

For All Incoming and Returning Music Students
Please read our COVID-19 Q&A

Q. When can I return to the Ford Building?

A. Students will have access to the Ford Building on Sunday, August 16, 2020. We have worked hard to make the music building a safer environment for faculty, staff, and students.

Q. Will in-person classes, ensembles, and applied lessons be offered?

A. Yes. Face-to-face classes will take place in music building studios and classrooms. Where in-person instruction is planned, masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Classroom furniture has been arranged to best accommodate social distancing. Large plexiglass screens have been placed in classrooms and studios to protect students and faculty. Much applied instruction has been moved to larger rooms in the Ford Building. Classes have been assigned appropriate spaces to assist with approved social spacing. Enhanced cleaning practices will be taken throughout the building. We are working to ensure that the HVAC system is functioning properly and successfully removing potentially harmful airborne particles.

Q. If I am high-risk or prefer not to attend classes in-person classes, what should I do?

A. All requests by students for remote attendance should be made at the Academic Success Center. Students should not make those requests to faculty directly. Faculty must have approved documentation from the Academic Success Center to excuse students from face-to-face learning.

Q. If I need to rent a school-owned instrument, will that be possible?

A. Yes. See Ms. April in the music office to check out an instrument and fill out the instrument checkout form. If you currently have a school-owned instrument that you took with you last spring, please see Ms. April so that she can reissue the instrument for the new academic year.

Q. Will lockers be available?

A. Yes. See Ms. April in the music office to reserve a locker and fill out the locker form. If you currently have items in a locker from last year, please see Ms. April so that she can reassign a locker to you. Do not assume that you automatically have your old locker. Again, see Ms. April. All students are required to provide their own combination lock. Ms. April will keep a record of the combination in the music office.

Q. What about ensembles?

A. Most of our ensembles will continue to meet this semester. Each ensemble director is planning on offering a meaningful experience, while following the most up-to-date safety protocols we have available. Contact your ensemble director for specific details, including auditions.

Q. How will my classes at the music building be taught?

A. In order to prioritize the use of larger spaces, several academic classes including music history, music appreciation, and several other courses have been moved to the Ford Dining Hall. Smaller classes like elementary and intermediate music theory will as planned meet in Ford 211 and Ford 219 and other classrooms. In-person classes will be adapted to prioritize the safety of students and faculty, including assigned spaced seating and cleaning protocols.

Q. What if the college decides to change to remote learning during the semester?

A. In the event that the college moves to remote instruction, faculty have course designs in place to facilitate a top-quality learning experience online. Each instructor will address the possibility of hybrid or remote learning during the first week of classes.

Q. Will cleaning supplies be available to students?

A. Yes. In addition to the hand sanitizer dispensers that are being placed around the building, you will have access to cleaning stations consisting of a paper towel dispenser and disinfectant spray designed for keyboards, door handles and music stands. It is important to follow instructions for use carefully, as applying the spray to the wooden surface of pianos will ruin the instrument.

Q. How will practice rooms be scheduled?

A. The Music Program is implementing a modified practice room system. For the fall, only Berry students who are enrolled in applied lessons or an ensemble will have access to a practice room. Practice rooms will be assigned, so that students will use the same practice room all semester. Each practice room will have dedicated time-slots for students to sign up for regular daily use. For your safety, regular breaks between practice sessions will also be scheduled to allow time for air in the room to recirculate. There will be cleaning stations on the second and third floors, where students can access sanitizer and wipes to clean practice room spaces, prior to use.

Practice room sanitation protocol

- Wipe the door handle as you enter
- Then wipe the door handle on the inside
- Wipe down the keys of the piano
- Wipe down the music stand and chair

Q. Will ensemble concerts take place in the fall?

A. Yes. While concerts will look different for the fall, each ensemble director is planning for semester performances. Some performances may be live-streamed, while others may happen outdoors.

Q. Will we have student recitals?

A. In lieu of our traditional student recital format, applied faculty will work with students on an individual basis on semester projects that may include edited audio recordings or video recordings of live student performances.

Q. Will there be a concert series for the fall?

At this time, we cannot say for certain when audiences will be invited back to our concert halls. The College is monitoring guidance from federal and local agencies regarding the safety of visitors and patrons both on campus and in live performance venues. In the meantime, considerable resources have been invested in improving our live-stream and personal recording capabilities.

We do plan to offer a series of mini-outdoor concerts, weather allowing, featuring faculty, student, and ensemble performances. This series will be announced in September.

Q. What about recital attendance requirements?

A. Recital/Concert attendance requirements have been waived for the fall semester

Q. Will we have juries?

A. Yes. It is our plan to hold in-person juries on Monday, November 23rd, prior to Thanksgiving break. Your applied faculty will have more information for you later in the semester.