

As we look ahead to next season, we will attempt to answer some FAQ's .

*When will Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia begin rehearsing?*

We are watching carefully to see what our local health authorities and school districts decide to do with gathering for student programs. As soon as it is safe to do so, BYOV will resume rehearsals with the mandated regulations for safe gathering in place. We would love to provide you with some tentative dates, but given the rise in new COVID cases lately, this is difficult to do. The situation changes daily and we are listening!

*What will rehearsals look like?*

During this time, the performing arts are being re-imagined. We anticipate that the way we operate next season will look quite different, but the music will be the same! When it is safe to rehearse, we will follow social distancing guidelines - placed 6 feet apart, wearing masks, one person per stand, in rows instead of semicircles. If our large ensembles are not able to rehearse right away, we may first gather in sectionals or smaller groups. We promise that when we do meet, we will have high quality rehearsals with fantastic repertoire and excited conductors while operating safely!

*Where will we rehearse?*

We are not sure yet. We are not clear whether our normal rehearsal locations will be available to us, as schools have not made decisions about the fall semester but have mentioned that outside organizations may not be permitted to use the buildings after hours. However, we have been in touch with over a dozen possible non-public school rehearsal venues that have space that could accommodate us. Social distancing practices would make it difficult for full 80-piece ensembles to rehearse, but we imagine phasing in our rehearsals with early distribution of music and sectionals first. There may even be some virtual rehearsals in preparation for group gathering.

*Will we be able to have concerts?*

That will certainly be the goal. This will depend on the availability of our concert venues and the practices put in place by them. We are in touch with all of the areas venues and will be the first to know when the halls are open to the public for booking concert performances. We are also considering digitally streamed concert performances for safer concert-going practices.

*How much will tuition be?*

Once we have set dates for beginning instruction, BYOV will develop new tuition rates for each ensemble based on our offerings. We will still offer our tuition assistance

program for families that qualify. At this time, no tuition money is being collected and a simple registration holds your spot to participate.

*What if I am not comfortable participating?*

We respect every individual families right to decide whether they feel safe to participate. Some may feel comfortable gathering while others would prefer to wait until there is a vaccination for COVID. Members will be able to decide when they are comfortable participating and choosing to wait, even if you choose to wait until the following season, will not jeopardize your membership.

*What will the schedule be?*

As we are all experiencing, we are required to be flexible and reasonable with our expectations. While we cannot select exact dates for our performances, our ideal season would include the following:

Live sectionals/rehearsals - December

Concerto Competition - December

Concerto Concert - February

Winter Concert - late February

Finale Concerts - May

Spring Auditions - June

We hope that this answers some of your questions and gives you a sense of what we are envisioning. We are certainly hopeful and looking forward to these possibilities! The thought of hearing you all perform together again keeps us motivated and pushing forward to make it possible. :)