For Immediate Release

Towson University Department of Music Auditions – March 5, 2022

COVID Contingency Plan

With the precipitous increase in COVID cases due to the omicron variant, the Department of Music will make the following modifications to its March 5, 2022 incoming student auditions. This information applies only to the incoming auditions scheduled for March 5, 2022.

1) Auditions will occur in-person on March 5th

   a. NOTE: If the auditionee is experiencing any COVID related symptoms on the day of the audition or has had a confirmed exposure to someone with COVID within four days of the audition, they must reschedule their audition or perform the audition virtually.
   b. If you wish to reschedule your audition for non-scholarship consideration to April 2, 2022, please let us know ASAP. mcriss@towson.edu
   c. The Department of Music encourages those who are fully vaccinated and/or boosted to have their audition in person if possible. However, we understand that some students may wish to do their audition virtually. Virtual auditions are possible and are described later in this document.

IN PERSON AUDITION PROCEDURE

   d. Auditionees will be given a specific audition time and check in time for March 5th.
   e. This information will be sent via email and requires email confirmation of your attendance at the audition not later than 12:00 noon on Friday, March 4th. Confirmation email: mcriss@towson.edu
   f. Those students who do not confirm their intent to audition by 12:00 noon on Friday, March 4th will be given time slots at the end of the audition day.
   g. Check in for your audition will happen 45 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time.
   h. Upon arrival on March 5th, the student will check in at the table in the Grand Hall of the Center for the Arts and be shown to a warm-up room if required. (See specific information about warm-up rooms and safety protocols).
   i. The auditionee will report to their audition room at least five minutes in advance of their scheduled audition time.
   j. The auditionee and faculty audition panel will remain masked and socially distanced prior to, during, and following the audition.
   k. Masking is required even while performing the audition, doing skills assessment, and for the interview.
   l. All accompanists will be socially distanced from the student auditionee(s).
   m. See further information below regarding virtual auditions and/or rescheduling auditions.
   n. Only those persons auditioning, and those administering/assisting with auditions should enter the Center for the Arts. Those coming with a student auditionee are requested to remain outside the Center for the Arts if possible to limit traffic within the building.
All visitors, faculty, staff, and students must comply with the current masking mandate and other safety measures as prescribed by Towson University, State, local, and federal health officials. **Use of KN95 masks are strongly encouraged.**

2) The following activities at the audition day are cancelled and will be offered virtually at a later date.
   a. Welcome meeting for parents and student auditionees including performances by Towson University music students.
   b. Parent meeting with Chairperson and Assistant to the Chairperson.
   c. Student auditionees information sessions.
   d. Music Education prospective majors information sessions.
   e. Hospitality services by student music organizations.
   f. Any activity in which a group of people would normally be gathered.

3) Confirmation of audition attendance
   a. All auditionees **must** confirm via e-mail that they will attend their audition as scheduled and will arrive at the requested check in time on March 5, 2022.
   b. Deadline for confirmation is 12:00 noon on Friday, March 4, 2022.
   c. Email confirmation to **mcriss@towson.edu**
   d. Failure to confirm your attendance by the deadline above will move your audition slot to the end of the audition schedule and you may have to wait for some time to be heard. **Please confirm your intent to audition before 12:00 noon on Friday, March 4th.**

4) Warm-up prior to audition
   a. Each student auditioning will be given approximately 15 minutes in a practice room or other room to warm-up. Specifically for winds, brass, and singers – larger rooms will be used for warm-up. Strings, guitar, percussion, and other non-breath related instruments will use regular practice rooms in the Department of Music.
   b. Masking during warm-up is required.
   c. Practice rooms used for warm-up will have time for ventilation between uses.

**VIRTUAL AUDITION PROCEDURE**

5) **The Department of Music encourages those who are fully vaccinated to have their audition in person if possible.** However, we understand that some students may wish to do their audition virtually. The following information pertains to those who confirm that they desire this option:
   a. Option 1:
      i. Your virtual audition will be conducted on March 5th during regular auditions.
      ii. You will be given an approximate audition time when you are expected to be logged on to the Zoom link provided to you by the Department of Music.
      iii. You must confirm your desire for this option not later than Friday, March 4th at 12:00 noon.
      iv. A zoom link will be sent to you so that you can log in for your audition at the appointed audition time.
v. One zoom link will be used for all auditionees using the virtual option. Students will be sent to the appropriate breakout room for their instrument for their virtual audition.

vi. You will conduct your audition over Zoom with the faculty panel adjudicating your audition.

b. Option 2:
   i. At the discretion of the faculty members hearing your audition, you may schedule your virtual audition to be completed any time before February 28.

c. Option 3:
   i. You may reschedule your audition to occur at our April 2nd non-scholarship audition day.

6) If you have any questions or concerns about your audition at Towson University please reach out to
   a. Mary Ann Criss - mcriss@towson.edu
   b. Julie Lanahan – jlanahan@towson.edu
   c. Dr. Phillip Collister, Chairperson – pcollister@towson.edu
   d. Or call – 410-704-2839 between 9:00-4:30 M-F.