this month.
10. Do something different - cook a meal you've never cooked before, walk the Pinellas Trail, do a [jigsaw puzzle](#), grow some flowers or herbs in pots.

Remember: we are not yet confined to our homes, we are not likely to lose power or access to resources (such as after a hurricane), and we are not prevented from meeting with others at all. Do you have other ideas for keeping musically busy? Please do share them on our Facebook pages or [send us an email](#).

4. Longer-term considerations

The Dunedin Music Society exists to connect our local communities with live music. We will endeavor to continue engaging you, and others, in musical activities over the coming weeks, but when looking beyond the immediate future there are serious concerns about the long-term impact this pandemic will have on the DMS, its multiple ensembles and public events, the services we provide to support performers and fans of live music, and the people we serve. There are a great many companies and organizations who face a similarly worrying future - let's avoid letting the DMS suffer eternally.

At this time, please consider taking two actions in order to make sure the DMS survives the next few months and will be here to continue making our corner of the world a better place with opportunities to share live music:

1. [Make a donation now](#), small or large or in-between. Yes, we appreciate the economic turmoil you might be experiencing, but we hope fans of live music with fixed incomes or resources beyond daily living expenses are willing to spare a few extra dollars to sustain our positive impact in the community.
2. When you purchase your supplies online, please consider using not just Amazon, but [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](#) - the reason being, you can choose the DMS as the charity Amazon donates a portion of your purchases to. There is no extra cost to you - you still get the same great prices on all your purchases and deliveries, including toilet paper, but the DMS gets to benefit financially as well.

Finally, please stay informed and look out for future communications from the DMS.

We are here to serve, and we intend to keep serving you through this bout of social restrictions.

Be well,

Stephen P Brown

General Director, Dunedin Music Society