

Dear Peabody Students,

The fall 2020 semester is quickly approaching and we at Peabody continue in our preparations to provide the best possible educational and artistic experience for you, while ensuring your health and safety and the health and safety of the campus community. After many weeks of intense planning and modeling – with considerable input from many of you, our faculty, Peabody’s professional staff, and public health experts at Johns Hopkins and elsewhere – we are pleased to be able to share with you the core components of our plan for beginning the 2020-21 Academic Year at Peabody.

Our plan is built on the guidelines outlined in the University’s [Phases for Resuming On-Campus Activity](#), which in turn dovetails with the State of Maryland’s Roadmap to Recovery. It is critical to note that flexibility and responsiveness are key components of these plans. As a community, we must at all times be prepared to adapt quickly and adjust our activities based on the public health indicators of a continually evolving situation. Please be aware that all of these plans are subject to change. If the public health situation requires it, we will put the health of our community first and return to fully remote instruction.

With that in mind, the faculty have worked to recreate the excellence of a Peabody education in a variety of modalities to suit differing needs across all disciplines within the Conservatory. We understand that some students are at higher risk of negative outcomes from COVID, or must stay in close contact with those who are. We ask that they consider not returning to campus this fall, and we will offer full support to ensure that anyone who cannot or does not wish to return in person this semester can continue to progress in their education.

ACADEMICS

Because individual instruction and performance experience are such critical components of a conservatory education, the in-person experience for fall will prioritize applied lessons, chamber music and other ensembles, technique courses, and repertoire studies, with strict adherence to distancing and room density protocols.

Academic courses (Music Theory, Musicology, Liberal Arts, Professional Studies including the Breakthrough Curriculum courses, Music Education and some Music Engineering and Technology courses) will remain in a remote format in order to limit larger gatherings and minimize density on campus. All students, whether on campus or not, will take these courses remotely.

For students who either choose to remain at home or for whom traveling to Peabody is not possible, options will be in place for a completely remote program. All lessons can be held remotely. Ensembles and Chamber Music will take place both onsite in smaller, safe formats and remotely through performance-based projects rooted in technology.

While there are unique challenges facing specific disciplines, most notably vocal studies, we are working to devise solutions whereby on-campus lessons can be taught via low-latency, remote technology.

Significant investments are being made this summer to support flexibility between in-person and remote modalities by ensuring that students and faculty have the [specific tech and equipment](#) required.

The [Fall 2020 Academic Calendar](#) will be adjusted to mitigate challenges of student and faculty travel throughout the fall semester. Notably, on-site instruction will end on Friday, November 20, 2020, and all instruction will move into a remote format for the remainder of the term.

[Academic advising](#) and [tutoring](#) are available by phone or Zoom, for academic matters and planning. The [Arthur Friedheim Library](#) and [LAUNCHPad](#) will both be available to serve students.

HOUSING AND DINING

In order to safely welcome students back to campus life and enhance everyone's ability to observe social distancing guidelines, all rooms will be single-occupancy for the coming Academic Year. Each room in the Peabody Living Center has a private bathroom, and use of the shared bathrooms on each floor of the East and West towers will be limited in number of users.

We are working to secure additional Peabody housing space nearby, but offsite, for students who otherwise would live in Peabody housing to assist in the effort to de-densify the campus.

Students moving into Peabody housing will have staggered check-in dates or times to reduce traffic in rooms and hallways. Students may also be expected to undergo a COVID-19 test at the time of check-in and limit contact for the first 24 hours until test results are available.

Peabody's dining plan for this fall is focused on a grab-and-go model for students living in Peabody housing.

STUDENT LIFE

Non-academic campus involvement is an important element of your experience and provides significant opportunity for community building outside of the classroom and studio. While it will look different, student leaders will be asked to continue to partner with Student Affairs to adapt their efforts so that you can continue to enjoy the social, creative, leadership, and engagement benefits associated with an active campus life.

[Backstage: Peabody's New Student Orientation](#) will be delivered online and program content will be continually added throughout the summer. More detailed communication will be sent later this week from the Backstage team.

In addition, [Student Affairs staff](#) are available to ensure that you have access to all of the resources you need to be successful in this unusual environment.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

As a division of Johns Hopkins University, Peabody is fortunate to have access to some of the world's leading experts in public health and epidemiology. We are fully committed to the health and safety of our entire campus community, and actively collaborating with colleagues across Johns Hopkins to put into place a range of science-backed precautions for those who will be on campus this fall.

Everyone on campus this fall will see reminders to help protect our community by continuing to carefully adhere to the protective measures with which we are all, by now, familiar. The University will provide all students on campus with face coverings, which will be required indoors and outdoors. (In

those instructional situations where the Conservatory's commitment to quality education makes masking impossible, alternative protective measures will be in place.) Signage will reinforce the need to remain physically distant from each other – noting that a greater distance will be called for in some Conservatory settings. We will increase the frequency with which common areas are cleaned and disinfected and allow time between scheduled activities for rooms to rest.

Students, faculty, and staff who are experiencing symptoms are advised to self-isolate and call the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Call Center at 833-546-7546. COVID-19 testing (in addition to the testing noted above for residence hall students) will be available for any student reporting symptoms and meeting CDC and Hopkins Infectious Control criteria. More specific testing, contact tracing, and isolation protocols are outlined [here](#).

MORE TO COME

Certainly, there are many questions yet to be answered, but we are hopeful that the information shared in this message, and the additional details posted [here](#), will allow you to begin to envision your Peabody experience for this fall and make your plans accordingly. In addition to the [resource page](#), which will continue to be updated as new information is finalized, you will be invited to student cohort Town Halls as well as department-specific information sessions in the coming weeks.

As we focus on academic planning for the fall, I want to assure you that our commitment to confronting racism in our community and in our industry, and fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, is unwavering and remains central to our efforts. Accordingly, planning is under way for a series of community conversations and other important initiatives that I announced in my [message](#) to you at the beginning of this month, and I look forward to sharing more details on those events as we move forward.

Finally, the coming academic year will require all of us to recognize that learning, safely, is a shared responsibility. And while there will be challenges, we have an opportunity to combine the best of what traditional performing arts training offers at Peabody with state-of-the-art technological training, creative approaches to the dissemination of artistic work, and the flexibility in programming needed in today's world, and in the future.

On behalf of all the Conservatory faculty and staff, I look forward to working with you to meet the challenges – and take full advantage of the opportunities – facing us in learning, creating, and performing this fall.

Sincerely,

Fred Bronstein
Dean