

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures at isa – the International Summer Academy of the mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

COVID officer: Bahram Pietsch (course coordinator during isa)

Medical adviser: Dr. univ.-med. Thomas Prikoszovich

This safety concept applies to the following elements of isa:

isaMasterClass, 15–29 August 2021

Master classes in in Payerbach, Reichenau, Semmering und Mürzzuschlag

Teaching above all in the form of private lessons: daily between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Number of students:

Semmering: 56

Accommodations: Hotel Zauberblick, Sporthotel Semmering, and Panoramahotel Wagner

Organisational course personnel on location: Bahram Pietsch & Simon Innerbichler (driver)

Payerbach: 48

Accommodations: Hotel Payerbacherhof

Organisational course personnel on location: Raphael Rey & Rudi Aigmüller (driver)

Mürzzuschlag: 13

Accommodations: Hotel Winkler

Organisational course personnel on location: Andreas Trenkwalder

Reichenau: 85

Accommodations: Gasthof Flackl-Wirt, Hotel Marienhof, Parkhotel Hirschwang, Gerhardthof, Schloss Rothschild, Gasthof Kobald

Headquarters at Parkhotel Hirschwang: Julia Brunner, Thomas Zoufal, Christina Eder Meissner (festival), Friederike Rosenthal (personnel), Siana Rabeck (students)

Organisational course personnel on location: Behruz Pietsch (chamber music), Josipa Hausknecht (voice, piano, piano duo), Stephan Willenig (transport coordination), Florian Hohl (driver), Lukas Kraßnitzer (driver), Thomas Gruber (driver)

Festival assistants: Lena Slanar & Anna Doppelreiter

Number of tutors:

Semmering: 20 tutors

Payerbach: 18 tutors

Mürzzuschlag: 7 tutors

Reichenau: 40 tutors

isaFestival, 14-29 August 2021

Concert series in the Semmering and Rax Region

Number of concerts: 35

Numbers of visitors expected per concert: 20-150 Personen

isaOutreach, 21-27 August 2021

Music outreach in Reichenau an der Rax

Teilnehmer*innen: ca. 40 Personen

(Studierende, Lehrende und Personen aus der Region)

PCR Test at Check - In

Mask Mandate and Distancing

General FFP2 mask mandate.

Masks may, however, be removed once seated and/or once one's position has been reached (concerts, lessons). A minimum distance of 1 metre from all other individuals absolutely must be maintained everywhere and at all times. General hygiene measures must also be adhered to without exception.

Artistic and Academic Teaching Activities

Teaching and concerts during isa may proceed subject to the observation of all hygiene measures as well as the "3G Rule", the FFP2 mask mandate, and social distancing of at least 1 metre. Due to the very favourable development of coronavirus infection figures, we are currently able to do without further safety measures. Even so, we request that you continue to take special care and make a special effort to behave responsibly in teaching situations and during concerts.

The objective of the measures laid out here is to keep the infection risk as low as possible for all isa participants at all course locations – and, should an individual associated with the International Summer Academy fall ill with COVID-19 or test positive for the coronavirus, to ensure that contact tracing is possible in order to discover any chains of infection that may arise.

The most important point is to enable people to come together in the safest way possible by employing social distancing and FFP2 masks in order to limit exposure to respiratory aerosols (the main form of transmission).

Therefore, all individuals working, studying, and practising at isa21 must adhere to the following general guidelines:

Fernbleiben bei Erkrankungsanzeichen oder Verdacht auf Erkrankung

Any employees, teachers, and students of isa who experience symptoms that are suggestive of COVID-19 (such as a sore throat, coughing, fever, or loss of one's sense of smell or taste) are explicitly requested to confine themselves to their hotel rooms and immediately contact isa-music@mdw.ac.at or +43 1 71155 5110.

Please follow the instructions that you receive in response!

Use of FFP2 Masks

At all locations and in all spaces of isa, a minimum distance to others of 1 m must be maintained. Additionally, wearing an FFP2 mask is mandatory at all isa locations. Since isa is unable to guarantee the provision of all individuals with masks, students and teachers must bring their own.

FFP2 masks must also be worn in workspaces where regular contact with participants and/or the public takes place.

Social distance must also be maintained at the hotels and in the general areas of all buildings that are being used as part of isa21.

In public areas of buildings as well as in open-air spaces at isa locations, at least 1 m distance to others must be maintained.

Gatherings of multiple individuals and/or physical presence in corridors, in front of practice rooms, and in break areas that goes beyond that which is necessary for access must be kept to an absolute minimum. Lifts are to be used only when absolutely needed and only by one person at a time.

Insofar as guidance systems (like floor markings at entrances or buffets) are present or signs that contain distancing instructions are posted, these must be followed.

Social Distancing in the Workplace

Between individual workspaces, a minimum distance of 1 m must always be ensured. Use of tea kitchens, corridors, and similar as well as all encounters in other spaces must conform to social distancing guidelines.

Hand Hygiene and Coughing Etiquette

Hands should be washed several times a day using soap and water. Furthermore, hands should be disinfected several times a day using a disinfectant that contains alcohol, with care taken to allow the disinfectant to work for a full 30 seconds. Hand disinfectant will be made available in all sanitary areas as well as in other spaces (in corridors, outside practice rooms, etc.) depending on availability.

More detailed requirements regarding hand disinfection in specific contexts, such as when practising on shared instruments, are posted in relevant locations and must be adhered to wherever present. Use of shared instruments, especially pianos and other equipment, may only commence 30 seconds after having disinfected one's hands. Disinfecting instruments on one's own is expressly forbidden!

Whenever possible, refrain from sharing working implements/materials with others. In cases where this cannot be avoided, we recommend washing one's hands prior to and following use.

Coughing or sneezing should be done into the crook of one's arm. When doing so, the mouth and nose should be covered with a paper tissue (and not with one's hands!) whenever possible. Tissues must be disposed of immediately thereafter.

The eyes, nose, and mouth should not be touched if it can be avoided.

By practising consistent hand hygiene (and also using suitable hand care products), everybody can take individual responsibility and make a major contribution to their own protection and the protection of others.

Room Ventilation

We advise that all workspaces and practice rooms be aired out regularly, doing so for a good 15 minutes at least every two hours, and that impact ventilation also be done briefly on a regular basis. During a given lesson, the room being used must be aired out multiple times (impact ventilation)..

Disinfection of Surfaces

The hotels' cleaning services will clean common indoor spaces and surfaces more often than would otherwise be the case, with increased attention given to objects that are used frequently by large numbers of people such as doorknobs and handles as well as sanitary areas.

All of our employees are asked to do all they can to support our disinfection and cleaning measures as well as to use the disinfectants made available to them for this purpose whenever necessary.

In the entrance areas, signs containing relevant information on behavioural rules and hygiene measures will be posted.

Safety Measures for Artistic Instruction (Individual Lessons) and On-Site Academic Instruction (Workshops and Lectures)

All of isa's COVID-19 mitigation measures (as made known in this Safety Concept) must be observed without exception in buildings being used by isa, in hotels, and in any other buildings that one enters during isa21.

Participation in on-site classes and lessons is open to all those who have been tested for SARS-CoV-2 and received a negative test result (antigen test / rapid testing station: 48 h / PCR test: 72 h). Testing options and locations will be announced. At the moment, there are plenty of rapid testing stations in the Semmering and Rax Region, and isa is allowed to use them to test its students and instructors. However, the situation may have changed come August. As a backup, we have engaged a laboratory in Neunkirchen that has agreed to conduct mobile tests for us at any time.

Corona Permedio
Schwarzottstraße 2a
2620 Neunkirchen

Equivalent to a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result are a physician's confirmation of having been infected and recovered during the six months prior to the moment in question as well as test results not older than six months that indicate the presence of neutralising antibodies.

General Remarks

The following COVID-19 mitigation measures for teaching situations have been defined in collaboration with outside medical advisers.

The measures listed below apply to ALL teaching situations:

- Mandatory wearing of FFP2 masks by teachers; students must do so only insofar as the teaching situation permits it; breaks for the purpose of removing masks must be planned in.
- A distance of at least 2 meters must be maintained between teachers and students.
- After lessons, pianos must be wiped off with the wipes provided by isa and hands must be washed with soap for at least 30 seconds followed by disinfection.
- During a given lesson, the room being used must be aired out multiple times (impact ventilation).
- Following each lesson, a longer break must be taken to air out the room in order to ensure sufficient air exchange.
- Pianists: before lessons, wash hands with soap for at least 30 seconds and then disinfect (please note: thereafter, wait at least 30 seconds before touching the instrument).

Workshops and Lectures

- 1 table per student with at least 1 metre distance between tables
- Following each lesson, tables must be cleaned by students with disinfectant
- During a given lesson, the room being used must be aired out multiple times (impact ventilation).
- Following each workshop/lecture, a longer break must be taken to air out the room in order to ensure sufficient air exchange.

Disinfectant will be made available.

Concerts

Contact data will be collected from all audience members for contact tracing purposes, making it possible to inform any possibly affected individuals should a festival guest fall ill.