

**University of Connecticut – School of Fine Arts – Department of Music**  
**COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Music Department Activities**  
**Spring 2022**

As of this writing, the University is requiring students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to returning to campus (see the UConn Policy Document [here](#)). Medical and non-medical exemptions are possible for students, however, so that it is possible that not all students within music facilities will be vaccinated. In addition, UConn faculty and staff are now required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine (see the UConn Policy Document [here](#) and COVID-19 Employee Vaccine Information [here](#)). Please note that students, faculty, and staff members are not required to disclose their vaccination status in the context of their work in the Department. Faculty and staff members who become privy to vaccination status or other health related information have a responsibility to maintain confidentiality.

The purpose of these protocols — which have been vetted by Environmental Health and Safety, the School of Fine Arts Dean’s Office, and the Office of the Dean of Students — is to ensure the safety of all faculty, staff, and students while resuming normal operations in the Department of Music. Because COVID-19 is transmitted through bioaerosols that are emitted at higher levels during music-making than in other situations, these procedures, which may differ from those at other locations within the University, are designed to mitigate the already small risk of COVID-19 transmission.

We assume that most faculty and students will want to resume normal operations — including in-person teaching, rehearsals, and performances — and will be comfortable with the protocols set forth below. However, deviations from standard operations in the form of remote teaching and/or learning will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Head of the Music Department in close consultation with the Offices of the Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Human Resources, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Dean of Students, as appropriate. As always, our intention is to balance health and safety with the operation of the Department at as robust a level as is possible. Finally, please note that these protocols are subject to change based upon conditions in the future (including but not limited to rising transmission rates, concerns about vaccine protection levels, variant spread, etc.) as dictated by state, federal, or University rules or guidelines. Updates will be issued as needed.

**1. Courses, Rehearsals, and Student Club Meetings (e.g., a cappella groups, NAfME)**

- a. Modality:** Though courses and rehearsals were previously listed as hybrid/in person in Student Admin, they will all take place in person unless otherwise noted. Faculty members are not required to offer hybrid courses to accommodate students who are not able to attend courses in person, but they may stream the course or teach it in a hybrid fashion if they choose and if the equipment in their assigned room allows.
- b. Rooms:** Courses and Rehearsals have been assigned to rooms taking the course/ensemble size and the ventilation capabilities of the room into account. In some cases, this means that courses and ensembles are assigned to rooms that are unusual for the activity involved. While social distancing is only requested for unvaccinated persons and very limited situations in which vaccinated persons are unmasked, both students and faculty should consider maintaining a reasonable distance from each other in the course of their work.

- c. **Masking:** Students and faculty are expected to wear masks at all times within music facilities. Contact CETL for information on clear masks that can be used when normal facemasks interfere with teaching and learning. N95 or KN95 masks are preferred.
- d. **Sanitization/Disinfection:** Students and faculty are expected to wash their hands often — for at least 20 seconds — or use hand sanitizer frequently. All shared equipment, instruments, and high-touch areas must be cleaned/disinfected.
- e. **Self-Monitoring:** Students and faculty are expected to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and inform health services or their health care provider regarding any changes in their health status. If students must miss classes or rehearsals due to such symptoms or change in health status, they should contact their instructor/director as soon as possible; instructors are required to excuse such absences and not to penalize students for lack of attendance due to illness.
- f. **Air filtration units:** Although not required, out of an abundance of caution and to provide an elevated level of comfort, the School of Fine Arts Dean's Office, in collaboration with Facilities Operations and Environmental Health and Safety, will be supplying stand-alone filtration units for all classrooms and teaching labs that do not have the mechanical means to bring in sufficient outside fresh air via the building ventilation system.

## 2. Applied Lessons

- a. **Modality:** Though in principle applied lessons should be taught in person, some applied teachers have expressed the view that remote lessons work well and can even be pedagogically beneficial. While applied lesson modality will be left to the discretion of each teacher, a mixture of in-person and remote lessons in something like a 50%/50% proportion is preferable to all remote lessons. Faculty members are reminded that state law stipulates that in-person lessons may not be taught anywhere but within University facilities.
- b. **Rooms:** Applied lessons can resume in the studio of the applied teacher.
- c. **Masking:** For in-person lessons, both teacher and student must be masked. Masks and bell covers should be those designed for performing on the instrument. An appropriate distance should be maintained between student and teacher, particularly in cases when one or more is unvaccinated. Contact CETL for facemask recommendations when typical facemasks impede teaching and learning.
- d. **Sanitization/Disinfection:** Students and faculty are expected to wash their hands often — for at least 20 seconds — or use hand sanitizer frequently. All shared equipment, instruments, and high-touch areas must be cleaned/disinfected.
- e. **Self-Monitoring:** Students and faculty are expected to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and inform health services or their health care provider regarding any changes in their health status. If students must miss lessons due to such symptoms or change in status, they should contact their instructor as soon as possible; instructors are required to excuse such absences and not to penalize students for lack of attendance due to illness.
- f. **Air filtration units:** Although not required, out of an abundance of caution and to provide an elevated level of comfort, the School of Fine Arts Dean's Office, in collaboration with Facilities Operations and Environmental Health and Safety, will be

supplying stand-alone filtration units for all classrooms and teaching labs that do not have the mechanical means to bring in sufficient outside fresh air via the building ventilation system.

### 3. Performances

- a. **Modality/ Capacity:** No more than 200 persons (50% capacity) will be admitted to von der Mehden Recital Hall to attend performances. Similarly, procedures submitted as part of an application for the use of other venues should involve a maximum of 50% capacity. Performances from von der Mehden will be live streamed.
- b. **Rooms:** Performances with an audience under the aegis of the Department of Music should take place in von der Mehden Recital Hall. The use of classrooms or rehearsal spaces for performances involving an audience is not permitted. The use of local churches or other venues for performance will not be permitted unless their procedures and facilities have been approved by the Department of Music and the SFA Dean's Office in advance.
- c. **Masking:** All audience members will be masked for Department of Music events. (Disposable masks will be available at performances for this purpose.) Performers should wear masks and bell covers specific to their instruments. The elapsed time of a concert or set will be vetted to determine whether breaks are necessary, particularly for choral concerts. Masks are to be worn backstage at all times. Performers may be asked to wait to perform in other buildings to reduce density backstage.
- d. **Sanitization/Disinfection:** Students and faculty are expected to wash their hands often — for at least 20 seconds — or use hand sanitizer frequently. All shared equipment, instruments, and high-touch areas must be cleaned/disinfected.
- e. **Self-Monitoring:** Students and faculty are expected to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and inform health services or their health care provider regarding any changes in their health status. If students must miss performances due to such symptoms or change in status, they should contact their instructor as soon as possible; instructors are required to excuse such absences and not to penalize students for lack of attendance due to illness.
- f. **Visitor Access Guidance:** Follow the latest UConn Campus Covid Disposition found [here](#). In cases in which the color-coded campus status indicates more stringent guidelines than those set forth here, the Department of Music will follow the more stringent guidelines.

— Eric Rice  
Department Head