



A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- Sir Winston Churchill

Backstage

July 2021

PANDEMIC THOUGHTS

✍ The March 2019 Backstage newsletters described how computer-based videoconferencing allowed Gerard Morris to co-conduct rehearsals while in Tacoma with Sam Ormson who was in Vancouver. With the pandemic-lockdown restrictions, that technology continues to develop rapidly impacting all areas of our lives - education, entertainment, business, virtual travel, and more. Perhaps that's too much time interacting with a video screen and becoming more nearsighted.

✍ What is a Covid Cover? Is it a facemask, a protective single-use paper gown, or?? It's a fabric cover placed over the bell of a wind instrument. To determine if it decreases aerosol generation, we first need baseline information on how much aerosol and/or droplet is generated by a wind instrument without a covered bell. Thanks to a study involving the Minnesota Orchestra, scientists studied aerosols generated from different wind instruments. The tuba produced fewer aerosols than normal breathing. Bassoon, piccolo, flute, bass clarinet,

French horn, and clarinet produced aerosol in the same range as normal breathing and speaking. Trumpet, oboe, and bass trombone generated more aerosol than speaking. Musicians also potentially produce aerosol and droplets when buzzing on mouthpieces, emptying their instrument's spit valves or tone holes, and from leaking embouchures or forceful breathing through their nose and mouth.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaerosci.2020.105669>

BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

The Vancouver Public School district and Evergreen Public School district were recognized in 2021 for their ongoing commitment to music education for a third consecutive year. The Best Communities for Music Education award, given by the nonprofit National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, students, and community leaders who commit to making music education an integral part of a well-rounded education. This year, the foundation recognized 686

districts throughout the US, including 5 in Washington state, with this honor.

MISSING BUT NOT GONE

"That you don't know what you've got Till it's gone"

- Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

The lack of live musical performances during the pandemic has been depressing. The SWWS website has links to high quality videos of prior performances on YouTube for those of us experiencing withdrawal.

Meanwhile, the SWWS board of directors is actively working to restart rehearsals in preparation for future performances. One of the most important determinants of future rehearsals and concerts will be the Union High School policy on usage of the concert hall and band room.

There is light at the end of this long tunnel - the sooner a greater percentage of the community becomes fully vaccinated, the sooner we can experience live performances with a full in-person audience. Please share that message with your friends and family who enjoy live music.