

## **STRATHCONA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN UPDATED AUGUST 2021**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this plan is to outline the policies, guidelines and procedures the Strathcona Symphony Orchestra (SSO) has put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in connection with its rehearsals and other events. The plan will be communicated to all participants as part of the orchestra registration process, by appropriate signage at SSO events, and by publishing it on the SSO's website and Facebook page.

Participation in the SSO is voluntary. Every orchestra member and other person attending an SSO event must only do so if they are comfortable with the level of risk associated with their participation.

Further guidelines will be developed, if necessary, that are specific to a particular rehearsal or concert venue.

### **Core Practices**

Canadian public health authorities recommend that everyone follow these core practices in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice;
- practicing good hygiene (hand hygiene, avoid touching face, respiratory etiquette);
- staying at home and away from others if feeling ill or displaying symptoms of COVID-19;
- maintaining physical distancing as much as possible when outside of the home (i.e. from non-household members);
- wearing of non-medical masks or cloth face coverings when it is not possible to consistently maintain a two-metre physical distance from others, particularly in crowded public settings;
- cleaning and disinfecting your surfaces and objects;
- staying at home as much as possible if at risk of severe illness.

SSO will stress that members and others attending SSO events should follow these core practices by giving frequent reminders to musicians and periodic updates through social media.

### **Public Health Orders**

The SSO will follow all relevant orders and guidelines of public health authorities, including those pertaining to the performing arts sector and to allowable numbers for mass gatherings.

### **Vaccination Requirement**

Upon consulting with a medical professional and reviewing current health orders and recommendations, the SSO Board is implementing a COVID vaccine requirement for all

musicians. As such, **double vaccination at least two weeks previous to the first rehearsal attended**, is a pre-requisite to participation in the SSO. Prospective musicians will be required to present proof of vaccination at the time of registration. The well-being of orchestra members is our primary consideration.

This SSO policy complies with the British Columbia Public Health Order dated August 23, 2021, requiring proof of vaccination for “indoor organized group recreational and art activities”.

Prospective musicians for the 2021-22 season will provide proof of vaccination in the form of their vaccination card received at the time of vaccination, or if available at the time of registration, provincial vaccination passport.

### **Other COVID Precautions**

For the 2021 fall season, the SSO will be rehearsing and performing with a full orchestra, to a maximum of 50 musicians. The current health orders allow for indoor events to a maximum of 50 people or 50 percent of venue capacity, whichever is larger. This means that for the present time, audience capacity is also reduced.

Masks will not be required for musicians once seated. However, when entering or exiting the venue, socializing or moving around during breaks, musicians (unless part of the same household), are expected to don a mask and to practice social distancing. This SSO policy complies with the British Columbia provincial Public Health Order dated August 24, 2021.

At all SSO rehearsals and performances, each musician will supply their own stand, pencils and accessories.

A list of musicians attending each rehearsal and performance will be maintained and if necessary provided to public health officials should COVID tracking be necessary.

### **Cleaning**

Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be available at SSO rehearsals and events. Musicians will be directed to clean their hands frequently and to wipe down their chairs before and after the rehearsal/event.

If players of wind instruments must drain or clean their instruments at the rehearsal or performance venue, they will do so using a cloth supplied by the player and in a manner which ensures the cleaning cloth and anything drained from the instrument do not touch anything other than property belonging to the player. Players will sanitize their hands after cleaning or draining a wind instrument.

**THIS PLAN REPLACES THE PREVIOUS COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN DATED JULY 2020.**