

We, the directors or the Fox Valley Youth Orchestra ensembles, are thrilled to return to music making and have very exciting plans and musical goals for the 2020-2021 season. In order to preserve the health and safety of our Fox Valley Youth Orchestra musicians, directors, and families, and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the FVYO will be operating the 2020-2021 season with revised schedules, procedures and policies in order to comply and align with safety recommendations from the State of Illinois, ISBE, CDC, and our hosts, ACS. We realize that the current situation is fluid, and we are prepared to monitor and make adjustments as necessary.

As of August 14, our plans to resume IN-PERSON instruction will include the following:

1. SCHEDULES:

- The fall semester will begin after Labor Day. Click [HERE](#) for a full schedule.
- The first rehearsal will be held via Zoom to allow students and directors to get to know each other and become familiar with changed policies and procedures in order to ensure students are ready for their first in-person rehearsal.
- The first in-person rehearsal will be held on September 14. Group start and end times are staggered so that different groups do not need to enter the building at the same time:
 - Cello Choir: 6:00
 - Inizio Strings: 6:00
 - Youth Sinfonietta: 6:30
 - Youth Orchestra: 7:00
 - Woodwind Choir: 7:15
- Students and directors will not cross between different groups at this time. (excepting if an entire ensemble is a subset of a larger group such as woodwind choir or cello choir)
- Concerts will be held virtually. More details to come.

2. PROCEDURES:

- Students must be dropped off alone for rehearsals; adults and siblings may not attend to listen to rehearsals at this time.
- At the front door, students will check in with a volunteer who will check temperatures with a touchless thermometer and ask about any present symptoms before entering.
- Students will have access to hand sanitizing stations at the entrance of both the building and the rehearsal space.
- Violin, viola and any wind instrument cases will be placed under the chair of each student. Cello cases will remain in the hallways spaced apart with markers.
- During rehearsals, students will be spaced out six feet apart and will not share any materials, such as music or stands.
- At the end of rehearsals disinfectant spray will be applied to all chairs.
- Students will follow traffic instructions to get to rehearsal spaces and exit the building.
- Social distancing will be monitored at all times.
- Doors to rooms will be left open to facilitate increased air flow.

3. POLICIES:

- ALL students, directors, and volunteers must wear face coverings or masks and wear them anytime they are in the building and during rehearsals. Proper wearing of masks includes covering both the mouth and the nose.
- Students must supply their own music stand, pencil, and folder with printed, FVYO-provided music. Wire music stands will suffice, but students may consider investing in a slightly sturdier music stand, such as Manhasset brand, available on Amazon.com. A stand can also be purchased from us if you do not have one.
- Absence reporting:
 - Students who show symptoms of illness of any kind should NOT attend rehearsal and will not be punished.
 - We will have an absence reporting form posted on the FVYO website that you can complete which our directors will see.
 - If you test positive for COVID-19 or start to show symptoms within two days after coming to rehearsal, you must notify us immediately by emailing info@fvyouthorchestra.org. We will confidentially evaluate any such reports according to the CDC guidelines for contact tracing, and will contact families of students believed to have been in “close contact” with any student identified as a “probable or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient” within the timeline indicated by the CDC, while preserving the student’s anonymity to the highest degree possible. We will then evaluate for that ensemble whether it is appropriate to switch to a virtual rehearsal for the next 1 or 2 sessions. Such sessions will be held via Zoom.

IF IT BECOMES UNSAFE TO HOLD IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, the FVYO will continue instruction during normal rehearsal times virtually via Zoom. See <https://zoom.us> to get connected online with your own zoom account.