

**14 AUGUST 2020**

**TO: ALL SINGERS enrolled in Choirs at Snow College (via email and Canvas)**

**SUBJECT: CHOIRS, Fall Semester**

Greetings to all! It's been a long time since any of us were singing together. And I think it's about time we got rolling! We've been studying the science and facts regarding the present Pandemic. And we have plans in place designed to keep us all safe and healthy AND to allow us to sing together. Here are some important items for you to know about.

### **REHEARSALS**

- A Cappella Choir will rehearse in the Concert Hall. This will allow for Distancing with such a large ensemble – nearly 140 singers.
- Cadence Chamber Choir and Women's Chorale will be limited to 32 singers, and will rehearse in the Recital Hall (Choir Room).
- All choirs will be sub-divided into smaller groups – both section-based, and mixed. And these groups will spend part of our rehearsal times working together. Research suggests that spending more than 30 minutes together in large groups and in enclosed spaces will increase the amount of virus in the air beyond what might be termed as "safe". So our rehearsals will include elements of sectional and sub-divided work, with not more than 30 minutes of all-together singing.
- In keeping with Snow College policy *and* scientific findings, it is required that all singers wear face covering, i.e. mask or face shield, while singing. We know this is not ideal. But it is the only way we can sing together *safely* under present circumstances.
- Singers will be seated at least 6' apart during rehearsals, even when rehearsing in sections or sub-groups. As such, singers will not be able to share music – each singer will have their own folder of music. BRING A 1" BLACK 3-RING BINDER to our first rehearsal.
- Because our rehearsal experience will be so unique for the time being, we will use this time to
  - Increase our musical skills (music-reading, sight-reading, cultural research, vocal technique).
  - Improve the way in which we hear ourselves in the ensemble. In normal times we sing pretty close together. Being 6'+ apart will change the way we hear ourselves and others in the ensemble. This will take some getting used to, and will ultimately make our ensembles stronger!
  - Create recordings – both audio and video – of our work.

### **PERFORMANCES**

- A normal Fall semester would include these performances:
  - OCT 2 – Fall Choral Concert – All Choirs

- NOV 6 – Founders Day Concert – A Cappella Choir, w/ other Snow College ensembles
- DEC 10 & 11 – Horne School of Music Christmas Spectacular – All Choirs, with other Snow College ensembles
- DEC 12 & 13 – Messiah – usually performed by Community Choir, this year to be performed by Cadence Chamber Choir
- The Pandemic has rendered this semester anything but normal. We will prepare for these concerts and dates, and hope that we will be able to perform for live audiences. Knowing that circumstances beyond *our* control might render live performances impossible, we will record and stream as much music as we can.

## AUDITIONS

- Auditions for **Cadence Chamber Choir** and **Women’s Chorale** normally happen during the first week of classes. And these are done “live” in my office. In the interest of safety for you and for me, this semester’s auditions will be done remotely.
- **Please make a YouTube video of yourself singing a song of your choice and email it to our *Choral Area Assistant*, Casie Bearden at [Casiebearden@gmail.com](mailto:Casiebearden@gmail.com). Please include the following information in your email:**
  - **Your name, mobile phone number, and email address**
  - **Voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)**
  - **Prior choir experience (sang in high school... ?)**
  - **The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM on Tuesday, 25 August.**
- Those singers getting past the first screening will be invited to demonstrate Sight-Reading skills by recording themselves singing a short melody to be sent via email at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, 26 August, with a submission deadline of 11:59 PM that night.
- Final reviews will be completed on Thursday morning, with auditioned ensembles posted by 1:00 PM. First rehearsals will happen on Thursday afternoon, 27 August.
- NOTE: Singers who have sung with Cadence and/or Women’s Chorale may enroll for these courses. But you **MUST** re-audition nevertheless.

## WHAT IF?

We are all eager to maintain our face-to-face learning environment and music-making. And so much of our success in staying *on-campus* will depend upon YOU – staying healthy, avoiding unnecessary risks of exposure to “the virus”, and following campus rules regarding face coverings, distancing, and hand-washing. This will be “the new normal” until a vaccine is available and this Pandemic passes.

We are determined, regardless of our proximity, to continue our musical journey together by whatever means is available to us. There are a host of ways to find

inspiration in MUSIC – and we shall do whatever it takes to keep this important element of our lives active, useful, and engaging!

More information and details will be shared in rehearsals and on Canvas.

Questions? Contact *Choral Area Assistants*, **Casie Bearden** at [Casiebearden@gmail.com](mailto:Casiebearden@gmail.com), or **Bryce Hammond** at [sturgyguy@gmail.com](mailto:sturgyguy@gmail.com).

More questions? Contact **ME** at [Michael.Huff@snow.edu](mailto:Michael.Huff@snow.edu).

**LET'S SING!!!**

**19 AUGUST 2020**

**TO: All SINGERS enrolled in Choirs at Snow College (via email and Canvas)**

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 and In-Person Instruction**

As we have observed several colleges and universities recently opening for in-person classes, then quickly closing as COVID-19 cases have exploded on those campuses, some observations come to mind.

- **Partying leads to illness.**
  - News reports indicate that parties at which students have clustered together, unmasked, and un-distanced, have been a main cause of virus spread.
  - **CONCLUSION:** Gatherings (classes, rehearsals, social events, games, church meetings, even parties) are pretty much unavoidable. If you must attend one of these (and you must), **wear a mask**, and **keep your distance**. And if others are acting unsafely, **leave**.
- **It only takes once.**
  - We can be really careful. But if our vigilance slips even once, we can be exposed and fall ill. Yes, most young people who do fall ill have mild symptoms. But some young people have fallen ill and died. And old people like me will thank you for staying well and not exposing US to illness and more probable death.
- **If we ALL don't take the Pandemic seriously, campus will have to close.** Let's compare two professional sports happening right now – Major League Baseball and NBA Basketball.
  - MLB has created a loose framework for continuing their current season. But their plan didn't do much about isolating the players from exposure to others that may be infected with the Virus. As we have seen, several teams have had serious outbreaks and have had to suspend play.
  - The NBA created a "bubble" in Orlando, Florida that included strict protocols and rules. In short, only selected, healthy people have been allowed into the "bubble". And once in, no one leaves. Anyone wishing to return must strictly quarantine for 2 weeks, AND test negative for the virus. The NBA is now engaged in the Playoffs, with no teams having to withdraw due to COVID outbreaks.
  - **Snow College can be a bubble.** But this is what it will require:
    - **Arrive healthy.**
    - **Guard your health** while on campus. Wash hands often. Keep your distance. And MASK UP! Also, this might be a good time to consider the nature of any face-to-face contact in which you might choose to engage (ahem). Until you know, you don't know where that other face has been!
    - **Stay here.** Students here tend to leave campus most weekends – going home, or spending evenings in Provo or other cities.

Consider NOT leaving once you're here. Every unguarded contact – even with family – could contaminate our “bubble” and endanger our collective health. This semester, stay at Snow!

Let's stay open. With intelligence and over-the-top personal discipline, WE CAN DO THIS!!!

**24 AUGUST 2020**

**TO: All SINGERS enrolled in Choirs at Snow College**

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 Contingency Plans**

**The following is information regarding contingency plans I am putting in place to deal with various Covid-19 scenarios.**

**If YOU become ill and must quarantine:**

- I will arrange to broadcast any rehearsals, demonstrations, critiques, class discussions, etc via Canvas using remote conferencing software so that you can still participate in classroom activities.
- You must arrange times to work with SECTION LEADERS individually by phone or video conferencing software.
- You will still be responsible to complete work, submit quizzes, and learn music.
- Depending on your unique circumstances due-dates may be altered
- Assignments will be submitted via file upload in Canvas (.jpeg files)

**If I become ill and must quarantine:**

- Rehearsals will be run by Choir Leadership Team members, Section Leaders, and my colleague, Prof. Brian Stucki.
- I will be available during the regularly scheduled class time and during my posted office hours for individual consultation.
- You will still be required to come to class at the regularly scheduled time, and participate as normal.
- You will still be required to complete work, and meet posted deadlines.
- If necessary, I may move due dates or alter projects to allow for unforeseen problems.
- Assignments will be submitted via file upload in Canvas (.jpeg files)

**If we are forced to transition to online instruction due to an increased outbreak:**

- We will move to an online format utilizing email, phone, Canvas, and video conferencing software.
- You may need to be prepared to attend virtual class during the normally scheduled time. I will announce class meetings via CANVAS.
- I will communicate through the Canvas announcement system that will be linked to your email.

- I will send two announcements per week.
- These announcements will inform you regarding: assignment deadlines and virtual critiques, alterations to existing assignments, time and duration of virtual conferences, Canvas updates, etc.
- Assignments will be submitted via file upload in Canvas (.jpeg files)
- I will be available during normally scheduled class times, and posted office hours for individual consultation.