

**August 14, 2020**

The Honourable Rod Phillips  
Minister of Finance  
Chair, The Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee  
c/o Budget Secretariat  
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor  
95 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z1

Sent via electronic copy to [Minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.fin@ontario.ca) and [reopen@ontario.ca](mailto:reopen@ontario.ca)

Re: Stage 3 Reopening Consultations

Dear Minister Phillips,

On behalf of our 3000 professional member musicians in the Greater Toronto Area, our families and our communities, thank-you for your government's continued diligence in managing the Covid-19 Pandemic in Ontario.

We have submitted separately to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Activity regarding how devastating the Pandemic has been on our livelihood, and to provide ideas on how the Province may support our sector financially through the recovery. It bears repeating that if restrictions on travel to the United States and on gathering for large events remain throughout this calendar year, our 3,000 members in the Greater Toronto Area alone are facing \$15-\$20 million in lost scale wages, the minimum wages we negotiate in agreements with producers. As one of thirteen locals in Ontario and with greater lost earnings found beyond the scales and musicians we represent, the wage losses will be many times more throughout the Province. We look forward to sharing more as we appear before the SCFEA on August 24, and thank-you for that opportunity. Today what we would like to do is **suggest changes to Stage 3 guidelines for live musical performances, for your committee's consideration**, in order to assist with recovery while maintaining public health standards.

Here is a summary of our understanding of the key Stage 3 Guidelines for live musical performances:

- Indoor gathering limit is a maximum of 50 people;
- Outdoor gathering limit is a maximum of 100 people;
- People at their place of work, including performers and crews, do not count towards gathering limits;
- People gathering indoors for religious services, rites or ceremonies, and wedding ceremonies, can continue to fill up to 30 per cent of the capacity of the particular room;
- Performers must maintain physical distancing of two metres from every other person, except from other performers where necessary for purposes of the performance; and
- Plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier is required between the audience and singers / players of brass or wind instruments.

From our basic understanding of the public health and transmission issues we would like your public health experts to consider the following changes to the guidelines:

1. Can an assured distance of 4 – 6 m between singers/performers of wind instruments and attendees provide the same protection as an impermeable barrier? If so, the updating of the guideline to allow for **either** an impermeable barrier **or** a 4 – 6 m distance would assist more producers and venues to put on live performing arts events safely.
  
2. Can the maximum number of attendees gathering be increased to allow for gatherings at 30% of capacity, like religious services, or perhaps even greater, using additional restrictions? such as:
  - Mandatory masks for all attendees;
  - Limited speaking opportunities and perhaps even speaking, singing, and shouting restrictions for audience members;
  - Limited alcohol availability and perhaps even alcohol restrictions;
  - Reasonable time limits applied to events, nevertheless no longer than the length of time it would take for the performances / works / songs / repertoire planned for; and
  - The discouraging of intermissions or breaks in performance where they can be prevented.Increasing gathering limits under the above conditions would allow for performances to become more economically viable than under current restrictions.

We understand that the Government may be focused on the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year in schools around the Province, and we understand if that milestone is your priority. When schools return, with hopefully little or no impact on Covid-19 cases in Ontario, we would ask that you consider adjusting the Stage 3 guidelines for live performance using this input. If these changes are not possible or advisable during Phase 2, Stage 3, we would ask that you consider them for Phase 3 of reopening Ontario.

Sincerely,



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- c. The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries  
Alan Willaert, Vice-President from Canada, Canadian Federation of Musicians