



August 19, 2020

Dear WSYO Families,

The Board of Directors of the Wichita Symphony met this afternoon and discussed many issues pertaining to Symphony services and programs this fall, including Youth Orchestras. In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, the decision has been made to postpone in-person rehearsals for Youth Orchestras until January. We will re-evaluate the situation later this fall to determine if it will be safe for us to return to rehearsing together in person for the spring. If possible, we will extend the spring semester to include a concert in March and a second concert in May, so our season would not be cut short, only delayed.

We will be putting together a series of virtual offerings for this fall based on the suggestions I received from you in my latest survey. More information about how to participate in these sessions will be forthcoming. Additionally, I'll be compiling a list of Wichita Symphony musicians who are willing to take on private students and possibly even coach small chamber groups. We will do everything we can to keep you engaged in making music in whatever way is safe while we await our return to large ensembles.

Many of you have asked about when and how to pay tuition for the year. We will not collect tuition until we know when we will be resuming in-person rehearsals. I'll keep you in the loop as more information becomes available about virtual offerings, in-person instruction with WSO musicians, and the feasibility of large ensemble rehearsals this spring.

I truly appreciate your patience as we have been sifting through studies and data to determine the best and safest course of action for our program. I hope to see you all virtually this fall, and I cannot wait until we can return to rehearsing in person together.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Bell  
Education & Community Engagement Manager  
Wichita Symphony Orchestra  
[tbell@wso.org](mailto:tbell@wso.org)