

Hi Everyone!

The Board has been working hard to define the role HSMA can play in these challenging times. After much prayer, debate, and research, we have decided to offer two different options this fall.

### Option 1

This will consist of virtual classes, taught by HSMA conductors. All classes are open to anyone, whether an HSMA member or not, regardless of age or instrument. Each class is listed and described on the HSMA website. This will include all the elementary and general music classes that will be mimicking their original format (there will not be separate in-person classes) as well as academic classes, theory, and history offerings. Cost will be \$60 per person, and you can attend as many classes as you would like. This will continue through the middle of December.

1. We ask you to register for these classes asap. We will cancel any classes with less than 5 participants. Be sure to sign up for all the classes you would like to attend.
2. We are offering a trial and refund options. Please keep reading for more details below, but register for a class if you want to consider it.

### Option 2

This will be available for string players only and will consist of ensemble rehearsals at Pennway on Monday nights, the same as last year. There will be beginning, intermediate and senior level groups available. The exact makeup and whether it will be 3 or 4 classes will depend on enrollment. We will be observing safe interaction rules as laid out by the Governor of Michigan, the CDC, and Pennway including:

1. Masks are to be worn at all times inside the building, including during rehearsals. This is not negotiable and unmasked people will be asked to leave the building.
2. Non participants are asked to exit the building when they are not actively in a class.
3. Social distancing will be observed as much as possible.
4. Parents are asked to wait outside (unless they play in a group).
5. Cost will be \$90 per participant per semester (parents are free if they have a child playing in one of the groups) and there will be a \$20 registration fee (once per year).
6. Rehearsal t-shirts from last year will be available to all registered players, and \$10 will be refunded to anyone we cannot fit or if we run out of shirts.
7. A simple health questionnaire will be available to download and sign each week; this will also serve as contact information required for all in-person gatherings. Temperatures will be taken at the door. Failure to submit the questionnaire will prevent admission to rehearsal. Obviously, please stay home if you are ill or have been exposed to anyone positive for Covid 19.
8. In-person meetings will be held as long as Lansing stays in stage 4 of the Covid plan. If we drop to stage 3, all in-person rehearsals will be canceled. See below for refund policy.

We are not offering in-person band or choir activities at this time due to the difficulty of playing/singing with a mask on. We will reconsider this for the spring semester if the mask requirement has changed.

### Payment/refunds

All classes, virtual and in-person, will be free for the first two weeks so you can try them out (but you still need to register so we know who is attending.) Payment will be due on the third week by mail or PayPal, and a late fee will be charged on week 4. No extended payment plans will be offered. If you need help with tuition please contact me as we have options available.

If Michigan drops to stage 3 during this semester, refunds will be made as follows:

1. Up to 4 weeks 50% refund
2. Between 4 and 8 weeks 25% refund
3. After 8 weeks no refund

As you are aware, the situation seems to change every week and sometimes every day. We are doing our best to anticipate these changes, but all of us must remain as flexible and transparent as possible. We do not know what the second semester will bring but we will keep you updated on our thoughts and plans.

Three last things:

1. Details for on-line and in-person classes can be found on the HSMA website ([www.homeschoolmusic.net](http://www.homeschoolmusic.net)).
2. Please register for any programs you want to participate in ASAP. If we do not have a minimum number of students per class, they will be canceled. If you have a strings student and already registered for HSMA earlier in the summer, we will keep you registered and assume you will come to in-person classes unless you notify Andrea Bidlack at [hsmacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:hsmacommunications@gmail.com) to cancel. If you have not registered yet, you need to register for what you want to participate in. Classes will proceed or be canceled depending on the enrollment numbers on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
3. Virtual and on-line classes are separate. Registering for one does not mean you are registered for anything else. If you decide to participate in both on-line and in-person classes you will need to register (and pay for) each individually.

For any questions contact Andrea Bidlack at [hsmacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:hsmacommunications@gmail.com) or the instructor of the course you are interested in. My contact information is [roger.annis@homeschoolmusic.net](mailto:roger.annis@homeschoolmusic.net).

Looking forward to being with you (virtually) this fall!

Roger Annis, Treasurer