

Fall 2020 University of Maryland School of Music Practice Room Plan

August 15, 2020

Greetings School of Music Community,

I am writing to outline the current plan for scheduling practice room access for students during the Fall 2020 semester. The policy outlined here is designed to create traceable and manageable practice room access that is equitable and flexible. As always, this plan is subject to change based on university and county health recommendations.

Practice Room Access Hours: 7am–2am daily (pending University Approval)

In order to serve all of the students who have indicated that on-campus practice is their only option, the building will be open from 7am–2am seven days a week. The exterior doors of The Clarice will be open five days a week from 7am–7pm, and all exterior doors will lock at 7pm. Access will be possible in the off hours for faculty, staff and students via swipe card only. For those practicing between 11pm and 2am, we highly suggest that students either coordinate with a colleague so that they are not leaving the building alone, or that they contact the [Police Auxiliary](#) at 301-405-3555 (off campus) / 53555 (on campus), which still supplies an escort for late night campus travel.

Practice Room PODS:

In order to limit the number of people using each room, we have designed a system where the 18 available hours of the day will be split between 8-9 students (dictated by need). These 8-9 students would have access to only one room and no others, limiting the number of students to a traceable pod. Each practice session will have time for practice and time for the room to "rest." Each room will be stocked with disinfectant supplies for the piano keyboard and chairs, and each student must use their own folding stand. Directions for cleaning and overall hygiene will be posted in and outside each practice room.

Each practice session shall consist of a 2-hour block with 60 minutes of practice and 60 minutes of "rest time" before the next practice session begins.

The School of Music's practice rooms have an atmosphere refresh rate of almost 3 times per hour and we are working to make certain that all windows open. Our HVAC system is fitted with MERV-13 filters, recommended by the CDC for indoor air filtration, and the University of Maryland has a stockpile of these.

Students will be **required** to wear masks at all times. Wind and brass players will need to use bell covers and modified masks through which they can play at all times. Brass players must now carry some sort of container with them in which they can deposit their condensation. All of these requirements are in place to further mitigate the spread of the

virus. For those instruments where bell covers are not applicable and masks are an issue (specifically the flute/piccolo) a face shield is recommended.

How are the rooms scheduled?

Each studio will be assigned a room or rooms, depending on the number of registered students who need practice space on campus. These are the procedures:

- 1) Each studio will be responsible for their own rotation once the rooms are assigned. The studio teacher will work with one or two returning students to develop an equitable rotation for the members of the studio where each student has one practice session per day and has some daytime options during which they could use their practice room time for virtual lessons Monday through Friday (this is important for students who do not have the ability to play from home).
- 2) Since there are a limited number of practice rooms with swipe card access, it is important that the rotation is kept up to date for those rooms that are not equipped with this technology. In some cases, it will be necessary to use classrooms, rehearsal rooms or studios for lessons (when not in use by faculty members).
- 3) The rotation schedule will be a shareable file for the studio.

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