



## Health and Safety Plan - September 19, 2021

The Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra endeavours to provide a fun educational experience, with health and safety remaining a top priority. With the careful considerations outlined in this document, we believe that together we can slowly and safely return to the practice of music-making and enhance the wellbeing of our community.

To ensure the safety of our musicians, staff, and volunteers, health and safety requirements have been developed in strict compliance with public health guidelines. These guidelines are subject to change as such conditions are modified. TYWO will continue to constantly monitor government restrictions to assess any necessary modifications to this plan, which will be immediately communicated to all members and staff.

### Options for Participation

**In-Person Rehearsals** - Musicians can attend weekly rehearsals in-person with the careful implementation of additional health and safety measures. Participation in our synchronous program requires parental or guardian consent (if the musician is under 18) and a firm adherence to the guidelines and policies outlined in this document.

**Virtual Rehearsals** - Musicians may opt to participate through our **TYWOnline** program. In this model, musicians will have an opportunity to join in-person rehearsals through the Zoom platform. A camera will be situated at the in-person rehearsal site and cast through Zoom to allow musicians to rehearse virtually and in real time with their peers.

## Vaccination Policy

Widespread vaccination is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19, building immunity in Ontario, and protecting our communities. COVID-19 vaccine is available to individuals born in 2009 and earlier.

**Musicians, Staff & Volunteers** - TYWO's Vaccination Policy requires that all musicians, staff and volunteers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine approved by Health Canada. All musicians, staff and volunteers are required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated (two doses) more than 14 days prior to first rehearsal on October 10, 2021.

Until a vaccine is available to younger students, musicians aged 12 and younger are invited to continue to participate in our TYWOnline program via Zoom.

**Medical Exemptions** - A medical exemption will be accepted upon presentation of documentation provided by either a physician or a nurse practitioner. The exemption must clearly indicate the reason why the individual cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. clear medical information that supports the exemption).

A musician with a medical exemption is required to provide a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test result taken at their own expense, no sooner than 48 hours prior to each rehearsal, performance or TYWO activity. Unvaccinated musicians without a documented medical exemption, are welcome to participate in TYWOnline.

**Privacy** - All information gathered relative to medical information will be held in the strictest confidence, shared only with TYWO Administration and upon request and if necessary, with public health officials for purposes of contact tracing.

In compliance with the Meridian Arts Centre (MAC) policy (available upon request), TYWO is required to provide a list of all members and staff entering the building. MAC reserves the right to independently screen everyone upon arrival.

## Rehearsals

**Meridian Arts Centre** (formerly Toronto Centre for the Arts)  
5040 Yonge Street, one block south of North York Centre Subway Station  
Enter via Stage Door on Beecroft Rd.

The 2021-22 Season for the Symphonic Winds and Wind Orchestra will commence with an online welcome and orientation session on Sunday, October 10, which will include opening protocols approved by consulting public health professionals and the TYWO Board of Directors. Prior to resumption of live rehearsals, parents of minor age musicians will be advised of plans and required to sign approval for their child/children to attend, together with liability waiver.

In addition, all musicians, staff and volunteers will be required to complete and submit a screening questionnaire within 24 hours of attending any TYWO activity. Questionnaires must be signed by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of musicians under the age of 18. In the absence of an advance screening questionnaire, musicians (or parent if musician is under 18) will be required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire before entering the rehearsal venue. All information will be held in the strictest confidence and shared with authorities only in the event that contact tracing is required.

To this end, it is essential that all members check their email within two hours of scheduled rehearsal time and advise their Personnel Manager of any change of email or telephone contact.

## Onsite Safety Protocols

**Ventilation** - The Meridian Arts Centre (MAC) has made significant upgrades to its air handling systems, including a feature to allow for a pre- and post-occupancy purge sequence to flush the venues with outdoor air. In addition, public areas are being upgraded with UV-C lights which helps with inactivating infectious agents in the air.

**Chairs** will be wiped with disinfectant prior to every rehearsal. Musicians will be asked to disinfect their chairs and desks at the end of their rehearsal, with disinfectant and paper towels provided, and instructions given.

**Rehearsal Space** - TYWO has negotiated with the rehearsal location at MAC to conduct rehearsals in large spaces with an effort to distance musicians to guidelines issued by the Ministry and Public Health Unit. Weekly rehearsals will be divided into two sessions; the first will be a 45 minute session with a 20 minute break for air-exchange, then an additional 30 minute session.

**Cohorts** - The use of cohorts this upcoming season will be determined by the number of participating musicians, as well as Ministry guidelines on permitted group capacity in enclosed areas.

**Masks** - Musicians are required to wear a mask covering nose and mouth, and must be worn at all times while in rehearsal facility. Instrument masks and bell covers will be provided. All TYWO staff will be required to wear masks while inside the rehearsal area building, with reasonable exceptions permitted for medical conditions. Staff will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and face shields as required.

In the case of a mask exemption, appropriate measures such as face-shields, greater physical distancing, clear barriers or study carrels, enhanced cleaning, and other infection prevention and control measures will need to be considered.

**Distancing** - Musicians must maintain a distance of 2 metres from each other at all times when playing and chairs may not be moved unless otherwise instructed by conductor or staff.

**Music Stands** - Musicians must provide their own music stands.

**Personal Hygiene** - Hand sanitizer will be provided. Hands must be washed or sanitized upon arrival and prior to entering the rehearsal studio, after using the washroom, or after exiting and re-entering the venue. TYWO will provide wipes, disinfectant and paper towels in order to maintain a sanitary environment.

## Safety First: Contingencies

- Should a member become aware of suspected or confirmed exposure to the COVID-19 virus, for instance at home, school, place of work or event outside TYWO, they must immediately inform the Executive Director at [backstage@tywo.ca](mailto:backstage@tywo.ca).

In the event of suspected or confirmed exposure, TYWO management will inform all impacted individuals with instructions on next steps. All TYWO personnel should familiarize themselves with and follow the [Ontario's Ministry of Health guidelines for suspected exposure](#).

- As at September 7, 2021, the current guidance on what to do for suspected exposures can be found here: [1-page flow chart guide](#) | [Quick Reference on Testing and Clearance](#)

TYWO welcomes feedback on our health and safety protocols. Please email [backstage@tywo.ca](mailto:backstage@tywo.ca) to share any thoughts, ideas, or feedback.

## Welcome and Orientation Session

All musicians will be required to attend an online orientation session at 1:00 pm on Sunday October 10, where we will introduce our staff and volunteers, and also cover appropriate health and safety training on this policy and other situation-specific guidance (e.g. safe emptying of condensation from instruments).

## Conclusion

The importance of music and the arts cannot be overstated. At a time when all musicians feel the emotional and physical effects of performance having come to an abrupt and prolonged standstill, there is no question that there is an impatience for a return to live music-making.

With the health and safety of musicians and staff being paramount, in full compliance with Health Canada guidelines, and in consultation with Public Health staff, as well as with the parental consent of our underage musicians, TYWO continues to explore opportunities for in-person rehearsal, when all criteria are met, if not exceeded.

For more information, please contact us:

**Beryl Macleod**  
Executive Director  
backstage@tywo.ca

**Craig Anhorn**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
craig.anhorn@rogers.com



48 Ridgeway Dr, Toronto, ON M6A 1L1 | 416-321-TYWO | backstage@tywo.ca | Reg. No. 14073 7966 RR0001