

## **MSA Covid Policy updated February 2022**

As Omicron continues to surge in our community (currently Missoula County is still classified as "High Transmission"), we want to provide you with an update on what we are doing as we head into the Block IV March concerts:

- Masks are still required in the Dennison Theatre so all patrons, musicians, staff and DT crew, will wear masks at all times (we have ordered N95 masks as the CDC is recommending wearing a "high quality" face covering. We can provide those to anyone who would like to wear an N95 mask at rehearsals.)
- We will continue to use the air purifiers on stage for all rehearsals and performances.
- We are going to reimplement the short health assessment to be filled out electronically before **Monday's and Thursday's rehearsals**. If you have any questions or concerns, please let Peter know.
- MSA has secured individual rapid tests free of charge to the musicians. Each musician can pick up a box that contains 2 tests to be used before the first full rehearsal on Monday and before the first rehearsal with the soloist on Thursday. You will be able to provide test results in the health form. **Anyone with a positive rapid test will NOT be able to participate in the rehearsals and the performances.**

Additionally, we ask you to please avoid large crowds, if possible, in the days leading up to our concert week and recommend wearing masks when indoors and around a lot of people. And, as always, if you have ANY symptoms - even if you think it's a cold - PLEASE do not attend any rehearsals or performances. We are doing our best to keep everyone safe and healthy.

**In accordance with the latest CDC guidelines, we are shortening the amount of quarantine required in order to play in the orchestra. Here's the updated quarantine period:**

1. Instrumentalist who must lower, open, or remove a face mask in order to play:

**7 days following onset of symptoms, or a positive COVID-19 test, whichever is later. Monitor for symptoms until the 10th day.**

2. Instrumentalist who keeps face mask fully in place while playing:

**5 days following onset of symptoms, or a positive COVID-19 test, whichever is later. Monitor for symptoms until the 10th day.**

Any musician hospitalized with COVID may return to rehearsals or a performance, **10 days following the onset of symptoms but should check with their healthcare provider before returning.**

These timeframes are designed and applied through an abundance of caution.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Julia or Peter.