

October 7, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

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, ON M7A 1Z1

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
6th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Sent via electronic copy to: premier@ontario.ca, minister.fin@ontario.ca, reopen@ontario.ca, minister.macleod@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Phillips and Minister MacLeod,

RE: Public letter regarding the rights of performance venues to reopen and musicians and artists to return to work.

We are writing to you on behalf of the signatories listed below to assist musicians, entertainers, venues, and their employees in returning to work safely. We are grateful for the financial assistance offered by the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), but it was presented as a short-term financial bridge until we reopened for business. Attempting to live long-term on a fraction of our income, which now is being asked of us, for an undetermined length of time is unsustainable. If the restrictions on our industry continue with no forward guidance or transparency, an immediate direct bailout will be necessary before entertainers are lost in the quagmire.

It is not an exaggeration to state that we are on the precipice of complete and utter collapse.

To quote both Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford, "We will leave no one behind" and "Everybody will all be made whole again." All jobs that put food on the table and a roof over one's head are essential.

Many of us are veteran musicians, entertainers and entrepreneurs (stakeholders) with decades of professional experience. Since March 2020, we have awoken each day to find yet another scheduled performance/event either cancelled or moved months and even years away. The businesses that we have passionately built through hard work, money and tenacity are being decimated each passing day; a cloud of uncertainty stretches as far as the eye can see. Now, 7 months after the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown, this has become a common theme for the thousands of us who have spent years honing our crafts, only to be locked out of our businesses. (In Ontario at present, venues are permitted 50 people. This is not a financially viable business model.) We realize that there are many challenges in reopening the economy safely during a pandemic, but given the similar nature of the businesses allowed to open, we are perplexed by the conflicting messaging and policies being implemented for other industries, for example, in Ontario:

- Indoor and outdoor malls are allowed to open with no apparent restriction on the number of persons who can enter the mall.
- Airlines have no restrictions as to the number of passengers, and there is no social distancing.
- Movie theatres have successfully negotiated reopening with protocols that make sense for their business survival.
- MarineLand and Ripley's Aquarium have been allowed to reopen.
- Houses of worship have been given an exemption wherein they are allowed up to 30% of seated capacity in Ontario, yet wedding venues and theatres don't have the same provisions.
- Film & Television production have no restrictions as to the number of workers on set

All of these industries rely on crowd gathering and in some cases (such as malls and theme parks) people are not even contained in one spot but are allowed to move freely about. The acceptance and employment of these protocols suggests that major industries, such as airlines and film exhibitors, have been more successful at lobbying; therefore, they have had more of a voice in determining their own financial survival.

Recently, Ontario schools have reopened with very measured policies being enforced. However, this means as many as 1800 students plus teachers and other staff will be inside a single school for full-day classes five times a week. Yet, not even a nod of consideration has been given to music and related industries. In fact, the continued silence on the issue is creating greater uncertainty and further eroding future work prospects into 2021. In saying that, we ask for the opportunity to develop and employ a safe plan to reopen. Once approved public endorsement by the Government would be very beneficial.

Respectfully, we fail to understand what metrics are being used to develop the restrictive policies applied to our industry. The effect of these measures on our micro-economy is, in many cases, detrimental. Further to that, there are inconsistencies in the policy development as mentioned above, creating differing rules for like industries. It is noted, that various stakeholders have been invited

to consult with government regarding their reopening, but, we have not been offered the same consideration. We wonder, where does the music and live entertainment industry sit in this matrix? It is for that reason that we would like to offer a protocol for concerts as outlined below.

We recommend the following parameters for Concert/Show reopening as of Nov 15 2020:

- 1) For theatre-style venues with a maximum capacity of 2000 seats or less, concerts and the like, only 50% of capacity can be sold.
- 2) The use of masks is mandatory for all concertgoers also theatre employees who are in direct contact with patrons.
- 3) Shows to be no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes. This would eliminate intermissions and the requirement of washroom use, thus reducing contact among patrons. Given the reduced size, most venues could run two shows per day to remain financially viable.
- 4) Doors would open 25 minutes prior to live performances, and patrons would be required to take their seats immediately. Post-performance, side exits could be used (where applicable) to enter and/or leave. All concertgoers would be required to exit the building upon completion of the performance.
- 5) Hand sanitizer should be available and easily accessible.
- 6) Seating must be fully wiped down between shows.
- 7) Shields between the performers and audience are not necessary, due to the audience wearing masks, and the distance from the artist to the audience (often between 15 and 25 feet) meeting social distancing rules.
- 8) All artists will be tested for COVID-19 prior to any performance tour. (if applicable, new guidelines regarding testing in Ontario have been implemented, therefore, feasibility will be reduced and/or not required)
- 9) No dancing will be allowed in the theatre; this is standard practice anyway.

Many of us are members of the Canadian Federation of Musicians (CFM) and its Local 149, Toronto Musicians Association (TMA). We support TMA's communication with your offices and TMA's response initiatives. In return TMA supports this separate letter uniting TMA member and non-member musicians. TMA understands it is important for you to hear directly from the voice of the working artist in addition to TMA as a representative body.

In closing, we are requesting a direct meeting, either in person or through video. In attendance, along with a couple representatives of this letter and a member of the TMA/CFM union, we ask for Minister MacLeod, a representative from the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee and a representative from the Premier's Office. We are confident that given this opportunity to discuss the issues and ideas, we can achieve an equitable and safe reopening. Thank you for your time and we look forward to a productive outcome for all concerned.

Please understand, our jobs are essential to us!

Sincerely,

Tony Carlucci
416 452 6292

Ian Jutsun
647 240 0106

AWARD WINNING ARTISTS

David Clayton Thomas

Grammy Award-winning Recording Artist

Rik Emmett

Juno Award-winning multi-platinum Recording Artist.
Canadian Rock Hall of Fame, Music Industry Hall of

Fame, Junos Hall of Fame.

Ronnie Hawkins	Juno Award-winner, Special Achievement Award (SOCAN) Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award, Order of Canada.
Kim Mitchell	Juno Award-winning Recording Artist.
Alan Frew & Glass Tiger	Grammy Award-nominee, 5 time Juno Award-winner recording artist.
Holly Cole	Juno & Gemini Award-winning recording artist.
Amy Sky	Juno Award-nominee & Multiple Award-winning singer-songwriter.
Liberty Silver	Juno Award-winning recording artist
Molly Johnson	Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter
Claudio Vena	Gemini Award-winning Composer, recording artist and musician.
Don Breithaupt	Emmy Award-winning & Juno Award-nominee composer, recording artist, arranger, producer musician and author.
Lou Pomanti	Gemini Award-Winning Musician, arranger, composer, producer and musical director.
Steve D'Angelo	Emmy & Gemini Award-winning composer, arranger producer, musician.
Lenny Solomon	Juno Award-winning recording artist
George St. Kitts	Juno Award-nominee for R&B Soul Recording of the Year.
Down child Blues Band	Juno Award-winning recording artists multiple Maple Blues Award-winners.
Gord Depp & The Spoons	Juno Award-nominee recording artists

PERFORMING/TOURING ACTS, BANDS, SYMPHONIES

The Mississauga Symphony Orchestra	Musical Director- Paolo Busato
Case Loma Symphony Orchestra	Conductor- Denis Mastromonaco
Brass Transit	The Musical Legacy of Chicago
Oakland Stroke	Horn Hits of the 70's
Suzanne O Davis	Tapestry, The Carol King Songbook
The Dave Murphy Band	Music of the Ages
Jeans & Classics	Multiple rock symphony shows
Hotel California	The Original Eagles Tribute
Pretzel Logic	Steely Dan tribute
Abbamanina	Abba Tribute
Night Fever	Bee Gees Tribute

PROMOTERS, AGENTS, MANAGERS & ENTERTAINMENT COMPANIES

Bounty Enterprises	Producer & Promoter
Booking House	Tribute Band Agency
Bill Dawson	Artist Director /Bandstand Unionville
Chuck Jackson	Artistic Director/ South Side Shuffle
Cam Butler	Straight Street Event Services
Eric Bartnes	Bartnes and Associates Lighting Co.
Elwood Saracuse	ESP Entertainment
John Bozzo	CEO & Artistic Director/Paint The Town Red Festival
Jaymz Bee	Jazz Fm Radio DJ
John Kondis	Concert Promoter
Lorenzo Digianfelice	Vesuvius Music Inc
Michele Lenick	Event Coordinator
Robbie Lane	Zoomer Radio DJ and Recording Artist
Rob Taggart	Artist Management & Talent Agency
Steven Vian	President / PSI Production Services
Wayne Thompson	Artist Management
Susan Lake	Meaford Hall Arts and Cultural Centre
Andrew St. Royal	Events and Brands Co.

(RECORDING) ARTISTS/SINGERS/EDUCATORS/ENTREPRENEURS

Alessandro Montelli
Alex Kundakcioglu
Alex St. Kitts
Andre Brewster
Andy Arntfield
Andrew Thompson
Al Shiner
Alan Zemaitis
Anthony Agate
Albert J DiMarco
Bob Omar Tunnoch
Bill McBirnie
Brigham Phillips
Bill Bridges
Bob Rice
Bob McAlpine
Bill McBirnie
Brian May
Brian O'Kane
Ben Ball
Benjamin De Graaf
Bucky Berger
Charles Di Raimondo
Catriona Delaney
Christina Melanie
Collen Allen
Scott Suttie
Caron Nightingale
Christopher Plock
Chris Howells
Carl Berger
Chris MacBride
Chris Martino
Calvin Beale
Carrie Chesnutt
Doug Gibson
Dan Coniglio
Dave Patel
David Harmsworth
Derrick Roche
Dan Todd

Doug Melville
David Toms
Dave Langguth
Donald Quan
Dorian Forrester
Enrico Galante
Flavio Battiston
Frank Bagetta
Gabriel Kerekes
Garth Vogan
Gord Mye
Gene Hardy
Glenn Marais
Gary Lee Hill
Jamie Chadwick
James Rowell
Jonathan Amador
John Finley
Jordan John
Jay Swiss
Jay Speziale
John Pagnotta
Jillian Mendez
Jeff Christmas
John Johnson
John Adams
John Panchyshyn
Jack Preobrazenski
John Jamieson
John Jameson
Johnny Max
John MacMurchy
Jordan Klapman
Jack Panic
Joe Agnello
James Bryan McCollum
Jim Lawlis
Krissy Spadafora
Katalin Kiss
Kesha Wint
Kevin Adamson
Kim Ratcliffe
Krista Blondin
Kathryn Rose
Kimberley Wetmore
Kevin Vienneau
Lew Mele
Lorraine Lawson
Larry Crowe
Lee Marshall
Louis Simao
Lou Moore
Lynzie Bremner1234
Mike Massaro
Mike Pelletier
Mary Lu-Zulahan
Mike Conto
Marcus Chonsky
Marco Spadafora
Mitchel Tyler
Michele Mele
Michael Dunston
Mike Barrington

Max Senitt
Mike Freedman
Manny D
Meirion Kelly
Mark Eisenman
Maureen Brown
Michele Gare
Mark Lalama
Marco Stornelli
Michael Shand
Mike Meusel
Mike Siracusa
Michael Costantini
Naomi Higgins
Neil Chapman
Neal Burstyn
Prakash john
Peter Mueller
Paul DeLong
Phil Poppa
Paul Paulini
Pol Cousse
Paul Mitchell
Peter Mifsud
Peter Marino
Phil Grey
Robin Lea
Rich Imbrogno
Ross Wooldridge
Roger Williams
Rich Grossman
Simon Wallis
Steve Heathcote
Steve Lucas
Stephanie Martin
Stephen Donald
Shelly Berger
Steve MacPhee
Steve Pelletier
Shawn Moody
Samantha Martin
Serafin LaRiviere
Terry Jenkins
Terence Gowan
Tony Crea
Tony Zorzi
Tim Gittens
Troy Jones
Topher Stott
Troy Dowding
Tom Skublics
Tracy Gallant
Tyler Emond
Turner King
Tony D'Amato
Toby Hughes
Timur Inceoglu
Wayne Catania
Wendy Patel
Wilson Laurencin