

August 1, 2022

Dear Georgia College Music Students,

As you are preparing for returning to campus while referring to the [Fall 2022 COVID-19 Resources](#) and [GC COVID-19 Reporting & Confirmed Cases](#), I would like to provide some clarification as it pertains to our music department at Georgia College. Over the past two years, 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 challenges/ improvements 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. We are also adding a second camera for permanent livestreaming.
- Health Sciences Rooms HS 116 and A&S 240 will be utilized for music use to help facility needed space.
- Health Sciences Rooms HS 109 has received a technology upgrade that will be completed before the start of the fall semester. Some interruptions may occur as all components are put in place.
- The McComb Building is being outfitted with a permanent livestreaming camera and lighting to facilitate additional workshop and instructional opportunities.
- Porter 228 and 229 will return to full capacity

Based upon the activity (delivery of instruction) that occurs in our music courses, the transference of aerosols is still 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 provide in-person instruction where appropriate:

A. Music Lecture, Applied Studio and Ensembles Courses

Wind Symphony and University Chorus – pursuing in person with mask recommended and social distancing* if possible for instruction of rehearsals and performances.

String Orchestra and Chamber Groups with mask recommended and social distancing* if possible for instruction of rehearsal and performances.

Applied lessons – in person instruction with mask recommended and social distancing* if possible.

Music Lecture Classes – in person instruction with mask recommended and social 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/ HEPA 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 social/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 –116 (Music Therapy and Applied Voice Lesson priority)
- Arts and Sciences – A&S 240 (Aural Skills I and Applied Voice Lesson priority” for the Fall)

The above spaces will be available for student practice the academic year since they allow for access and social 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, applied lessons have been completed, students can reserve the space through the music office in Porter Hall or the Music Therapy office through a shared calendar via phone or email. 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 and some limited office hours. 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

Here are some of the minimum precautions that will be in place for music courses, events, and spaces:

1. We are requiring physical distancing 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. Mask should be used 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-disclose of health status can amend classroom mitigation measures (masking & distancing) where appropriate
4. Utilize video/audio and livestreaming capabilities feeds between practice spaces 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 social distancing as necessary. Live streaming will be provided as requested. We will provide additional mask for those in attendance as needed. We will continue to 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. We have incorporated live streaming as a means of broadcasting concerts with limited live audience.
8. Equipment and instruments in any of the spaces will have to be properly disinfected before and after use.
9. 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.
10. There will a limited number of performers based upon recommended and give consideration for the size of the space. Also consider incorporating baffling to meet the guidelines.
11. Please refrain from large gathering in halls, lounge areas and corridors. Consider meeting outside if weather permits. We will explore outdoor venues as weather permits for this purpose.

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. Options for connecting with us include the following:

- Staff members (Christina 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.
- Staff members will also forward their individual office phone numbers to their current location as needed.

- Staff members will check the music@gcsu.edu email account throughout each workday, and we will respond to your request as soon as possible. If you are a current or former student requesting information, please be sure to include your GCID number and your full name so we can identify your records easily. Please use your bobcat email address whenever possible.
- Staff members will also be checking their individual email accounts throughout the day, and they will respond to your requests as soon as possible.
- 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, we recommend wearing a face mask while in the office for an extended time period, observe the two-student limit in both offices and observe the physical distancing markings. 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 want 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 our program.

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