Safety Protocols and Music-Making Classes / Lessons

In addition to mandatory vaccinations, rapid antigen testing will be added to our layers of protocols to ensure the safest environment for our students, staff, and faculty, while permitting meaningful delivery of our courses.

In addition to these measures, we will continue to require the use of masks (as per Western’s policy, 3-ply non medical masks are required, cloth masks are not permitted on campus) except for courses where curricular objectives are hampered by their wear (singers, winds, and brass). Winds and brass instruments will also be required to utilize bell covers until further notice. In practicality this means that in:

Large and Small instrumental ensembles:

1. Winds and Brass may remove their masks while playing
2. Winds and Brass must use bell covers
3. No barriers will be placed to separate the musicians
4. All non-winds and non-brass players (strings, percussions, etc) must always wear a mask
5. All others including (but not limited to) students, TAs, and professors always wear a mask

Opera

1. Singers may remove their masks when sufficiently advanced in the learning process and begin to be more physically involved. Masks must be worn when not singing.
2. Members of the creative teams must be always masked
3. Chamber orchestra – please see regulations for large and small instrumental ensembles

Choirs

1. Singers will remain masked until further notice

MPS / MusEd / MRC Courses with performance component (Collaborative musicianship, Vocal Repertory with Piano, Percussion Ensemble, Historical Keyboard, Lyric Diction I & II, Acting & Dance for Singers, Seminar in Choral Conducting, Seminar in Instrumental Conducting, Secondary Instrument classes, Choral Conducting, etc)

1. Winds, Brass, and Singers may remove their masks while playing / singing
2. Winds and Brass must use bell covers

3. No barriers will be placed to separate the musicians

4. All others including (but not limited to) students, TAs, and professors always wear a mask

**Applied Lessons:**

1. Winds, Brass, and Singers may remove their masks while playing / singing

2. Barriers will be used in the studios (should your studio not have a barrier, please contact Megan Clements as soon as possible)

3. Lessons must not exceed 50 minutes thereby allowing 10 minutes of ventilation between students

**Collaborative Pianists:**

1. CP will fall once again under the institutional visitor policy. More details will be provided in the coming days but please note that external parties will also be required to follow Western Health and Safety Protocols.

Given the recent announcement on vaccination policy and the even more recent announcement around rapid testing, some ‘high risk’ classes / lessons may be taught online for the first week. Please check with your instructors and watch for upcoming announcements via email / OWL.