

FPS Covid Guidelines

In view of the transmissibility of the COVID-19 virus and its variants, for the time being, the Board of the Foothills Philharmonic Society is implementing the following guidelines related to COVID-19. These guidelines were developed through much thought, discussion, and consideration of expert guidance and ensemble subcommittee feedback. Please understand that these measures are *temporary* and fluid. The Board has pledged to review these guidelines monthly and adjust accordingly to support all our members through this period of time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought much grief to all communities. The Board would like to express great love and compassion for our members, who are resilient in the face of such a time of suffering, and we offer support and condolences to those impacted by illness, mental health challenges, financial struggles, and deaths. We want to assure our membership that the Board is with you on this journey, and we are all hoping for a return to normalcy sooner rather than later.

OBJECTIVE:

Our objective is to create a physical and emotional space where our members can all feel safe as we come together to make music. As we reviewed the options before us and the current challenges COVID-19 presents, it became clear we had two paths the Society could follow. One was to delay the start of rehearsals yet again, aiming for a spring start in 2022. The other path was to bring in safety guidelines that would allow the Society to move forward with a fall season, and we feel that is a far healthier option for our Society than continued delays. These guidelines will allow us to begin rehearsals in a safe manner.

Please understand that this season may be about “Bringing Beautiful Music to the Members” of our Society, as we cannot guarantee any concerts at this time.

1. As a temporary measure subject to monthly review by the Board, fully vaccinated members are invited to join in-person rehearsals until such time as the Board can safely amend this guideline. All members who are not able to attend in-person rehearsals, whether due to vaccination status, symptoms of illness, or AHS advice to self-isolate are encouraged to join rehearsals virtually.
2. If you are showing any symptoms of any illness, or have been advised to self-isolate, please do not attend in-person rehearsals. Virtual rehearsals will be provided for any members who are ill or have been advised to self-isolate.
3. If we are notified of a case of COVID-19 in any ensemble, Musical Directors will inform the Board, and we will notify the applicable ensemble(s), consult AHS, and follow their direction.
4. Sanitization stations will be set up and required for each rehearsal.
5. Rehearsals are not to be a forum for discussion/debate of politics, vaccinations, or debate over these guidelines.
6. Singers' masks must be worn during all vocal ensemble rehearsals, and regular masks must be worn by other ensembles. This mask requirement applies to rehearsal time, entering/exiting rehearsals, and during breaks. The Society will provide one Singers' mask to each vocal ensemble member who is eligible for in-person rehearsals as soon as possible. Regular masks will be provided if someone forgets their mask, but it is expected that each musician will remember to bring and wear their own mask to rehearsals.

7. Orchestra members who cannot play their instrument while wearing a mask will be required to use a cover for their instrument. One cover will be provided per musician who requires it by the Society, such style to be determined by the Musical Director for purchase by the Society. Spit valves must be emptied in a sanitary manner.
8. Board recommends a minimum of 1-2 seats between people and 1 row between rows, but we recognize Musical Directors may need to adapt this to suit musical needs. Members should feel free to express to the Director if they feel uncomfortable with their proximity to other members, and Directors will provide more space in that event.
9. There will be no sharing of music due to the difficulty of sanitizing paper music. Each member will be responsible for their own music and keeping their belongings clean/sanitized.
10. Musical Director will be expected to have a conversation with any member showing visible symptoms of illness, and (if necessary) ask the musician to attend virtual-only rehearsals until such symptoms have resolved.
11. We will require members to sign a waiver for participation in ensembles.
12. All guests performing or rehearsing with FPS will only be invited to do so upon agreeing to comply with all of the applicable guidelines for the ensemble they are rehearsing with.
13. Ensemble subcommittees may add any additional measures for their own rehearsals to these guidelines, subject to Board approval.
14. Issue reporting procedure: for any concerns, please report an issue first to your section leader. If the issue remains unresolved, please report to the Board's ensemble representative (contact information to be made available to all members of the applicable ensemble). If the ensemble representative is not available, please report to the Musical Director. Ensemble representatives and Musical Directors can bring the situation to the Board as needed.
15. If you have any questions or concerns related to these guidelines, please reach out to the Board in writing, and all non-emergency concerns will be discussed at the next monthly Board meeting. Contact the Board: president@foothillsphilharmonic.com

We would like to reiterate that these measures are intended to be temporary. **We will not be requesting formal proof of vaccination, but rather are relying on the trust we have in our membership to support their fellow musicians through this period of time.** Additional information related to privacy will be forthcoming. The Board thanks all FPS members for their cooperation and understanding during this new season. We are excited to come together again to make music as a community, and hope you are too!

- Foothills Philharmonic Society Board
 - Elly Platt
 - Jeff Hibberd
 - Germaine Miese-Looy
 - Andrew Gunn
 - Sherry Walford
 - Naomi Davis-Robinson
 - Cortnee Bouwmeester