



# Safety Plan for Band Rehearsals

September 2020

## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL

The band is requesting to use the sanctuary for rehearsals on occasional Saturday mornings from 9-10:30am. The pattern of rehearsal in years past has been to meet 2 or three consecutive Saturdays leading up to participating in worship and then taking the next few Saturdays off.

## ADDITIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS REQUIRED BY COUNCIL

- **MOTION:** Maureen Crawford moved that Council approve The Band COVID Safety Plan with the following additions and that The Band resume practising in the Sanctuary. **Seconded** by Sue MacQueen. **Carried**

**Summary of the relevant scientific research:** Barb Leask-Wynne found that scientific research has not examined safe singing practices in relation to the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The evidence that exists is based on prior viral outbreaks and situations that may or may not translate to various singing environments. It is likely the risk can be mitigated with certain practices, but risks cannot yet be eliminated.

Because of these risks, Council would like the Band to include the following points in their safety plan in order to mitigate risk as much as possible:

- All singers must face forward so that they are not facing each other
- Because practice sessions are of a longer duration, there must be a minimum distance of 12 feet between the singers (perhaps one singer at the door to the basement, another at the middle aisle and the third at the door to the sacristy).
- If it is not possible to record with the minimum distance of 12 feet between singers, we would ask that you keep a minimum distance of 8 feet between singers and that the time spent recording must be of a very short duration.
- Open windows at the front of the church to obtain greater air circulation.
- Inform vocalists that they may use PPE (masks and/or shields) while practising to reduce risk.
- Keep rehearsal times as short as possible. There is no absolutely “safe” duration for rehearsal, and so The Band should do everything they can to limit singing rehearsals to the shortest possible time period.
- The Band will be provided with disinfecting wipes in order for them to clean all high touch surfaces before leaving the building: door handles, light switches, stair railings, counters, chairs, tables etc. including the high touch surfaces in their designated washroom

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

All participants, including guest musicians, will be expected to follow the safety plan and be familiar with any updates.

Screening, proper hand hygiene, use of hand-sanitizer, wearing of face coverings/masks, and respiratory etiquette will be required. This will include the covering of coughs and sneezes (cough into sleeves and not hands, using a tissue followed by hand hygiene)

Band members will use the designated washroom and will sanitize hands before entering and upon exiting the washroom.

### **Before Arriving**

Band members will monitor themselves for any of the COVID symptoms and remain home if they are unwell.

Symptoms of COVID – 19 may include:

- fever above 38°C, a new cough or worsening cough, headache, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, muscle pain, diarrhea, loss of sense of taste, loss of smell, and purple markings on the fingers and toes.

If you have any of these symptoms, please get tested for COVID-19, and/or consult with the local Public Health, self-isolate and stay at home.

If you are concerned you may have COVID you can take a self-assessment <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

### **Upon Arrival and Before Rehearsal**

Neil will open the entrance door fifteen minutes ahead of rehearsal and will lock it again fifteen minutes into the rehearsal. Anyone who arrives after this time can phone his cell. Please use the front entrance to the church. Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entrance. Please sanitize as you enter the building.

When entering the church, there will be a system in place for contact tracing. Each band member's name, phone number and email will be listed on an attendance sheet along with the dates of each practice. Each musician will check off their name as they arrive and respond to the screening questions. Guest musicians will follow the same protocol. Information collected for contact tracing will be kept for 30 days and then destroyed.

Be aware of physically distancing from people outside your social circle. Two meters is the required space between individuals. This social distancing space must be adhered to in the parking lot and in all areas of the building.

All personal items, including coats will be taken to the sanctuary as the coat racks will be out of bounds.

### **During Rehearsals**

The band would like to use the chancel for rehearsals and recording video. There are usually 6 members of the band and as the chancel has a capacity of 8, we would be able to stay the required 2 metres apart. Vocalists would be at the front of the chancel, with the remaining musicians positioned more than 2 metres behind them wearing masks. After measuring across the front of the chancel, there is more than 2 metres of space between vocalists. In fact, there is enough room across the front for three singers. We will limit the number of singers to three. The rest of the band has enough room for more than 2 metres behind the front row of vocalists.

### **After Rehearsal**

The sanctuary will be cleared of all rehearsal related items, so regular cleaning won't be inhibited. Each musician is responsible for their own equipment and will return their music stand to the sacristy.

Band members will exit through the front entrance of the church using the sleeve of their arm to open the door. The door will close automatically. Neil will lock up the building.

### **In Conclusion:**

All precautions will be taken to ensure the health and safety of the members of the band members.

As guidelines are constantly changing, this safety plan may be updated and reviewed with participants as needed.