



2020-2021 SEASON

Dear BYOV Members,

We have missed you! After much careful consideration and planning, BYOV has put plans in place to resume in-person instruction for string players in Jr. Strings, String Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra. By implementing health and safety protocols as outlined by the CDC, we believe we have created a rehearsal situation that will be both safe and instructionally beneficial to our musicians. We have been encouraged by the local schools reopening for in-person instruction.

This time poses unique challenges for the performing arts and calls for creativity! We will begin by holding a 6 week session where ensembles will be divided into smaller groups (full string orchestra instrumentation) to allow for distancing in the rehearsal spaces we have reserved. If this goes well and COVID conditions continue to allow for in-person instruction in schools, we have plans to implement additional 6 week sessions of BYOV.

There are budgetary considerations to account for when rolling out this plan for instruction. In order to ensure that this undertaking is financially viable for our organization, a minimum number of tuition paying musicians must participate.

The purpose of this document is to present you with our plans including the health and safety guidelines we will follow vigilantly, rehearsal dates and times, locations, music, tuition structure, and virtual options.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

- See the attached PDF outlining the health and safety measures by which we will operate. Musicians, their families, and BYOV staff must agree to every point set forth in these guidelines. Strict adherence to these protocols is non-negotiable and will be treated with the utmost seriousness. **PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY.**
- We are closely monitoring the [CDC School Metrics outlined by the Virginia Department of Health](#). Our membership draws from 8 cities across Hampton Roads. BYOV will hold rehearsals as long as the core indicators outlined by the School Metrics allow for in-person instruction in the majority of municipalities represented remain yellow and green.

DATES:



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- MANDATORY Virtual Orientation: Monday, November 2 at 7:00pm
- Rehearsals: Monday evenings, November 9, 16, 23, 30, and December 7 & 14

LOCATIONS BY ENSEMBLE: Due to unavailability of our usual locations, here are our temporary rehearsal venues for the foreseeable future.

- Junior Strings & String Orchestra - Harvest Assembly Church, 525 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23320
- Concert & Symphony Orchestras - Ohel Sholom Temple, 530 Raleigh Ave, Norfolk, VA 23507

REHEARSAL TIMES: Start times are staggered to allow for safe passage, health checks for contact tracing, and cleaning of surfaces/rehearsal room. Rosters for each group will be released following member registration to participate in this format.

Junior Strings (BYJST):
Full Group 5:30-6:15pm

String Orchestra (BYST):
Group A 6:40-7:25pm
Group B 7:45-8:30pm

Concert Orchestra (BYCO):
Group A 6:00-6:50pm
Group B 7:20-8:10pm

Symphony Orchestra (BYSO):
Group A 7:10-8:00pm
Group B 8:20-9:10pm

MUSIC: Your conductors have chosen exciting new music for the ensembles! It will be made available for downloading and printing at home in the coming days. BYOV can provide you with printed music if you do not have access to a printer in your home.



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TUITION: Tuition will be collected for each session. Should instruction have to discontinue, families will be reimbursed for rehearsals not held. Tuition invoices will be sent by email before the first rehearsal and instructions for making payments online will be provided.

~ Junior Strings & String Orchestra \$75 per session

~ Concert & Symphony Orchestras \$90 per session

Financial Aid is available. Contact us by email if your family would like to apply for assistance.

REGISTRATION: You have already registered for this season of BYOV, but we need to assess who will participate in this format of instruction. [To sign up for the first session of BYOV, complete this quick form!](#) **THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2.** Once you register, you will be provided the roster with Group A/B assignments (where applicable) and a link to the music.

VIRTUAL OPTIONS: We understand that every family has its own level of comfort and risk tolerance when it comes to resuming regular activities at this time. For this reason, our live rehearsals will be available every Monday night over Zoom for families wishing to participate virtually. You will be able to have live instruction, hear the ensemble, and play along from home. The tuition for virtual instruction is the same rate listed above. If at any time a student wants to change from virtual to in-person, or vice versa, this can be arranged by contacting the Executive Director.

As a reminder, deciding not to participate in the first session does not change a member's status or disqualify you from your ensemble. We will still hold your place for the remainder of this season and future seasons.

We know you may have questions, so rather than make this email any more dense, I would be happy to answer individual questions by phone or email. Looking forward to hearing from you all!



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COVID-19 Procedures for Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia Rehearsals

Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia (BYOV) is working diligently to follow all mandates and guidelines established by the state of Virginia and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). For (BYOV) weekly rehearsals to take place, we must follow those mandates and guidelines to help mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 and to create the safest environment possible for students and staff. At all times, BYOV staff will strive to follow the most current guidance from the CDC and the state of Virginia in all activities.

The procedures listed below apply to BYOV 2020-2021 weekly rehearsals. Before rehearsals, each conductor, assistant, ensemble manager, staff and students must confirm that he or she has reviewed and will abide by these procedures for the duration of BYOV 2020-2021 weekly rehearsals and performances. Each conductor will review with their orchestra ensemble those procedures listed below that apply to students. If a student is unwilling or unable to comply with any procedure, the student will not be able to remain at rehearsal; the conductor will ask the student to leave the rehearsal room and wait until a parent can be contacted before leaving the building. In the unlikely event that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, affected BYOV participants and personnel will be notified immediately.

PROCEDURES FOR EVERYONE (Students, Conductors, Assistants, Staff)

Self-screen before reporting to rehearsals with the following questions:

- Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours:
 - fever or chills
 - cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - new loss of taste or smell
 - sore throat
 - congestion or runny nose
 - nausea or vomiting
 - diarrhea



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- Within the past 14 days, have you been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 or with anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
- Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
- Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?
- What is your temperature?

Anyone who answer yes to the above questions, or with a temperature reading of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, may not come to rehearsal and/or will be asked to leave the premises immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per Virginia Department of Health and CDC guidelines.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

- BYOV 2020-2021 weekly rehearsals will include rehearsals only: no snack breaks or extra activities.
- Students should inform their parents if they are not feeling well before rehearsal, and in such case, should not attend rehearsal.
- Designated entrances/exits will be used, with staggered arrival/departure times. Students will remain in cars until summoned by staff to allow for physical distancing; students may not enter the building until summoned, no more than 15 minutes prior to their assigned rehearsal time.
- Students will wear properly fitted face masks from the moment they enter the building until after they have exited. Neck gaiters, bandanas and scarves are not allowed to be worn in lieu of masks.
- Students will have a weekly temperature check, after which students will report directly to their place in their rehearsal room. Cases will be stored directly next to the students and not in a communal area among other students.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at entrances/exits and in each rehearsal space, but students should bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use during rehearsals. Students should always practice proper hygiene by washing hands before and after rehearsal and should use hand sanitizer frequently during rehearsal.
- Students will bring their own music, music stands, pencils, and chairs/stools (where applicable, for cello & bass). Students will not share music, stands, or pencils.
- Students should bring their own water bottles to rehearsals. They must not share water bottles. Refreshments will not be sold and there will be no breaks.



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- Students should not greet each other with handshakes, hugs, “high fives” or any physical contact, and should maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from staff and other students at all times, including while in line for temperature checks and inside the rehearsal room.
- Staff/ensemble managers will check students in for each rehearsal.
- Rehearsals will not include any students, staff or ensemble manager except those assigned to each particular ensemble. Each ensemble will be limited to the capacity of each particular room that allows for 6 feet of distance between individuals, including staff. This will be anywhere from 12-30 students, depending on the space.
- Each rehearsal room will have adequate space for students and staff to observe a physical distance of at least six feet during rehearsal. Students will not share stands. Conductor’s podiums will be set with 12 feet of space from students.
- Students should inform their conductor or a rehearsal assistant if they are not feeling well during rehearsal. In such case, the student will leave the rehearsal space, maintaining physical distance, until able to leave the building with a parent.
- Conductors will assist students individually with tuning of instruments, while the student remains at his/her station. Students should not handle any instrument, bow, case or rosin other than their own.
- Conductors/rehearsal assistants will allow student bathroom breaks with only one student out of the rehearsal room at a time. Students must wash their hands thoroughly before returning to the rehearsal room.
- Students will depart immediately at end of rehearsal, following staff directions to maintain physical distance as they exit the building.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

- Parents should review the procedures for students, particularly younger students, before driving the student to rehearsal on their assigned week.
- BYOV rehearsals will run using a divided group schedule and only the group listed should attend during any given time.
- Students who wish to participate but opt not to attend in-person rehearsals will be provided with a link to join via technology each week.
- Make sure your student understands the importance of maintaining a six-foot distance from all other people during rehearsal, and model what six feet “looks like.”
- Parents should check their students’ temperatures before leaving home for the rehearsal location. If a student has a temperature reading of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, he/she may not come to rehearsal. Parents should not allow students who are high-risk individuals to attend BYOV. These students may join via technology each week. Nor



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should a student attend BYOV rehearsals if the student or anyone in the student's immediate family has had contact with a person infected with COVID-19, or who is displaying coronavirus symptoms.

- Parents and students should use the restroom before leaving home. Although students will be allowed bathroom breaks during rehearsals, restrooms will not be available for parents or other family members.
- Designated entrances/exits will be used for different ensembles, with staggered arrival/departure times. Students should arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled rehearsal time and will remain in cars until summoned by staff to allow for physical distancing. Parents should observe from the parent's vehicle that the student has safely arrived at the building entrance.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at entrances/exits and in each rehearsal space, but students should bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use during rehearsals. They may also want to bring disinfectant wipes.
- BYOV staff members and select volunteers will wipe doors, handles, and surfaces of the check in area, as well as any other high-touch surfaces before and after each rehearsal. Rehearsals will be scheduled so that surfaces can be cleaned in between each group.
- Parents should convey to their students that rehearsal is not mandatory during the BYOV 2020- 2021 season, and that their ability to perform with BYOV will not be affected if a student's family does not feel comfortable with the student attending rehearsal.
- Note: Any student who travels to locations outside of Hampton Roads that have a higher incidence rates of COVID-19 should not return to BYOV rehearsal for 14 days. This may affect attendance following Thanksgiving and December/January holidays. Students who have traveled are welcome to join online.
- During rehearsal, parents should remain in their car, leave the rehearsal location, or disperse sufficiently to observe physical distance from other parents. Parents and other family members are not permitted in the building during BYOV rehearsals. Parents of very young children may escort them to the entrance for the weekly health screening, and may meet them at the exit after rehearsal. Staff will escort students inside the building.



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PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTORS, ENSEMBLE MANAGERS and STAFF

- BYOV 2020-2021 weekly rehearsals will include rehearsals only: no snack breaks or extra activities.
- Designated entrances/exits will be used for different ensembles, with staggered arrival/departure times. Students will remain in cars until summoned by staff to allow for physical distancing.
- Conductors, rehearsal assistants and staff will have a weekly temperature check upon arrival at the rehearsal venue.
- Conductors, ensemble managers and staff will wear properly fitted face masks for the duration of rehearsals (no neck gaiters, bandanas or scarves are allowed in lieu of masks).
- Parents and other family members are not permitted in the building during BYOV rehearsals. Parents of very young children may escort them to the entrance for the weekly health screening, and may meet them at the exit after rehearsal. Staff will escort students inside the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at entrances/exits and in each rehearsal space. Conductors, rehearsal assistants and staff should always practice proper hygiene by washing hands before and after rehearsal and should use hand sanitizer frequently during rehearsal, especially between tuning student instruments.
- Staff should maintain a distance of six feet from students and other staff at all times, including while in line for temperature checks, during bathroom breaks and inside the rehearsal room.
- Ensemble managers, volunteers, or staff will wipe all high-touch surfaces before and after each rehearsal.
- Ensemble managers will check students in for each rehearsal.
- Rehearsals will not include any students, staff or ensemble manager except those assigned to each particular ensemble. Each ensemble will be limited to the capacity of each particular room that allows for 6 feet of distance between individuals, including staff. This will be anywhere from 12-30 students, depending on the space.
- Each rehearsal room will have adequate space for students and staff to observe a physical distance of at least six feet during rehearsal. Students will not share stands. Conductor's podiums will be set with 12 feet of space from students.
- Conductors/assistants will assist students individually with the tuning of instruments if needed, maintaining a distance from the student's station while tuning, and using hand sanitizer between instruments.
- Conductors/assistants should allow student bathroom breaks with only one student out of the rehearsal room at a time.



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- Staff should ensure that students and parents understand that BYOV rehearsals are not mandatory, that students always have the option to join via technology and that students must stay home if feeling unwell.
- Staff will enforce and oversee the immediate departure of students at the end of rehearsal, ensuring that physical distances are maintained.