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COVID-Safe Plan 2021

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the Grainger Wind Symphony (GWS)'s COVID-Safe Plan.

Context

GWS is a community music group comprising musicians who share a passion for creating quality wind-band music. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Grainger Wind Symphony like many other community organisations has not been rehearsing or performing since March 2020. The Committee of the GWS is committed to recommence rehearsals when it is safe to do so, when GWS has a performance venue, and in accordance with current Government advice.

In addition to Government advice, the Committee has reviewed current best practice and research into band music. In consultation with the Committee, our Music Director, Roland Yeung has conducted ongoing research into the risks associated with playing percussion, wind and brass instruments. As an organisation, GWS is committed to following best practice advice.

Presenting approximately six concerts a year, GWS strives to bring its audiences a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the works of Australian composers and wind symphony music generally. GWS also has a strong commitment to music education and the development of young musicians.

The group is based at Blackburn High School in the City of Whitehorse and performs in a variety of venues, mainly in the Melbourne CBD or in suitable venues where invited. The venues we have recently used include St Peter's Anglican Church, Box Hill; Music Auditorium, Monash University Clayton; Cato Hall, Wesley College Glen Waverley; and St Stephen's Anglican Church, Richmond. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday night at Blackburn High School with usually 5 rehearsals for each concert. On occasion, we have rehearsed at Box Hill City Band Hall.

GWS is aware that different venues will have their own policies around COVID-19 and our policy below will be adapted in response to our stakeholders. GWS will also adapt elements of our COVID-Safe Plan in line with changing government policies.

Government Policy Developments

The Grainger Wind Symphony (GWS) will be guided in developing and implementing the plan in light of changing government policies made in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and our rehearsals and performances.¹ The unpredictability of the virus may result in sharp shifts in government policy

¹ See, eg, <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/business-and-work>.

impacting on the ability of GWS to perform and rehearse. As such, GWS will be responsive to government policies as long as they last.

Victoria is in 'COVID-Safe Summer' restrictions.²

- Masks must be carried at all times and are strongly recommended where social distancing is not possible. That is, the 1.5m distance is unsustainable.
- We will follow government guidelines for community venues as to density quotient requirements, if in place at the time of our rehearsal or concert.

The Grainger Wind Symphony will consult with our key stakeholders and follow policies implemented by hirers rehearsal spaces (including Government Department of Education and Training Victoria policies).

Rehearsals & Performances

Grainger Wind Symphony Expectations and Rules in the Conduct of Rehearsal and Performances

Our players and other participants who are attending a GWS rehearsal or event are expected to follow the following expectations and rules to ensure the safety of our community.

If unwell

1. Players and other participants should not attend rehearsals if they are unwell, awaiting a COVID-19 test, are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, or otherwise told to self-isolate.
2. If players are unable to attend for any reason, players should as soon as possible inform their section manager or personnel manager of their unavailability, so that a replacement player can be found.
3. If a player or other participant discovers they are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 after a rehearsal, they must notify GWS as soon as practicable.

Physical distancing

4. Players should remain at least 1.5m apart from each other as much as possible, according to government guidelines.

Face coverings

5. Players and other participants should bring a properly fitted mask, according to government guidelines as to what constitutes a sufficient facial covering.
6. If there is a requirement to wear masks indoors, players and other participants should wear a mask unless they are sitting at their music stand with their wind or brass

² <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer>

instruments. Percussionists and string players should keep their masks on during rehearsals and performances.

7. If there is a requirement, players should wear masks as arriving and leaving the room.

Follow good hygiene practices

To protect against the spread of viruses, players are expected to follow good hygiene practices.

8. GWS will provide communal hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes at the door of the venue.
9. Players and other participants should bring:
 - a. hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes to wipe down shared equipment, such as stands, chairs and shared instruments (such as percussion instruments and piano).
 - b. their own instruments (excepting for percussion).
 - c. a cloth to go under their instruments to collect any condensation and body fluids.
10. Players should leave their sheet music in the folders at the rehearsal, but may take a photo of the music for personal use.

Record of Attendance

There needs to be a clear record of attendance.

11. Grainger will take a manual record of attendance. For rehearsals and concerts, players and other participants can register their attendance using the QR code system on entry.
12. For concerts, audience members and players can register their attendance at the door as required by government authorities.
13. Registration in our player management system registration (GWS CRM) will be mandatory for playing.

Ventilation

14. To allow ventilation throughout the practice spaces, rehearsals will run as:
 - a. 40 minute rehearsal;
 - b. 35 minute sectional/break;
 - c. 40 minute rehearsal.
15. During sectional/breaks, all performers and audience members will be required to leave the rehearsal or performance space, except for percussion and audio engineer.
16. Doors will remain open during rehearsals and performances if practicable.

Melissa Kennedy
President
Grainger Wind Symphony

10/2/2021