

Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra Coronavirus Guidelines – Return to Rehearsals

SYO is very much looking forward to a return to rehearsals. The Covid pandemic is however far from over and it is therefore vital that we work together to stay safe, and comply with the additional safety measures introduced to help protect us all. The safety of everyone is critical and we must all continue to keep alert in order to help protect ourselves and our families.

The arrangements for rehearsals are very different now to when we last met in early March. We must also recognise the need to remain flexible. Experience has shown that infection rates can rise quickly at a local level. We will continue to monitor the local status carefully, and to change arrangements as needed.

Please therefore take the time to read the attached guidelines and to follow them at all times. Our guidelines have been prepared based on current advice from Making Music, the umbrella organisation for all UK amateur music groups, and are fully consistent with the guidelines issued by both the Department of Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Preparation before arriving for a rehearsal

- Are players well and safe to attend?
 - Have they or a member of their household been in contact with anyone with symptoms or who has tested positive for Covid-19 in last 2 weeks?
 - Do they have any symptoms of Covid-19? (These include temperature, cough, loss of (or change to) sense of smell and taste)?
 - Have NHS track and Trace asked them to self-isolate?
 - Have they returned from abroad and been asked to self-isolate?
- **If the answers to any of the above are “Yes”, do not attend the rehearsal** – please let the MO or TO coordinator know that the player will not be attending.

to_absences@stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk
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- How will you travel to the rehearsal? Please use the safest method of transport available to you, adopting the following hierarchy:
 - Walk, cycle, own car is ideal
 - If sharing a car, use face coverings, open windows, sit far away from each other

- If public transport is necessary, trains are better than buses which are better than the underground.
- Please monitor players temperatures before coming to a rehearsal and do not attend if over 37.8°C.

On arrival at St Paul's Community Centre

- **Please do not arrive early for your rehearsal – you will not be able to enter until your allotted time.**
- Enter via the main Community Centre entrance on Inner Park Road
- Players to queue outside centre to avoid too many people at one time in entrance hall
- Please ensure you queue at a 2m distance
- **No parents to enter the centre at all – chaperones will be there to look after the players.**
- All players to use hand sanitiser on arrival at the centre
- All players of secondary school age and all adults to wear face coverings when in the centre, unless playing. Masks are optional for younger players. String players may continue to wear masks when playing if they wish.
- A registration table will be set up at entrance to Centre
- St Paul's has set up 2m markers on the floor, a one-way system inside, floor tape and clear signage to maintain social distancing.
- Players will be directed to their allocated seat for their rehearsal
- Small cases and all personal belongings to be kept under / by their chair
- Large cases will be stored in the conservatory / at the back of the church.

During the rehearsals

- All players will rehearse in ensembles with a maximum size of 15.
- All rehearsals will be one hour in length, with suitable breaks for ventilation and to allow for all players to rehearse each week.
- All players will be seated in allocated seats at a minimum 2m distance from others players. All players will be sat side by side rather than face to face.

- Players to bring their own music stand, printed music, pencils, rosin, reeds, valve oil etc. **No sharing of any instruments, music or equipment at all.** Percussionist to bring own sticks. All percussion to be wiped before and after use.
- Wind and brass players to bring a sealed container or towel and plastic bag to collect spit, which must be taken away with them.
- All instruments to be cleaned at home (no use of pull through cleaners etc.)
- Players must NOT empty spit on to floor, and must try to re-learn what may be automatic behaviour!
- Please use bell-coverings for wind/brass instruments – suggestions are a shower cap or a double layer of 80 denier tights. They can also be purchased at minimal cost from <https://www.moistureguard.co.uk>
- Unfortunately, there will be nowhere for parents to wait inside the centre during the rehearsals
- As the rehearsals are short, toilets are for emergency use only. One player at a time will be able to use the toilets.
- There will be no break and no refreshments provided. Please bring your own drink if needed.

Expected behaviour

- 2 metre social distancing to be observed AT ALL TIMES, this means before, during and after musical activity
- A face covering is to be worn at all times when not playing, by all adults and all players of secondary school age. Optional for younger players
- Sanitise/wash hands on arrival, departure, after bathroom visit
- Sneeze/cough into tissue/crook of arm (if not wearing a face-covering)
- No hugging, hand-shaking, lingering to chat in rehearsal venue before or after rehearsal. Chat, if you wish afterwards, outside and at 2m distance.
- Please use signage, one-way systems, tape on floor, listen to chaperone instructions
- Any player not abiding by the rules will be asked to leave the rehearsal. If they do not agree to and are not seen to follow the rules the following week, they will be excluded from the orchestra until “normal” rehearsal conditions return.

At the end of the rehearsal

- Please leave the rehearsal area straight away at the end of the rehearsal
- All players to leave via the conservatory doors and through the vicar’s garden.
- Parents to meet players outside the Vicarage in Augustus Road – the house next to the Church
- Players will be brought out by chaperones a few at a time to meet parents, to avoid congestion.
- Please do not linger to chat to friends – this can be done at a distance away from the centre.

General Points

- All shared surfaces and facilities will be cleaned by St Paul's before and after rehearsal
- Players will be reminded to use sanitiser before, during and after rehearsals
- Hand sanitiser stations are available in several locations in the centre and SYO will have its own sanitiser. Players will be asked to bring their own, named sanitiser.

- St Paul's has removed all unnecessary furniture from all rooms
- All chairs will be cleaned by St Paul's prior to and after our rehearsals
- SYO chaperones will clean between groups during rehearsal and set up for each rehearsal
- No heating will be used in either Hall or Church, though Centre radiators will be available in cold weather (players to bring extra jumpers if needed).
- Doors in Hall, Conservatory and Lounge to be kept open to allow ventilation
- There will be a 30-minute gap between each rehearsal to allow ventilation of spaces
- All player and music tutor details will be retained in case they are needed for Track and Trace.
- If a confirmed case of Covid is identified, all players in that group will be contacted by SYO.
- In the event of emergency evacuation, players will be directed through labelled emergency exits to collect on the grass opposite the centre in Inner Park road, where they will be registered, in orchestral sections, by the chaperones.