

August 9, 2021

Dear Georgia College Music Students,

As you are preparing for returning to campus while referring to the [Fall 2021 campus reopening website](#) and [Georgia College update on coronavirus outbreak](#), I would like to provide some clarification as it pertains to our music department at Georgia College. Our curriculum presents many challenges in that we provide performance-based instruction and learning opportunities. The administration has placed the health, safety and well-being of our faculty, students and staff as paramount in how we move forward in providing instruction within the department based on our campus values of Reason, Respect and Responsibility.

We have some additional changes with the beginning of this semester.

- Max Noah Concert Hall (Porter 328) will have limited availability for classes and rehearsals to reduce the wear and tear of the facility.
- Health Sciences Rooms HS 116 and A&S 240 will be utilized for music only to help facilitate needed larger spaces.
- Health Sciences Rooms HS 109 is receiving a technology upgrade that will be completed by the end of the fall 2021 semester. While the room is still available for use, there may be some interruptions as supplies become available.
- Porter 228 and 229 will return to full capacity for all classes (music and non-music).

Based upon the activity (delivery of instruction) that occurs in our music courses, the transference of aerosols is problematic within these lab, lecture, rehearsal and performance environments. In order to provide a healthy and safe environment in accord with the USG and GCSU guidelines and the music considerations from professional organizations, below are guidelines we are following to provide in-person instruction where appropriate:

A. Music Lecture, Applied Studio and Ensembles Courses

- All major ensembles (Wind Symphony, String Orchestra, University Chorus, Max Noah Singers, Women's Ensemble) are in-person with mask recommended and physical distancing* if possible for instruction of rehearsal and performances.
- All Chamber Groups (Jazz Band, Opera Scenes, Music Theatre Scenes, Perc Ensemble, Sax Quartet, Woodwind Quintet, Flute Choir, Brass Ensemble, Creative Expressions and Sign Language Performers) are pursuing in-person with mask recommended and physical distancing* if possible for instruction of rehearsal and performances.
- Applied lessons – in person instruction with mask recommended and physical distancing* if possible

* Note: students can self-disclose their health status so faculty can amend classroom mitigation measures (masking & distancing) where appropriate

We will continue using air purifiers (w/ HEAP filters), and designated time limits to assist with the proper ventilation for air exchange.

Our Music classes, Applied Studio and Ensemble Courses are generally scheduled directly by the music department and there is typically only one location where these sections can meet. After performing an analysis of seating capacity for all music classes, studio and ensemble courses, identifying the max capacity for physical distancing with additional considerations for music production, we have identified larger spaces for these courses to meet in various parts of the campus. When possible, students will continue to meet together in existing studio spaces while practicing physical distancing. Additional technology will be used in those classrooms to provide online access as needed.

B. Practice Rooms, Instrument Checkout, Locker Access

We have identified and reserved additional spaces in:

- Health Sciences Lower Level – HS 116 (Music Therapy and Applied Voice Lesson priority)
- Arts and Sciences Building – A&S 240 (Aural Skills I and Applied Voice Lesson priority” for the Fall)
- The Depot – Rm 107 (Music office can reserve space in advance through 25Live)

The above spaces will also be available for student practice during the academic year since they allow for access and physical distancing with music considerations. The McComb Building will continue to serve as our instrumental practice, studio lesson and rehearsal facility for music department use only. After scheduled classes, client sessions, rehearsals, and applied lessons have been completed, students can reserve the space through the music office in Porter Hall or the Music Therapy office. We will continue to seek out additional spaces as needed.

State-owned instrument checkout will be handled by the course instructor and/or the ensemble director via phone or email appointment. The location of these checkouts is depended on the location of the instruments.

Locker reservations will be handled through the music office via email to reduce contact. The proper maintenance of these instruments and lockers as it relates to health and safety concerns will be addressed upon the delivery of the instrument. The storage of personal instruments will be addressed by the course instructor and/or the ensemble director via phone or email appointment as needed. It is important that we treat these spaces with the respect and responsibility for the security of the equipment and instruments they contain on a permanent and/or temporary basis.

C. Health and Safety Guidelines

As part of the Fall 2021 reopening for Georgia College, here are some of the minimum precautions that will be in place for music courses, events, and spaces:

1. We are recommending physical distancing when possible inside when the delivery of the instruction increases the spread of aerosols in classrooms, practice rooms, one-on-one lessons, studio classes, recital hours, rehearsals (large and small), and performances.
2. Masks are recommended in all situations inside when the delivery of the instruction increases the spread of aerosols. A departmental mask will be provided for all music students, music faculty and music staff. Disposable masks will be available if needed.

3. Self-disclosure of health status can amend classroom mitigation measures (masking & distancing) where appropriate
4. Utilize video/audio and livestreaming capabilities as needed.
5. Additional mitigation resources such as absorbent pads (Puppy pads), cameras, and microphones will be utilized with woodwind, brass and vocalists as needed.
6. Audience Requirements – All music gatherings and events will recommend wearing a mask and physical distancing as necessary. Live streaming will be provided for overflow audience as necessary. We will provide additional mask for those in attendance as needed. We will refer to additional guidelines from professional organizations that are currently collecting data in this area. This same policy will apply to our concert series events.
7. Equipment and instruments in any of the spaces will have to be properly disinfected before and after use.
8. Entry doors of spaces need to remain open after use when possible. Time of last use should be recorded on dry marker boards near spaces to facilitate proper ventilation time after each use. Ventilation times will vary with size of the space. Air purifiers will be incorporated as needed.
9. Please refrain from large gathering in halls, lounge areas and corridors. Consider meeting outside if weather permits. We are exploring outdoor venues as weather permits.

The Georgia College music department will continue to provide service for our future, current, and former students by phone or electronic communication with proper in-person contact. All music area offices have some additional safety measures in place:

- Staff members (Chris O'Steen & Kate Phillips) are available by phone at 478-445-8289 in Porter Hall Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.
- Staff Member (Tammie Burke) is available by phone at 478-445-2645 in Health Sciences Lower Level Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.
- We have tried to make most of our information available on [our website](#). Please use this site for information regarding [majors, minors and degrees](#), [auditions](#), and other processes.
- For the protection of our staff, please wear a face mask while in the office, observe the two-student limit in the both offices and observe physical distancing as needed. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer are available if you do not have your own.

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we start this Fall semester. We encourage all faculty, staff and students to be vaccinated as we aim to provide you with a healthy and safe environment to pursue your music goals at Georgia College. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can help you navigate through this unprecedented situation.

Don N. Parker DMA
Chair and Professor
Department of Music
Georgia College and State University
478-445-8289
www.gcsu.edu/music