

To Members of the Peabody Community,

As you by now have likely read the [recent communication from President Daniels](#) and university leaders regarding plans for a potential return to campus, Peabody - along with all divisions across the university - has been deeply engaged in this planning for the coming academic year. At Peabody, we assembled a task force comprised of 25 faculty, staff and students drawn from across the Institute in order to help develop and advise on instructional models under which Peabody will be able to operate and meet its mission at the highest possible level. This is a complex process that has been informed primarily by two essential values: ensuring the safety, health and security of the entire Peabody community - faculty, staff and students - and delivering the highest level educational experience for our students. While we are not yet at a place where we can lay out all details, I do want to provide some sense of where we are headed directionally.

First, Peabody will adhere to a program that meets the guidelines around phases of opening for the state of Maryland, and is within the parameters and protocols that will be set university-wide, in order to protect the Peabody community. Within that context, I would highlight two key points about our direction. One, our focus now is to work towards being able to safely be together on campus to the greatest extent possible. And two, we are committed to providing the highest quality experience remotely for students who are unable or choose not to be on campus.

In terms of the on-campus experience, our goal is to focus initially on core academic activities that can most benefit from a return to campus. For Peabody, those initial activities are likely to focus on the applied, performance based aspect of our curriculum. Here too, we face some unique challenges in certain applied disciplines such as vocal studies, winds & brass, and dance. We are working with experts across Johns Hopkins University and Medicine to address issues unique to these disciplines.

While the focus on applied, performance activities does not eliminate the possibility of a return to classroom activity, the amount that we can do on campus will be driven by safety parameters around space usage, cleaning protocols, and density. These restrictions will mean that certain aspects of the academic experience will likely remain online for now. Again, in order to ensure that every student can be well served, programs taking place on campus will also be replicated online to the greatest extent possible. In addition, while this past semester's move to online in March had to be executed on short notice, we will be fully prepared - through continued upgrades in technology and online pedagogy initiatives - to deliver the highest level remote experience. Outside of the academic program, we are also deeply engaged in planning for all aspects of student life, including residential experiences.

Finally, we will remain flexible and adaptable as we know that this is a rapidly evolving situation, and one that could change direction at any point in the months ahead. I recognize that the uncertainty under which we all have been living continues to be a challenge. I especially appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through these scenarios. I hope that this provides some focus around which we can all start to calibrate and envision a return to campus, which will likely have many unique aspects, but which will enable us to continue to meet Peabody's mission. I look forward to sharing further updates with you in the weeks ahead as plans solidify.

Sincerely,

Fred Bronstein

Dean