

COVID-19: A MESSAGE FROM PMF LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of PMF,

We at the Peninsula Music Festival stand in solidarity with the rest of the arts world in expressing concern for the health and well being of our community. As we attempt to wrap our heads around the impact COVID-19 is having on our personal and professional lives, my heart goes out to each of you who may be dealing with exposure to the virus, a hiatus in your season, production cancelations, challenges to the management of your private studios, and any other hardships that have arisen from the uncertainty created by this pandemic.

In the past 48 hours, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has cancelled all performances for the next 30 days, and my colleagues at Lyric Opera of Chicago have been forced to call off all three cycles of Wagner's RING that we began casting/planning six years ago. Hundreds of heartbreaking developments continue to join the long list of cancellations and postponements throughout the performing arts, and every industry - no one is unaffected.

At the moment, PMF seems to be in a safe pocket of our season calendar. We just concluded the Chamber Music Series at the end of February, our next recital event isn't for another 14 weeks, and we're still 20 weeks out from the opening of the 2020 Symphony Series. Given this position, we're taking a 'wait and see' approach at this time, in hopes that national testing and containment efforts will begin to control further spread of the virus.

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to unfold, the health and safety of our PMF family is of utmost importance. We will continue to monitor all developments and recommendations set-forth by the U.S. Center for Disease Controls, the State of Wisconsin, and local authorities.

And so, I remain cautiously optimistic that an adjustment to the course of the 2020 Symphony Series won't be necessary, but should the state of affairs dictate otherwise, I am committed to assuring the safety of our patrons, musicians, and staff.

My best to you during these times of great challenge, and concern.

Christoph Ptack