

24 June 2020

Edmonton Youth Orchestra Update

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra (EYO) Board in conjunction with the Music Director and General Manager have been discussing options for the 2020/21 season in light of the unprecedented circumstances we are faced with. We have been monitoring the updates provided by Alberta Health Services and working to develop a plan for the upcoming season. The safety of our members, staff, contractor and volunteers is our primary concern. The plan we have developed provides the flexibility to change our delivery method as restrictions are lifted, while maintaining a focus on member safety. A decision as to which of the following scenarios the Edmonton Youth Orchestra will commence with in September 2020 will be made by August 1st, posted on the EYO website (www.eyso.com) and communicated via email to the membership at that time.

Scenario One

If AHS guidelines allow and the safety and health of everyone involved can be assured, the EYO will begin rehearsals in the normal manner on Wednesday, September 16th (IYO) and Saturday, September 19th (SYO). This step will only occur if the Board is absolutely certain that we are able to comply with AHS requirements and that all risks are minimized. Additional screening or player separation may be added for additional protection. If guidelines and circumstances do not permit scenario one at the start of the season, we would go to scenario two.

Scenario Two

If AHS guidelines allow, we would proceed with in-person small group rehearsals & sectionals beginning on Wednesday, September 16th (IYO) and Saturday, September 19th (SYO). Complete or partial instrument sections would meet in an appropriate and safe manner under the direction of sectional instructors. Michael Massey would cover strings and specialists in brass and woodwinds would support those sections. These sessions would work on concert repertoire and would be shorter than normal rehearsals. Multiple sectionals could go on at the same time in different studios, and all would occur during normal rehearsal times. Additional screening or player separation may be added to this sectional format for additional protection. The sectional format would allow players to prepare themselves for normal rehearsals when they begin. The Board would review AHS updates and if circumstances permit, consider allowing rehearsals to move to the scenario one format. If guidelines and circumstances do not permit scenario one or two at the start of the season, scenario three would occur.

Scenario Three

If AHS guidelines do not allow for scenarios one or two, in-person activities would be suspended until further notice. Instead, complete or partial instrument sections would meet online for sectionals during a portion of their normal rehearsal times. The online format would focus on concert repertoire and would permit multiple sectionals to go on at the same time. Michael Massey would cover strings and specialists in brass and woodwinds would support those

sections. The sectional format would prepare players for scenario two or one if either becomes possible. The Board would review AHS updates and if circumstances permit, consider allowing rehearsals to move to either the scenario two or scenario one format.

Players would be expected to work on their EYO concert repertoire and assigned music in any of the scenarios, as they always have. Your EYO Board will continue to meet and discuss the situation and will keep our member community informed.

We are seeking your feedback on the plans presented here. Please direct your comments to Heather Dolman at eyo@shaw.ca by Monday, July 6th, 2020. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra at this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Dave Rumbold

President, Edmonton Youth Orchestra