

## Hullabaloo Community Quire COVID-19 Risk Assessment 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Hullabaloo Community Quire understands how important it is to work safely and support our participants' health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic and not contribute to the spread of the virus.

Alongside our continuing Zoom rehearsal schedule, offered to the more vulnerable and risk averse members of our community, Hullabaloo wishes to establish some real-life rehearsals for a small number (60 or less) of healthy members of the choir who are not in vulnerable groups to meet and rehearse in line with all government guidelines.

Please see our risk assessment below for organising a choir rehearsal, which are in line with the appropriate government guidelines referenced below.

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 update** (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae#businesses-and-venues>)

In general, the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 is higher:

- in crowded spaces, where there are more people who might be infectious
- in enclosed indoor spaces where there is limited fresh air

Some activities can also increase the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which generate more particles as they breathe heavily, such as singing, dancing, exercising or raising their voices.

The risk is greatest where these factors overlap, for example in crowded indoor spaces where people are raising their voices.

In situations where there is a higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, you should be particularly careful to follow the guidance on keeping yourself and others safe as we return to normality. Every little action helps to keep us all safer.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**GOV.UK – Working safely during Coronavirus. Non-professionals operating under the performing arts guidance: singing or other performing arts activity**

This guidance is part of a five-stage roadmap to bringing the performing arts back safely.

Social contact

The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

**Stage 1: Rehearsal and training only (no audience).( from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021)**

**Stage 2: Performances permitted for broadcast and recording purposes (no audience). ( from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021)**

Stage 3: Performances permitted outdoors with an audience, pilots for indoor performances with a limited audience. Outdoor performances preferable, where possible.

Stage 4: Performances permitted indoors and outdoors, with limits on audience numbers indoors. Outdoor performances preferable, where possible.

Stage 5: Performances permitted indoors and outdoors, with larger indoor audiences. Outdoor performances preferable, where possible.

During the current national restrictions, performing arts venues can only continue to operate under stages 1 and 2 of the performing arts roadmap.

1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **GOV.UK – Working safely during Coronavirus. Non-professionals operating under the performing arts guidance: singing or other performing arts activity**

COVID-secure community facilities are permitted to hold social groups, clubs and activities in groups are subject to wider rules around social mixing dependent on an area's COVID local alert level. This means that, in a COVID-19 secure venue or public outdoor place, there can be more than 6 people in total present from multiple households. In local COVID alert level: Medium areas, social interaction and shared activity must be limited to groups of 6. In local COVID alert level: High, and local COVID alert level: Very High areas, social interaction and shared activity must be limited to groups of the same household or support bubble.

Unless a legal exemption exists (e.g. gatherings are for work) than any sub-group of six in tier 1 or individual household group in tiers 2 & 3 must not “mingle” with any other such group. In practice, this means social distancing should be maintained between each of these groups at all times including when entering or leaving the building and during any breaks. Direction can continue to take place during the activity i.e. between a conductor and a group or reflection between actors and directors, but other physical and social interaction is prohibited.

- 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020

**From the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in consultation with representatives of the performing arts sector, Public Health England (PHE) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).**

Businesses and venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host larger groups...provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance and including completion of a risk assessment. Within this guidance there are no set limits on the numbers who can be involved in planned non-professional activity taking place outside and/or in a Covid-secure venue. This is in line with guidance on “gatherings in Covid-19 secure venues” in the meeting people from outside your home guidance. However, organisations must ensure an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment is carried out and that the numbers of individuals involved are able to be socially distanced at all times.

Organisations and venues will want to minimise the risk as far as possible and this guidance sets out a number of mitigations that should be considered when doing so.

- **Government performing arts guidance (11 September 2020) From gov.uk**

Additional mitigations, such as extended social distancing, were previously required for singing, wind and brass given concerns that these were potentially higher risk activities. DCMS commissioned further scientific studies to be carried out to develop the scientific evidence on these activities, which has allowed us to reconsider appropriate mitigations. Both professionals and non-professionals can now engage in singing, wind, and brass in line with this guidance. People should continue to socially distance from those they do not live with wherever possible. Venues, performers, and audiences should ensure 2m distancing applies wherever possible. However, these studies have indicated that it is the cumulative aerosol transmission from both those performing in and attending events that is likely to create risk. We are continuing to develop more detailed understanding of how to mitigate this potential aggregate risk, but in that context, organisations should therefore consider: **(edited to the factors relevant to indoor rehearsal)**

- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible. Non-professionals should not engage in activities that may lead to social distancing being compromised.
- Ensuring activity takes place outside wherever possible, including performance
- Limiting the number of performers as far as possible (with non-professionals being restricted by rules on meeting people outside your home, with planned activity needing to be aligned with the guidance under the sub-heading on gatherings in Covid-19 secure venues).
- Limiting the duration of social interaction opportunities i.e. rehearsals or performances as far as possible
- Taking steps to improve ventilation as far as possible and whenever possible, both through the use of mechanical systems and opening windows and doors
- Continue to take the other vital steps outlined in this guidance, including preventing unwell people from attending, maintaining cleanliness, supporting contact tracing and other mitigating measures.

- **MU advice**

**Can amateur groups start rehearsing and performing again?**

Yes – the [Government’s Performing Arts guidance](#) applies to both professionals and non-professionals.

The guidance confirms there are no set limits on the numbers who can be involved in planned non-professional activity taking place outside and/or in a Covid-secure venue, but that organisations must ensure an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment is carried out and that the number of individuals involved are able to be socially distanced at all times



## Hullabaloo Community Quire COVID-19 Risk Assessment 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021- For singing outdoors

|    | <b>Hazard / Risk</b>                       | <b>What</b> could go wrong  | <b>Who</b> is likely to be injured <b>or what</b> is likely to be affected? | <b>How</b> are you going to reduce the possibility of someone being injured or a pollution incident occurring?  | Do you think anything else could or should be done? |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
|    | <b>COVID-19</b>                            | Spread infection  | General advice to all participants -Choir members and leaders               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate this risk assessment and these recommendations to the membership of Hullabaloo before arrival in order to establish safe and hygienic practices.</li> <li>• Ask anybody experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms to stay at home and isolate.</li> <li>• Advise vulnerable choir members not to attend and participate in live rehearsals</li> </ul> .All participants to bring their own water bottles. |   |
| 1. | Arrival of participants                    | Spread hand and air borne infection of COVID-19   | All participants -Choir members and leaders                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a hand sanitising station at the entrance to the gardens</li> <li>• Recommend wearing masks within the grounds prior to singing</li> </ul>   |   |
| 2  | Congregating together in an outdoor space  | Participants spread COVID-19 infection by being too close to each other 2m rule and being in group of more than 6 | All participants -Choir members and leaders                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants will be in 3 socially distanced groups of maximum of 6 participants per group</li> <li>• Each participant will be allocated a personal base/safe zone, marked by a cone, with 2m between participants where personal possessions, coats and bags can be left and where participants will stand during rehearsals.</li> </ul>  |   |
| 3. | Congregating together in an enclosed space | Singing spreads COVID-19  | All participants -Choir members and leaders                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange a pattern for participants to stand facing in the same direction to minimise inhalation of aerosol and air borne particles whilst singing.</li> </ul>  |   |

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|   |  | infection thru airborne particles and aerosol                          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximises distance between singers by laying out a pattern of cones, with at least 2 m between, for participants to stand in.</li> <li>Ask singers to sing at low volume to minimise the aerosol and air borne particles that increase risk of infection.</li> <li>There is to be no interaction or socialising (mingling) outdoors with people outside of the participants group of 6, household or support bubble at any time during the rehearsal.</li> </ul> |  |
| 4 | Congregating together in an enclosed space | Singing spreads COVID-19 infection thru airborne particles and aerosol | Musical Director and leaders                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a station for Hullabaloo's MD facing the choir but at a min distance of 4m from all participants</li> </ul>  |  |
| 5 | Members of public entering the garden      | Spread infection   | All participants -Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check all participants in at gate to garden</li> <li>Close gates to public once all participants have arrived</li> </ul>   |  |
| 6 | Departure of participants and movement     | Airborne particles and aerosol spread COVID-19 infection               | All participants -Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-way system will be established where possible to separate the flow of participants leaving the garden. Pinch points will be identified and a procedure for taking turns established to maintain 2m distance and minimise proximity between participants.</li> </ul>  |  |

## 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 - For singing indoors

|  | <b>Hazard / Risk</b> | <b>What</b> could go wrong? | <b>Who</b> is likely to be injured or <b>what</b> is likely to be affected? | <b>How</b> are you going to reduce the possibility of someone being injured or a pollution incident occurring?  | <b>Do</b> you think anything else could or should be done? |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
|  | <b>COVID-19</b>      | <b>Spread infection</b>     | <b>General advice to all participants -</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Communicate this risk assessment and these recommendations to the membership of Hullabaloo before arrival in order to establish safe and hygienic practices.</b></li> </ul> |  |

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|          |   |  | <b>Choir members and leaders</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ask anybody experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms to stay at home and isolate.</b></li> <li>• <b>Advise vulnerable choir members not to attend and participate in live rehearsals</b></li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>1</b> | <b>Arrival of participants</b>                    | Spread hand and air borne infection of COVID-19                        | All participants - Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a hand sanitising station at the entrance to the building</li> <li>• Recommend wearing masks within the building.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Movement around the building</b>               | Airborne particles and aerosol spread COVID-19 infection               | All participants - Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants to wear masks within the building corridors when entering or exiting building to minimise spreading aerosol and particles.</li> <li>• One-way system will be established where possible to separate the flow of participants around the building. Pinch points will be identified and a procedure for taking turns established to maintain 1m-2m distance and minimise proximity between participants.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Congregating together in an enclosed space</b> | Participants spread COVID-19 infection by touching surfaces            | All participants - Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a hand sanitising station at the entrance to the hall and provide sanitising wipes for participants to clean their own chair/station.</li> <li>• Each participant will be allocated a personal base/safe zone, marked by a chair, with 1m between participants where personal possessions, coats and bags can be left and where participants will stand during rehearsals.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Congregating together in an enclosed space</b> | Singing spreads COVID-19 infection thru airborne particles and aerosol | All participants - Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise free flow of fresh air by opening all windows, internal door, and external doors where possible.</li> <li>• Arrange a pattern for participants to stand facing in the same direction to minimise inhalation of aerosol and air borne particles whilst singing.</li> <li>• Maximises distance between singers by laying out a pattern of chairs, with at least 1 m between, for participants to stand in.</li> <li>• Ask singers to sing at low volume to minimise the aerosol and air borne particles that increase risk of infection.</li> <li>• There is to be no interaction or socialising (mingling) indoors with people outside of the participants household or support bubble at any time during the rehearsal.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Congregating together in an enclosed space</b> | Singing spreads COVID-19 infection thru airborne particles and aerosol | Musical Director and leaders                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a station for Hullabaloo's MD facing the choir but at a min distance of 4m from all participants</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Breaks and refreshment</b>                     | Close contact between  | All participants - Choir members and leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask all participants to bring own cups, drinks, and snacks to minimise cross contamination.</li> </ul>  |  |

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|   |   | people and spread of COVID-19   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage participants to remain at their station during breaks and converse with people nearest to them to maintain 1m min distance.</li> <li>• Establish a one-way system or distanced queuing system, depending on the geography of the building, for participants using the toilets and café area during the break.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 7 | <b>Exiting the hall.</b>  | Participants spread COVID-19 by Leaving infected surfaces in hall     | All participants - Choir members and leaders and next inhabitants of the hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants will be asked to use sanitising wipes provided to thoroughly wipe clean their own chair/station and any surfaces they have touched.</li> <li>• A lined bin will be provided for all waste wipes and rubbish to be collected and removed from the building by Hullabaloo leaders.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 8 | <b>Departure of participants and movement around the building</b> | Airborne particles and aerosol spread COVID-19 infection              | All participants - Choir members and leaders and next inhabitants of the hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants to wear masks within the building corridors when exiting building to minimise spreading aerosol and particles.</li> <li>• One-way system will be established where possible to separate the flow of participants around the building. Pinch points will be identified and a procedure for taking turns established to maintain 1m-2m distance and minimise proximity between participants.</li> </ul> |  |
| 9 | <b>Departure of participants</b>                                  | Participants spread COVID-19 by leaving infected surfaces in entrance | All participants - Choir members and leaders and next inhabitants of the hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitising station to be dismantled – all surfaces wiped down and refuse put in rubbish bag and removed from the entrance area by Hullabaloo leaders.</li> </ul>  |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |  |