

January 6, 2021

Hello TAMUK School of Music students,

Greetings and Happy New Year from the School of Music faculty and staff! We hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

We share this document to provide current information concerning music classes, concerts, events, procedures, etc... for the Spring 2021 semester. While this information is current today, please be flexible as we may make adjustments if conditions warrant any changes. These guidelines follow the directives provided by the university administration in their communications to students, faculty, and staff from November and December. Please check and follow all university procedures and protocols as provided on the university website. Also note that Spring Break has been cancelled for the Spring 2021 semester. This will allow for the semester to conclude one week earlier than usual.

Music Classes/Lessons/Rehearsals:

1. Most music classes will be delivered in a face-to-face format for the spring semester. Only classes with a 600-section number will be taught in a fully online format. Other classes listed as a 300- or 900-section number will be taught in a Coflex/Hybrid format that may include some online instruction in addition to face-to-face instruction. Courses listed as 300- or 900- are being set up to include some online teaching due to the capacities of the classrooms which must remain below the COVID capacities for each room. If students contract COVID during the semester, they will be required to attend class virtually for the two-week quarantine/isolation period. Any other accommodations for classes will be made based upon an official medical reason/excuse provided by the student from a professional health care provider.
2. All ensemble rehearsals and performances will occur face-to-face following COVID guidelines for social distancing and COVID capacities for each rehearsal hall/venue. Each ensemble director will provide information regarding their plans for rehearsals and performances for the spring semester.
3. Applied Music lessons will continue as in the fall. Students should contact their applied professors regarding the method and content of live/hybrid applied lessons.
4. Most Secondary Methods classes will continue to meet and be taught in larger venues to provide for maximum social distancing.
5. Juries will continue this semester. They will occur in April and more information will be forthcoming regarding dates/times and venues for the juries.
6. All students registered for MUSI 1000, Recital Seminar, will be required to attend 10 recitals/concerts again this semester. The process for receiving credit will be the same as in the fall semester. Please contact your applied music professor for their recital requirements and methods of documentation.

Performances/Events:

1. Public music performances are scheduled for the spring semester. The School of Music Calendar is on the SOM website. We are still limiting the number of people allowed into any concert/recital based upon the COVID capacities of the performance venue. We will still also require attendees outside of TAMUK to register their attendance using the Simply Book Me online system.
2. All students who have a degree-required recital scheduled for this semester will be allowed to present the recitals as scheduled. Recitals performed on campus will be presented following all COVID protocols with limited audiences.

Student Access to and Practice in the Music Building:

1. The Music Building will be open to students following the regular schedule:
Monday-Friday: 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM; Saturday: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday: 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The weekend schedule will begin on January 16; however, Monday, January 18 is a holiday so the building will be closed on that day.
2. Practice Room use will follow the same protocols as were in place during the fall semester. First-floor practice rooms may be used during odd-numbered hours (7:00, 9:00, etc...), and second-floor practice rooms may be used during even-numbered hours (8:00, 10:00, etc...). There are sanitizing wipes available in the office for use in cleaning surfaces in the practice rooms before and after each use.
3. Students are required to wear masks and practice social distancing when in the music building. Please maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet between students. The University provides cleaning of all areas, but students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own sanitization regimens. You may bring cleaning supplies such as sanitizing wipes if you want to ensure a sanitized space. Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. Do not use harsh chemicals or liquids on pianos or any other instruments or surfaces. You may only use Clorox wipes or hydrogen peroxide and a paper towel on piano keys. Do not use any wipes on the piano finish.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Please be sure to check your student email accounts on a regular basis. This will be the official pathway to receive messages and updates from the university and faculty.
2. Junior Standing Reviews may be held this semester. We will provide an update on these review sessions at a later date.
3. For any questions regarding TExES Practice Exams or student teaching procedures, please contact Dr. Tu: ming.tu@tamuk.edu. TExES practice exams will be offered through <https://www.certifyteacher.com/carrinhonovo>. Please contact Dr. Tu for a discount code and a code for a grant so you can take this practice test online free of charge. In person practice tests may be offered in the Lab on a special request starting February 2021.

4. The Music Computer Lab will be open but with reduced capacity. Student tutors will continue to work with music students in both face-to-face and remote platforms.
5. Music Faculty will keep face-to-face and virtual office hours so that students can contact them with questions or seek assistance.
6. Advising: For questions regarding classes and registration, freshmen and sophomores may contact Ms. Priscilla Guerra, the School of Music academic advisor. Her contact information is: Priscilla.guerra@tamuk.edu and 361-593-4243. All upperclassmen should be in contact with the major applied professor in your area.
7. Questions: Please send any questions to appropriate music faculty, staff, or myself. We will try to answer any and all questions the best that we can. My contact information is: paul.hageman@tamuk.edu and 361-593-2806.

Students, while the fall semester was unusual, it was also successful in many ways. The fact that we learned in our classes, rehearsed in our ensembles, and actually made music this past semester is a tribute to all of the students, faculty, and staff working together to be successful. We plan to build on those successes this spring, and hopefully transition back to more normal times as the semester progresses – based upon the hope for improving conditions and vaccinations. Our plans are not perfect and will require adjustments by all of us – students, faculty, and staff. But, if we all keep a positive attitude and work together, we feel sure that we can accomplish much during this difficult time. We wish each of you a successful spring semester!

Warmest Regards,

Paul Hageman, Director
School of Music
Texas A&M University-Kingsville