

To All NHBCOS Members,

As you may recall from our earlier email of March 17, your Board of Directors voted to get Kicks Jazz Band going again and work on self-organized small-group ensembles for the Summer Semester and plan on the return of large-group ensemble rehearsals for the Fall Semester.

Since that time, we have re-evaluated the maximum occupancy as defined by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the El Paso County Public Health Department. This number should depend on the size of the room, observing the 6' x 6' social distance guidelines. The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has requested that we keep all of our rehearsals within the Fellowship Hall this summer and not use the Sanctuary. Therefore, the new maximum occupancy for rehearsals, based on the size of the Fellowship Hall is 40 people instead of the earlier 18 maximum occupants. Adding a minimum amount of percussion equipment when needed allows for a maximum occupancy of 35 people in groups that need percussion.

Because the recent survey showed that the overwhelming majority of NHBCOS members preferred returning to play in large groups vs. small groups and the maximum occupancy will easily support these larger groups at a reduced size, the Board has decided to focus on large group ensembles for the Summer Semester. The following five weekly time slots are reserved for up to 40 registered members each (35 registered members where percussion is used):

1. Orchestra, Mon 9:00 - 11:15 am, Ingri Fowler, conductor. Open to all registered Orchestra AND Prep-Orchestra members.
2. Kicks Jazz, Mon 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Tom Fowler, conductor. Open to registered Kicks members.
3. Clarinet Choir, Wed 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Bob Dunn, conductor. Open to all intermediate and advanced level registered clarinet players (soprano, alto, and bass clarinet).
4. Summer Day Band, Wed, 9:00 - 11:15 am, Jeff Ader, conductor. Mix of band instrumentation, percussion included, open to all registered members from Concert or Symphonic Bands.
5. Summer Night Band, Thu, 7:00 - 9:15 pm, Amanda Kemp, conductor. Mix of band instrumentation, percussion included, open to all registered members from Concert or Symphonic Bands.

Note: Due to the reduced band sizes for the Summer, members may register for either Summer Day Band or Summer Night Band, but not both.

Key Components of 2021 Summer Semester Plan:

1. The Summer Semester begins on Monday, May 3 and ends on Monday, Jun 28. Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, will be considered a holiday.
2. Each weekly session will last 2 hours with a 15-minute break after the first hour for air exchange and a 15-minute break after the session ends for sanitization and air exchange before the next session begins.
3. Ensemble rehearsals are scheduled using the same days and hours used in past semesters; these are defined in our contract with Prince of Peace Church and keeping these consistent with past semesters will help us avoid additional rent fees.
4. ALL participants of any session must be a member of NHBCOS.

5. **To request attendance for one or more of these sessions send email to Sunny Kurth (terpin54@gmail.com) and Sudy Hill (sudy1949@gmail.com) by Saturday, April 17. Please include the instrument you will be playing.** Registration forms and COVID-19 disclaimer forms will be sent to all members in late April. Both forms will need to be completed according to instructions given on each.
6. The Registration fee for the 8-week 2021 Summer Semester is \$63 per session (Kicks is \$94 because they are rehearsing for 12 weeks).
7. **Existing NHBCOS members will have first priority for registering for the Summer Semester sessions over new members who would like to join the organization. This priority will remain in effect through April 17 at which point new members' requests for registration will take priority.** The information for any member, existing or new, who does not register in time to be included in the maximum occupancy for each session will be added to a standby list to be used as vacancies open after the Summer Semester begins.
8. If there are more than 40 people (35 if the group includes percussion) who request to join a group the order of selection will be based upon the date and time the email request was submitted (*see step #5 above*). An exception to this rule will be applied in Day and Night Bands to ensure we have a fair balance of instrumentation. For example, if we allow 16 trumpet players to join and only have room for 2 flute players, we will appeal to the good nature of some of the trumpet players to step aside and allow more flute players.
9. Sheet music will be provided by conductors (with assistance to the conductor from Sudy & Sunny as needed).
10. **Music stands must be provided by musicians.** If a musician needs a music stand, one may be borrowed from NHBCOS, to be returned at end of semester.

This semester is a different experience, unlike our previous rehearsals. There may be minor issues but we will attempt to work those quickly. The goal is to have fun and prepare to resume a normal schedule for the Fall Semester. We look forward to seeing you in May!

Your Board of Directors