

Wausau Pro Musica's PROPOSED COVID PROTOCOL FOR RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON REHEARSALS FOR FALL 2021

Statement of Organization's Composition

Wausau Pro Musica, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as WPM) is a non-profit organized under the State of Wisconsin as a 501(c)(3). The regular membership of WPM consists of approximately 40 auditioned women singers including 3-5 high school junior or senior mentees chosen by the Artistic Director each year. WPM has an annual budget of under \$25,000 and does not have paid or unpaid employees. The organization is led by a volunteer, uncompensated Board of Directors (BOD). The Board of Directors contracts with a local choral director, currently Karen Zuidema, who is referred to as the Artistic Director and contracts with a local pianist, currently Tatiana Woller, who is referred to as the Accompanist. The contracts are currently set up on a semiannual basis.

Statement of Organization's Position on COVID Vaccination Protocol

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is spread mainly from person-to-person contact. WPM has cancelled three concert seasons beginning in mid-March 2020 through May 2021 due to the COVID-19 virus. In an attempt to resume in-person choral practice beginning in September 2021, WPM has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during rehearsals.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted several coronavirus vaccine emergency use authorizations in 2021. While WPM at this time is not requiring a coronavirus vaccination for a member's participation in the group's in-person rehearsal and performance singing, the BOD of WPM strongly encourages WPM members to get immunized from the virus to ensure a safe choral environment.

Rationale for Protocol

In the following protocol, the WPM BOD has guidelines set out by state, county and national public health agencies and that are guided by best practices and research provided by choral agencies such as the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus Connection and Chorus America. We understand that these protocols will continue to adapt and accommodate due to:

- Changes to the number of COVID-19 infections in Marathon County and/or the rate of increase of infections
- Changes to the public health guidelines
- Presence of COVID-19 exposure within the choir
- Changes to risk tolerance of singers
- New information on best practices of singing during the COVID-19 pandemic

We value each member's health, safety and individual rights. We feel that there will be sufficient safety measures in place and with the majority of the choir vaccinated, that we can resume in-person rehearsals in September 2021. We understand that singing together increases the risk for exposure due to elevated levels of aerosolization, and will understand if members decide to opt out at this time.

Our goal for the Fall semester, starting in September 2021, will not be to perform a Christmas concert but: 1) Slowly begin to sing together as sectionals and in small groups; 2) Retrain/strengthen our voices after not singing together for 1 ½ years; 3) Allow our new Artistic Director time to assess our vocal ranges, perform voice matching, work on vocal techniques and blending; 4) Allow us to reconnect as a choir and offer as safe an environment as possible so members feel comfortable rehearsing together; 5) Get acclimated to a new rehearsal venue (we are exploring other options in Wausau to allow for social distancing and adequate ventilation)

PROTOCOL:

--Any participants experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms are asked to not participate in the choir's activities beginning September 2021 for a period of 14 days from when the symptoms were last experienced, and advise Dixie Hettinga (BOD President) of your condition. Members will be requested to self-monitor for symptoms and refrain from attending if they have concerns about possible COVID exposure or possible symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: cough (new or exacerbated chronic), headache, fever/chills, sore throat, marked fatigue, sneezing, congestion, body aches, runny nose.

--The WPM Handbook guidelines will be changed so that the number of times per semester a member can miss rehearsals will be rescinded (currently the criteria was 2 rehearsals). We are starting out with sectionals so weeks will be rotated and there will not be the pressure of preparing for a concert. We will ask that choral members stay home if mildly ill. We will be exploring other avenues of making rehearsals available such as video-taping or live-streaming.

--We will strive to maintain social distancing of 6 feet between members at all times. We will try to employ separate entry/exit avenues at the rehearsal venue. We will have a large enough rehearsal space to set chairs up at least 6 feet apart and will limit rehearsals to small groups to start with.

--Hand sanitizers will be available. We will follow the cleaning/disinfectant protocols of the rehearsal venue.

--Mandatory use of masks (exemption for medical or religious reasons). Please bring your own and we will have extra disposables on hand. If you desire a mask designed for singing, we will take orders in the Fall.

--We will limit rehearsals to one hour to begin with and take a break after 30 minutes of singing to allow increased ventilation/air circulation.

--You may bring a water bottle to rehearsal. Only bring what is absolutely required for rehearsal (your music, pencil, mask, your own hand sanitizer if desired)

--We will not pass out handouts at rehearsals, no sharing of pencils or music, no passing around any kind of sign-up sheets.

--We will forgo Koffee-Klatz at this time

--We are strongly encouraging all members to be vaccinated to help protect themselves and fellow choral members. However, those exempted include: inability to be vaccinated due to underlying health issues or those with sincerely held religious convictions. Each member is asked to do their own risk assessment and follow her comfort level. It is our desire that the majority of the choir be vaccinated. As a non-profit volunteer organization, we (the BOD) understand that while we strongly encourage vaccinations, we cannot require vaccinations as a condition of rehearsing together, and our liability insurance carrier does not require it.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE RESPONSE PLAN

If a participant has a confirmed case of COVID-19, please notify Dixie Hettinga, BOD President as soon as possible. We will comply with public health guidelines and notify anyone who was at a rehearsal who might have had risk of exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 member. Depending on timing, we may cancel the rehearsal following the confirmed case. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal for purposes of contact tracing.

If a participant has been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case or has cold or flu-like symptoms, we ask that they notify Dixie Hettinga immediately and refrain from rehearsal for 14 days after the time of exposure.

WAIVER

A copy of this protocol and a waiver will be emailed to you and a hard copy provided if requested. Members will need to review the protocol, sign and return the waiver prior to the first scheduled rehearsal in order to participate in in-person rehearsals.