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NEWSLETTER Summer 2020

Second Round of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Produces Encouraging Preliminary Results

Over 125 organizations have pledged their support and donated time and resources to find ways to reduce the risk of returning to rehearsals and performances for music, speech, debate, theatre, academic, and aerobic activities. Researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Maryland are over one month into a six-month study.

The study, commissioned by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) and a coalition of more than 125 performing arts organizations, including the National Music Council, has generated a second set of preliminary results that provides further optimism for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on performing arts activities.

Preceded by initial results released on July 13 that centered on aerosol pathways from a soprano singer and subjects playing four different musical

instruments, the second phase of experimentation investigated aerosol from additional singers and instruments, as well as theatre performers. A final report, which will incorporate more testing on the aforementioned areas along with speech and debate activities and an aerobic simulation, is expected with the completion of the study in December.

“The goal of this study from the beginning was to identify the issues of aerosol production in performing arts activities, and to find a way forward so these activities will survive the pandemic,” said study co-chair Dr. Mark Spede, CBDNA President and Clemson University director of bands. “We are identifying ways performing arts participants can meet in person with the lowest risk possible.”

Powered by research teams at the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland, the study’s second round of findings is highlighted by five principal takeaways related to masks, distance, time, air flow and hygiene with the goal of creating the safest possible environment for bringing performing arts back into classrooms,

band rooms, rehearsal spaces, performance halls and on athletic fields.

The most recent findings for performing arts participants in music, band, choir, speech and theatre reinforced the masking measures from the original study results. Those results found that affixing masks to participants and applying bell cover “masks” to musical instruments significantly reduced the range of aerosol particle emissions. Personal masks should be well-fitting, multi-layered, washable or disposable, and surgical in style. Ideally, bell covers should be made of non-stretchy material that has a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 13 – a rating known to protect against cough and sneeze, bacteria and virus particles. However, any type of covering is better than nothing.

Long-established social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (6 feet by 6 feet) should be applied at all times, with additional space (9 feet by 6 feet) allocated to accommodate trombone players. Masks can be optional but are strongly recommended while performing or rehearsing outdoors; instrument bell covers, however, should be used in all settings.

Study statistics indicate limiting rehearsal times to 30 minutes or less significantly reduces the quantity and spread of aerosol among the individuals involved. Following an indoor rehearsal, activities leaders should wait until at least one HVAC air change has occurred prior to using the same room again although three air changes is the goal. Outdoors, playing should stop for approximately five minutes after each

30-minute segment to allow the aerosol to disperse.

As can be expected, optimal air flow is achieved during outdoor rehearsals. For programs looking to use tents as a means of sheltering performers outdoors, open-air tents – those with high rooftops and without walls – should be employed. HEPA filters are strongly recommended to increase the amount of clean air and the number of air changes per hour for indoor rehearsals. Additional guidance can be found on the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) website: <https://www.ashrae.org>.

Finally, the second round of results places a strong emphasis on hygiene. In addition to basic hygienic measures like keeping common areas sanitized and encouraging frequent handwashing, it is recommended that instrument spit valves be emptied onto absorbent sheets such as puppy pads rather than directly onto the floor.

While several months of research remain ahead for the aerosol study, co-chair Dr. James Weaver, NFHS Director of Performing Arts and Sports, believes the preliminary findings and subsequent recommendations have already made a great impact on the feasibility of conducting performing arts activities in the near future.

“We know there are elevated aerosol productions that exist in performing arts activities,” Weaver said. “We feel strongly that the performing arts field is committed to the safety and well-being of all students, with a clear desire to understand what happens when

instruments are played, or people engage in singing, theatre or other expressive artistic experiences. We are beginning to understand what steps can be taken to mitigate concerns and allow students to engage in the many life-affirming experiences that are central to the arts.”

The National Music Council is proud to have been one of the sponsoring organizations of the study and recognizes NMC members NAMM, National Federation of High Schools, College Band Directors National Association, Country Music Association Foundation, Music Teachers National Association, Music Publishers Association of the US, National Association for Music Education, National Association of Teachers of Singing, Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, and Songwriters Guild of America for their generous support of the project.

2nd Release of Preliminary Results on August 6th:

[YouTube Presentation \(Clean and Updated Audio\)](#)

[Press Release on 2nd Round of Preliminary Data](#)

[PDF with 2nd Round of Preliminary Results](#)

Preliminary results for woodwinds and brass released July 13th:

[Preliminary Recommendations from International Performing Arts Aerosol Study Based on Initial Testing Results](#)

[Press Release on Initial Findings](#)

[PDF with information about how the study was conducted, preliminary results and general considerations](#)

[YouTube Presentation on Round 1 of Results](#)

To learn more about the researchers and contributors, view past preliminary results and browse additional resources related to the aerosol study, please visit: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>.

PROTECTING THE LIVES OF MUSIC CREATORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

August 7, 2020. NEW YORK CITY. The member organizations of the National Music Council of the United States, an alliance representing over a million music professionals and supporters across the United States, wish to express both their grief and their continuing deep concern over the murder last month of celebrated Ethiopian singer-songwriter Hachalu Hundessa. Tragically, hundreds more Ethiopians have been killed or injured in the violent protest events that followed the murder. NMC appreciates that Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali has offered condolences, and assurances that a vigorous investigation is ongoing. Our hope is that this effort will be carried out transparently, providing foreign embassies the opportunity to closely monitor developments.

Through his music, Hundassa was an outspoken critic of the unequal treatment of Ethiopia's ethnic Oromo minority, of which both he and the Prime Minister were and are members. And like other artists and songwriters before him, including revered Chilean folk singer and composer Victor Jara who was murdered by the Pinochet Junta a half-century ago, there is a distinct possibility that Hundassa was targeted because of his political influence as a music creator. We are optimistic that a thorough, independent investigation will uncover the reasons for this brutal crime, and that constructive suggestions for how bloodshed can be avoided in the future will be acted upon.

Political violence against singers, writers, journalists and other creators is on the rise in general throughout the world. The National Music Council joins the rest of the global community of music creators in condemning and demanding an immediate end to this viciously, anti-democratic trend, and will be petitioning governments to take immediate action in pursuit of that goal on an international basis.

The National Music Council and International Music Council also join the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed (2013) in the following statement: "All persons enjoy the right to freedom of artistic expressions and creativity...as well as the right of artists to dissent, to use political, religious and economic symbols as a counter-discourse to dominant powers, and to express their own belief and world vision."

NAMM Announces Believe in Music Week: The Global Gathering to Unite and Support the Industry

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the health and safety of NAMM members as the first priority, NAMM is reimagining how to connect all facets of the industry while benefiting those most deeply impacted by COVID-19 with the launch of Believe in Music: The global gathering to unify and support the people who bring music to the world.

Believe in Music, scheduled for the week of January 18, 2021, will feature a mix of comprehensive programming and professional education at BelieveinMusic.tv, as well as an interactive market place to connect buyers and sellers—all designed to elevate the innovation and inspiration found across the industry, while offering support for those most deeply affected by COVID. Though not The NAMM Show or a virtual tradeshow, the initiative will meet the immediate business needs of NAMM member companies through thought-leader led education for all segments of the industry, networking and AI matchmaking, and business-to-business-focused opportunities to reaffirm and grow business connections, launch new products, share brand initiatives, and engage with customers in real-time. [Read the entire release.](#)



MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing is a select group of internationally recognized voice teachers and singing voice experts founded in 1922 with the express purpose of contributing to the singing profession in an advisory capacity. We value and celebrate all styles of singing. The Academy works as a single body to offer guidance through the publication of position papers on a wide range of subjects. We speak with “one voice”

In these challenging times, as thousands of protesters march around the world, the American Academy of Teachers of Singing stands with them in solidarity against physical acts and mindsets that contribute to racial injustice.

We strive to be inclusive in the celebration, performance, and academic study of diverse cultures and the music they represent, and cannot ignore the systemic injustices that affect these same cultures and communities. Our duty as educators and thought leaders is to help increase awareness, and drive change.

For change to come, we must make a concerted, communal effort to be part of

the solution. It's times like these that challenge our commitment to social justice and call into question our own action or inaction. As Elis Wiesel said, “We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Music Critics Association of North America

Like other classical music organizations, the Music Critics Association of North America has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. Our 2020 annual meeting, which was scheduled to be held June 19-21 in San Francisco in collaboration with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Opera, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music, was sadly canceled. The opera company and orchestra had no choice but to shut down their seasons, and gatherings of any sort were impossible due to the ongoing threat of the virus. At least we were able to have a virtual meeting for the board and membership to take care of business.

One thing that proceeded as planned was the fourth annual MCANA Award for Best New Opera, one of the association's signature initiatives. The award went to composer Jeanine Tesori and librettist Tazewell Thompson for *Blue*, a powerful tragedy about a Black policeman and his wife, who are devastated by the shooting death of their teenage son by a white cop.

With performances to review – the stock in trade of music journalists – few and far between, MCANA’s online news journal, Classical Voice North America, went on hiatus for a spell during the summer to upgrade the site.

Music Teachers National Association

MTNA Student Competitions

The MTNA National Student Competitions are among the most successful and prestigious student competitions in the country. Each year, thousands of students compete for top prizes and national recognition. Competitions include Composition, Brass, Piano, String, Voice, Woodwind (applications due Wednesday, September 16, 2020) and Chamber Music (video-only applications due



Wednesday, December 2, 2020). For more information, visit www.mtna.org.

MTNA–Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition

The MTNA–Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition, in its fourth year, allows piano duos to compete without regard to the state or division in which the live or take lessons. This competition consists of two rounds. The first round will be a video round and submitted online. The finals will take place at the 2021 MTNA National

Conference. Applications and recordings will be due January 4, 2021. For more details, visit www.mtna.org.

MTNA eFestival

The MTNA eFestival, an online-only performance opportunity where entrants receive a constructive critique from a highly qualified evaluator. Evaluations for solo piano, brass, woodwind, strings, voice, guitar/mandolin, ukulele, organ, percussion, harp and chamber music (maximum six) are available through this program. Musicians may be of any age or performance level and need not be studying with an MTNA member to participate. The MTNA eFestival runs year-round with no deadlines. For more information, email mtnaefestival@mtna.org or visit www.mtna.org.

National Association for Music Education

NAfME announces new national president and interim executive director:

This past June Dr. Mackie V. Spradley began her term as NAfME National President 2020–2022. Dr. Spradley serves as the Director of Enrichment Education at the Texas Education Agency in Austin, TX. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Teacher Education and Administration, College of Education, at the University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, Texas. She received the B.M. in Voice from UNT and M.A. in Vocal Pedagogy from Texas Woman’s University, Denton. She received her

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Anthropology from UNT. Spradley has published in academic journals and books, such as the *National Forum of Multicultural Issues Journal*, *Texas Music Educators Conference Connections* and *Educational Leadership and Music* (in press). She is a national speaker on music education, culturally responsive pedagogy, and social justice. Learn more about Dr. Spradley: <https://nafme.org/about/2020-2022-nafme-national-president-mackie-spradley/>.

This spring, NAFME also announced Christopher B. Woodside as the NAFME Interim Executive Director. He has served the National Association for Music Education for the past decade as Chief Operating Officer; Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy, Policy & Constituency Engagement; and Assistant Executive Director, Advocacy & Constituency Engagement. In these capacities, he has been responsible for the oversight of all NAFME operations, including administration, membership and marketing communications, business development, strategic initiatives and student programs, and public policy, research, and professional development.

Arts Education Is Essential, a unified arts statement: This past spring as policy- and decision-makers made school reopening plans for the fall, National Association for Music Education (NAFME) joined 52 other organizations in a statement that supports arts education for all students. Since May, that number has grown to 113 national organizations that have signed on to the “Arts Education Is Essential” statement. The statement reads: “It is imperative that all students

have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being, taught by certified professional arts educators in partnership with community arts providers.” Arts and music education advocates are encouraged to use the key talking points in the statement as they advocate for arts and music education in their school districts and communities. Read the full statement at <http://bit.ly/ArtsEdIsEssential> and follow #ArtsEdIsEssential for updates.

NAFME National Rally for Music Education: The national rally was led by the National Association for Music Education’s state and national leadership in collaboration with multiple colleagues in the field. Celebrate music educators who are committed to teach all students, and unite your voice with us as we continue to advocate for the inclusion of music in our schools. Learn about COVID-19 resources and tools available through NAFME; hear from music education advocates on what’s working now; be inspired through story and song; and leave on a high note with remarks by our NAFME President Dr. Mackie V. Spradley. Watch the full recording (note that the rally begins at the 5:30 mark): <https://vimeo.com/432624789>.

NAFME COVID-19 Resources and News: There has never been a time in memory during which we as a profession have faced such a challenge to our teaching. NAFME and our partners are committed to supporting our music educators with resources for virtual instruction, professional development, and critical information during this pandemic. We are a music education

nation working together to keep music and the other arts strong in our schools! NAFME is collaborating with like-minded organizations to create advocacy campaigns, influence policy decisions, and spread hope. This page includes webinars, articles, guidance, links, and more: <https://nafme.org/covid-19/>.

NAfME Virtual Teaching and Learning Resources for Music Educators:

Members of NAFME Societies and Councils have provided resources from their own original teaching experiences, music educators in their school districts, universities, communities, peers, or other trusted sources. We thank them for their assistance and commitment to NAFME members as we all pull together to keep educating and making music. This page includes videos, guidance, and research on a myriad of topics of concern to music educators: <http://bit.ly/VirtualTeachingLearningMusicEd>.

Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education from NFHS and NAFME:

This document provides practical guidance for PreK-12 schools as administrators and music educators seek to provide meaningful music instruction for students of all ages and grade levels during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this unique time, music educators are modifying their practices not only in teaching, but in classroom orientation, cleaning, spacing and management. It is understood that, as trained professionals, music educators want to offer the very best instruction so all students can learn and grow in their knowledge, understanding, and love of music. This guide asserts that music educators can still do that, but also acknowledges that how we deliver teaching may be different than in the

past. Learn more:

<https://bit.ly/Fall2020MusicEducation>.

NAfME Professional Learning

Community Webinars: NAFME has developed a series of Professional Learning Community webinars to deliver timely and targeted topics presented by experts during COVID-19. This format offers educators the opportunity to engage with webinar presenters live, as well as reference recordings at a later time. All webinars are free and open to the public. Learn more:

<http://bit.ly/NAfMEProfessionalLearningCommunityWebinars>



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Music In Our Schools Month® 2021 (MIOSM®):

The theme for the March 2021 celebration of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) is “Music: The Sound of My Heart.” The NAFME Council for General Music Education announced a new direction for MIOSM, which began with the 2018–19 school year. This year focuses on lessons for third- and fourth-graders, helping them learn elements of music through some classic children’s songs in English and Spanish. The lessons and songs, however, can be shared at many levels. All are available without charge to teachers for their use during MIOSM and in years to come. To learn more about the new direction of MIOSM, and obtain lesson plans, repertoire, classroom items, and other materials,

visit nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow #MusicTheSoundOfMyHeart and #MIOSM on Twitter and Instagram.

NAfME Corporate Membership:

NAfME has various levels of membership available for corporations to help you connect to music educators across the country. Benefits include discounts on advertising; cobranded emails to music educators; sponsored blogs and social media posts; use of the NAfME Corporate logo; listing in the NAfME corporate directory; discounts on list rentals; webinar hosting; exclusive exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities; and more. To find out more, contact corporate@nafme.org, or visit nafme.org/corporate.

NAfME Advocacy Updates: Tell Congress to Provide Federal Aid to Backfill State Education Budgets:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic downturn that could be incredibly harmful to state education budgets if the United States Congress does not act (<https://nafme.org/states-addressing-budget-shortfalls-without-cutting-education/>).

An updated projection by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that the states are dealing with a combined \$595 billion revenue shortfall. The CARES Act, passed in March, appropriated money to the states to help them address the pandemic, but it did not appropriate funds to address this shortfall.

NAfME and its state affiliates believe that Congress must appropriate at least \$200 billion specifically for education for states to avoid drastic negative consequences. Without this funding, music programs will be jeopardized, and students will not have the access to

the well-rounded education that they need and deserve (see nafme.org/essa).

The United States Senate and House of Representatives have introduced their fourth COVID-19 relief packages, but both proposals fall short of providing adequate funding that can help prevent significant cuts in education. We are asking music education advocates to reach out to members of Congress to request \$200 billion in the next legislative relief package to backfill state education budgets. Visit this page to participate in this call to action: <http://bit.ly/NAfMEgrassroots>.

Tell Congress to Address the “Homework Gap”:

The “Homework Gap” is a term referring to the unequal opportunity experienced by students who lack home internet access. Recent estimates suggest between 12 and 16 million K–12 students in the United States are unable to log online for distance learning, and that students from rural communities and racial minority groups are disproportionately affected.

The Homework Gap adversely impacted students long before the pandemic we see today. Without home internet access, millions of students were at a significant disadvantage in completing projects, research, and study, often completing homework using borrowed devices in fast-food restaurants offering free Wi-Fi. With students now stuck at home and schools moving almost completely online, closing the Homework Gap is more urgent than ever.

Congress has the power to authorize funding specifically for this crisis. NAfME

is joining the efforts of other national education organizations to advocate for emergency funding to be provided to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) E-Rate program, which is the largest federal education technology program. The FCC can and should use E-Rate to help school districts procure discounted laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots to be loaned out to students.

Visit this page to send a message to your members of Congress urging them to close the Homework Gap:
<https://bit.ly/closehomeworkgap>.

Music Education and Social-Emotional Learning: The intersection between music education and social-emotional learning is just one benefit of music education, but this may have a renewed focus during the uncertainty of school re-openings in the fall. The *NAfME Music Education and Social-Emotional Learning* brochure is an advocacy tool that reminds decision-makers how music educators are equipped to help students develop socially and emotionally. Music educators are encouraged to share the brochure with their policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels. Download the brochure here:
<https://bit.ly/MusicEduSEL>.

NAfME Music Education Advocacy Resource Kit: To help you plan for your fall teaching and support your music education advocacy efforts, NAfME has compiled a list of resources to help states and members achieve those outcomes. See the Fall 2020 Resource Kit (<http://bit.ly/NAfMEMusicEdAdvocacyResources>). This toolkit can help ensure that students have access to the well-rounded education they need to help them cope with remote learning and

social distancing. Together, we will get through this, and ensure that music education helps our students thrive during an uncertain time.

NAMM

Second Round of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Produces Encouraging Preliminary Results

An aerosol study commissioned by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) and a coalition of more than 125 performing arts organizations has generated a second set of preliminary results that provides further optimism for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on performing arts activities. [Read more.](#)

An Argument for Music Education- Nina Kraus Study

Download and share the new study, *An Argument for Music Education*, published in *American Scientist* by Dr. Nina Kraus and her colleague Travis White-Schwoch from Northwestern University, that shows how learning music early in life can lead to lifelong neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to be malleable. Read the study here:
<https://www.nammfoundation.org/articles/2020-06-25/argument-music-education>

Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir 6 "Sing Gently" is now live on Youtube!

Virtual Choir 6: "Sing Gently," an original composition from Eric Whitacre,

premiered on Sunday, July 19th , on [YouTube](#). Whitacre, who is one of the world's most performed composers, was inspired to write the piece by the breadth of the pandemic and its effect on society. Turning to music as solace, "Sing Gently" welcomed 17,572 singers from 129 countries, aged 5–88, who recorded their videos to be combined to form Virtual Choir 6. Together, they found strength in the simple, collective initiative of the project and saw it as a way to not only replenish from within but also to offer hope and relief for the sadness and suffering of others. Watch [here](#).

Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education

Created by NAMM partners, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education document provides practical guidance for PreK-12 schools as administrators and music educators seek to provide meaningful music instruction for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Download [today](#).

National Association of Teachers of Singing

Whether you had the opportunity to attend the NATS Virtual Conference or not, we wanted to reach out and encourage you to take a look at the conference program book. This digital program book is fully linked to all the sessions from the conference and to all

our sponsors and advertisers, many of whom have special offers available to you. We owe a huge thank you to all our sponsors and advertisers who made the NATS Virtual National Conference a success and hope you will support them as you make your purchasing decisions in the near future.



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National Federation of Music Clubs

As with many organizations, this has been a tough year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) is still moving forward despite cancellation of many meetings and activities for the past few months. Competitions and awards still took place this year, with most using virtual technology.

The National Federation of Music Clubs was founded in 1898 and has become the largest nonprofit organization in America to promote and support American music, performers, and music education. As a grassroots organization working in communities throughout America, we provide musical opportunities for all ages: professional and amateur musicians, benefactors, volunteers, music lovers, music teachers, music students, and supportive parents. Many opportunities and activities in which our over 121,000 members participate are Festival programs, competitive events, community outreach and just meeting music lovers in our communities.

Dedicated to finding and fostering young musical talent, the National Federation of Music Clubs conducts annual Junior Festivals with approximately 100,000 participants. NFMC offers more than three quarters of a million dollars in state and national competitions, including four \$20,000 biennial Young Artist awards, and the \$20,000 Ellis Award for Duo Pianists. The Young Artist and Ellis Duo Piano awards also include two years of performance bookings.

The Young Artist Competition offers awards in Piano, Man's Voice, Woman's Voice and Strings, with prizes of \$20,000 - 1st place, and \$5,000 - 2nd place in each category. Video entries are due February 2, 2021, and LIVE Semi-finals and Finals will be held at the NFMC Biennial Convention, June 16-17, 2021, in Norfolk, Virginia

The Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists has 1st Prize: \$20,000 (duo team), 2nd Prize: \$4,000 (team), and \$1,000 to be awarded for the best performance of

American Music. February 1, 2021 is the deadline for video entries. The LIVE Finals will be held in Jackson, Mississippi at Belhaven University, April 9-11, 2021.

Current winners of these prestigious awards are:

- Paul Wolf, Man's Voice
- Lily Arbisser, Woman's Voice
- Alex Harsh, Strings (cello)
- Susan Yang, Piano
- Carney-Terrall Duo (Colleen Carney & Melissa Terrall), Duo Pianists

In addition to the many awards offered by the National Federation of Music Clubs, grants are available from the NFMC Fund for the Advancement of Musical Arts (FAMA).

FAMA grants are designed to support a specific music education/outreach project. They are non-renewable and are not intended to support ongoing projects. Preference is given to community projects that strengthen music education/music appreciation in the United States. This year, because of the pandemic and lack of applicants, the FAMA grants were not awarded. We hope that a return to normalcy will come soon and activities and interest will increase to their normal levels.

New Music USA

This month we're celebrating the resilience and imagination of our new music community by introducing you to the artists and organizations supported through our annual round of [Project](#)

[Grants](#). Their bold work—along with the many excellent projects we weren't able to support because of the demand for our funds—demonstrates a collective commitment to the creation of adventurous new music in spite of the uncertainties that we're all facing.

I'm also inspired to see that a large proportion of our projects feature BIPOC artists and that many music creators and makers are centering social justice at the heart of their creative practice. Please read below for more on our work to dismantle barriers for all applicants.

We are fortunate to receive support from local funders in New York, enabling us to support many more New York-based projects than we could otherwise. To create space for other communities, we've spent the past 8 months listening to creators, practitioners, and organizations from other parts of the country, from Baltimore to New Orleans to Seattle. I'm so grateful to everyone who's joined one of our thirty virtual meetings to share ideas, passions, and frustrations and to help us identify how we can better connect with you and advocate for your music ecosystem at the state and national level. We'll be in touch later this year with plans for our next steps.

In the meantime, stay creative—and for anyone we haven't yet connected with, we invite you to tell us more about your situation in our survey [here](#).

Announcing the 2020 New Music USA Project Grants:

New Music USA recently announced the selection of 110 projects involving 392 creators and artists for the tenth round

of New Music USA Project Grants. Totaling \$502,700 in funding, this year's grants support a wide range of activities involving new music as a central element. Many of these projects involve collaborations in dance, theater, opera, and the visual arts. Explore each of the selected projects [here](#).

The Project Grants peer review process reflects ongoing efforts to dismantle bias. For this tenth round of project grants, which attracted over 1200 applications, New Music USA engaged 48 artists, composers, musicians, and administrators, building a [panel](#) formed of 56% women and 44% people of color, working from locations around the country.

Stay tuned! As COVID19 restrictions continue, New Music USA will be making changes to the guidelines and timeframes around our Project Grants program for 2020/2021. Information will be shared through our email newsletter and on our website by the end of September.

Pathos Trio and Blk Joy Present a Black Lives Matter Virtual Fundraiser:

New Music USA is committed to providing durable support in the fight against systematic oppression and racial injustice. It is our pleasure to assist Pathos Trio and Blk Joy as they present a [Black Lives Matter Virtual Fundraiser](#) on Friday, July 31 from 7-10pm EDT featuring Flutronix, Jessie Montgomery, Kendall Williams, Mahogany L. Browne, Whitney Greenaway, Roya Marsh, Darian Thomas, Elliot Bless, Jennifer Falú, and more. The goal is to raise \$10,000 for

Black Lives Matter of Greater New York, Strategy For Black Lives, Freedom March NYC, and Warriors in the Garden.

You can watch the stream on Facebook Live both on the [Pathos Trio](#) and [New Music USA](#) pages.

Amplifying Voices:

The orchestral consortia for our Amplifying Voices program are continuing to take shape. The lead orchestras co-commissioning new works so far are The Philadelphia Orchestra commissioning Valerie Coleman, the Las Vegas Philharmonic commissioning Juan Pablo Contreras, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tania León, the Berkeley Symphony commissioning Brian Raphael Nabors, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tyshawn Sorey, and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra commissioning Shelley Washington. If you represent or know of an orchestra which would like to take part please contact Scott Winship (swinship@newmusicusa.org.)

Tune in to hear from some of the program participants [here](#):

"Super Spreaders" Seek Safer Alternatives"

While the entire music sector has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the choral community has been hit especially hard. There might not be a safe way for choirs to safely rehearse for the next year or more. Health and safety restrictions will affect 40 million people in the U.S. who rely on choirs for the social community, mental health,

and emotional well-being. Fahad Siadat wrote about the current innovations and experimentation in choral singing for [NewMusicBox](#).



Tesla Quartet's Alternating Currents Video Series:

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the financial difficulties many freelance composers and performers are facing, the Tesla Quartet partnered with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music and New Music USA's New Music Solidarity Fund to create the [Alternating Currents](#) commissioning project. They selected 12 composers to write short works for string quartet, and you are encouraged to watch them on their social media channels under Quarantunes video series.

A Fresh Look:

We're [updating](#) newmusicusa.org to create a more streamlined, user-friendly experience. Keep an eye out for our digital makeover in August.

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity and its charitable arm, Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc., are very pleased to be part of the coalition supporting the vital research being conducted to study aerosol rates produced by wind instruments, vocalists, and actors. During the last few months, as the COVID-19 pandemic affected us all, our chapter members have found creative ways to share music virtually, including porch concerts and online platforms. Although schools have been closed, our membership has continued to provide services as music therapists, online teachers, and essential workers. The 50th National Convention for SAI has been postponed one year, and will now be held July 28-August 1, 2022, at the Sheraton-Greensboro/Koury Convention Center. The convention will include commissioned works by Amy Riebs Mills and Andrea Clearfield, composer/judges for the InterAmerican Music Awards competition sponsored by SAI Philanthropies, with music published by CF Peters. This IAMA competition cycle will be seeking original works for solo instrument, with piano accompaniment.

Visit www.sai-national.org for more information about the competition.

Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc. has awarded many scholarships and grants for the coming year, including the \$5,000 Career Music Business/Technology, 3 Music Performance Grant, a scholarship for Education

Outreach Grants to public school programs, \$32,000 in Undergraduate Scholarships for 2020-2021, and over \$5,000 in Professional Development/Continuing Education grants. Support has been sent to Aspen Music Festival, Brevard Music Center, Chautauqua Institution, Eastern Music Festival, Round Top International Festival Institute, MacDowell Colony, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony.”



Music World News

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