CMS moving to online lessons

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Dear CMS Faculty,

We are in a constantly changing environment with the most recent being the closing of all local schools Wednesday, March 18th through Friday, April 3rd. This and many other actions to create safe social distancing for the health and welfare of our CMS community influences us to make the following decision.

After the CMS spring break, the CMS is ending all forms of in-person instruction. The period is defined at this time as March 23-April 5, per Webster’s current guidelines.

1. With in-person instruction ending, Individual and Suzuki lesson instructors are strongly encouraged to move to online instruction. Many of you have done so already with success! See resources below.

2. If you cannot do online instruction for the designated two weeks, lessons must be rescheduled in the two weeks between spring and summer sessions. See the link. Stay in contact by sending practice assignments, listening links, etc. Don’t let your students go two weeks with no contact with you. If the restriction is extended, rescheduling will be more difficult and online instruction will be necessary.


To be clear, you may continue planned in-person instruction this week (March 16-21) for Individual/Suzuki make-up lessons. The change goes into effect Monday, March 23rd.

The most important goal is to: 1) keep our students moving forward, 2) stay connected to the students in interactive ways, and 3) to keep music in their lives especially in these uncertain times. Students and parents will need meaningful activities, especially with the impending school closures. I anticipate they are really going to need routine and beauty in their lives.

Communication is important. Provide clear and succinct communications with your students.

I will be communicating with students/parents tomorrow.

Please keep in mind this is a plan for March 23-April 4 at this time. We will see how things progress and plan for the future. Being prepared for online instruction seems the logical precaution, one that will ensure a continued income for you, as well. I am very sensitive to our faculty members who have already lost sources of income due to cancelled performances.

Resources:


CMS faculty support group sessions: We have two scheduled right now and plan to try to record those for others to view. Additionally, we can offer more support group sessions. Right now we will see how they turn out and move from there.
Colleagues: Many faculty are doing their own research and connecting with colleagues across the region. This is working very well, too.

We will continue finding ways to support you through this very interesting period of our lives. I am confident at the end we all will have grown and expanded our knowledge and experience.

Through it all, take care of yourself! You are more important to your students and to the CMS than you can possibly imagine. Thank you!

Sincerely,

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