Greetings All,

The board of directors, conductor, and assistant conductor of the Baltimore Philharmonia Orchestra (BPO) are happy to announce the start of rehearsals for the 2021-2022 season.  Please read this entire lengthy message.

We are planning an exciting concert series that we hope will evolve into full orchestra performances by year's end. To accomplish this goal, there are some conditions under which we must work that will, at times, prove less than optimal.  We ask for your patience while we navigate the national, state, local, and school restrictions on activities in government buildings in which we are a guest.  Below is listed our operating procedure as reflected by the local municipalities in which we operate.  Dimitar and John are handling personnel.  They will inform each member they wish to invite to rehearsal.

Operating Procedure

It is the intention of the BPO to ensure an abundance of precaution, overarching care for those who volunteer to participate in the BPO, and that we remain within the number allowed in both the hand room (15) and chorus room (6) by Loch Raven High School. Thus, attendance at rehearsals is by invitation only. ***Please do not come to rehearsal unless invited.***

Rehearsals start promptly at 7:00 pm and will be for 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration.  The call time for rehearsals is 6:40 pm.  The doors will be closed to the school at 7:00 pm and no one will be admitted after that time.

Upon entering there will be a sign in sheet and covid disclosure sheet.

We are remaining compliant with the CDC guidelines concerning Social Distancing.  That is musicians will be seated a distance that is 6 feet on each side, behind and in front of each person.  This is per CDC guidelines and reflected in the OSHA guidelines. This is as it applies to the non-K-12 aged population:

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework#what-workers-need-to-know>

This is also reflected in the Baltimore County Health Department, state health department guidelines, executive orders by the mayor of Baltimore City and the county executive of Baltimore County. This follows the CDC guidelines. That is, masks to be always worn in government buildings and social distance of a 6-foot perimeter.  The orchestra must be a minimum of 12 feet from the audience.

As we are an independent business/agency (other than a school) functioning in a government building. We are bound by the CDC guidelines and the guidelines for the State of Maryland under the classification of performances and theatres.

When performing in Baltimore City at St Matthew, these same guidelines apply as stated by the Archdiocese of Baltimore on their website:

<https://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus-guidelines/>

Please bring your own music stand to all rehearsals until further notice.  Please bring hand sanitizer with you until further notice.  We will provide disinfecting wipes.  Wind/brass players please bring pads to catch any condensation from your instruments to be placed in your performance area on the floor.

Please make sure you review all attachments and websites.  As things change concerning restrictions you will be informed via the website, Facebook page and email. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.  The best way is by phone at 410-215-9174 between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 pm

All the best

BPO Board of Directors