

The Physically-Distanced, In-Person Music Festival

A Suggested Framework

All
Festivals

MESSAGE FROM CMFAA

We believe in the benefits of community music festivals. Part of our mandate is to assist in the promotion and development of culturally effective music and arts festivals in Canada. Our goal is to inspire volunteers in these new and uncertain circumstances in order to sustain and celebrate music festivals across Canada.

DISCLAIMER

This framework does not replace or serve as medical advice in any way. It is not a recommendation of procedure or of disinfectants. Instead, this framework serves to give music festival organizers ideas and suggestions for applying public health advice to the specific needs of a music festival.

The evolving evidence surrounding the COVID-19 health crisis is constantly changing. Each region of Canada has specific challenges or opportunities. It may or may not be appropriate for music festivals to consider in-person events in the 2020-2021 year. **Provincial guidelines for public gatherings must be adhered to.**

PROTECT VOLUNTEERS AND THE ADJUDICATOR

Reduce the need for festival volunteers to sell tickets/programs:

1. Create an online-only festival program which can be accessed on smartphones.
2. Sell entrance tickets online, include the ticket fee in the application fee, or use the honour system (basket for cash at the entrance, for example).

Reduce the sharing of papers/music:

1. Use an online or email application process so papers are not physically mailed.
2. Have performers/teachers submit scanned copies of music with the application form so physical scores aren't submitted the day of the performance.
3. Performers/teachers should still bring an original copy of music to the event.
4. EITHER email the scanned music scores to the adjudicator OR print them off in advance.
5. Have the adjudicator EITHER type comments on a laptop (which he/she uses for reference in workshop session) and email these to the festival organizer for electronic dispersion to the performers OR write comments which are later mailed (or scanned and emailed) to the performers.
6. EITHER email certificates after the festival OR eliminate certificates.

Create a streamlined process for the adjudicator:

1. By providing the program and scores to the adjudicator in advance and specifying the process of adjudication documentation, the festival will require less volunteer labour during the actual event.

All Festivals *Cont'd*

PROTECT AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Reduce risk factors:

1. Limit audience numbers according to venue to ensure appropriate physical distancing.
2. Tape/mark off every other row of chairs/pews and request that audience members sit at least six feet from each other.
3. Allocate time between groups of classes for volunteers to spray empty chairs with disinfectant.

PROTECT PERFORMERS

Reduce risk factors:

1. Space performers at least six feet away from each other during the workshop portion of the event.
2. Remove duet and ensemble classes from the syllabus for non-family groups.

PIANO Festivals

1. Place hand sanitizer beside the piano and have performers sanitize their hands immediately after playing.
2. As often as possible, clean the piano keys, music stand and piano bench.
3. Do not have the performers return to the piano during the workshop portion.
4. Have the adjudicator sanitize his/her hands after demonstrating during the workshop portion.

VOCAL Festivals

1. Tape off a section of the stage/performance area for the vocalist to perform in. Recommendations vary, but a large as area as possible is the goal (20 - 25 feet).
2. Remove chairs or tape off area so audience members do not sit close to the performer. Place a plexiglass shield between performer and audience.
3. As often as possible, clean the piano keys, music stand and piano bench.
4. Have the collaborative pianist sanitize his/her hands after playing.
5. Do not have the performer sing during the workshop portion.
6. If the adjudicator sings during the workshop portion, it should be in the taped-off performance area and behind the plexiglass shield.

ALL OTHER Festivals

1. Instrumental performers that do not produce aerosols (strings, guitar, percussion, etc) could apply the same suggestions as per piano performers but with 6 - 12 feet of space taped off between performers and the audience.
2. Instrumental performers that produce aerosols (brass, wind, etc) and speech arts performers could apply the same suggestions as per vocal performers.
3. Choral, ensemble, and band festivals may not be possible in the in-person setting.