

Art Museums: Reopening and Procedures

BY ERIKA SOUKUP

"One out of every three museums in the U.S. — some 12,000 museums — are at risk of not surviving the crisis, according to a new study by the American Alliance of Museums. In its survey of more than 750 museums in June, a third of leaders say they're unsure their organization can survive or say there's significant risk of shuttering for good." - Kelly Smith, The Star Tribune

IN THIS TIME OF uncertainty, we have to be focusing on how to keep museums and other nonprofit organizations in existence. A big number of museums are suffering because of Covid-19 and because of their lack of business very soon many of them might be closing. A large part of trying to keep their museums in operation is the reopening process. Unfortunately, because of the varied nature of museums, reopening is trickier than ever. Museums don't have a one-size-fits-all policy because each museum has a

different location, art emphasis, size, financial support and more. Because of this, a lot of museums have had to spend a long time focusing on how to properly and safely reopen. Adrian Ellis and Andras Szanto of Artnetnews say, "Museum leaders are looking to one another for advice, as well as to peer organizations worldwide [...] That said, each museum has to find its own tailored solution within common frameworks, and in its own time. What all of them share is the need to work through a bewilderingly complex array of operational and policy considerations, and quickly"

According to Artnetnews, there are many different avenues to take to reach the same goal of a safe opening. Museums themselves are focusing on seven different sections of rules: preparing staff, preparing facilities, communicating and coordinating for safety, utilizing outdoor areas, managing overflow, distancing indoors, and reducing bottlenecks. But what are the practical changes that are being made for museums?

One example of this is the largest Art Museum in Minnesota: the Minnesota Institute of Art. It has been closed since March 13 and reopened recently on July 16. According to Patch, an information platform specifically in regards to MIA reopening, there are several new procedures that are now in place. Museum hours are now Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., there are special hours for anyone who is immunocompromised, and while tickets are still



Photo Credit: Erika Soukop

free, they must be reserved ahead of time. These go along with the normal practices of safety (wearing masks, socially distancing).

The new changes in place actually aren't that dramatic when we take into account the changes for the rest of public areas. So moving forward, keep in mind that museums are open and they need and want patrons to continue to visit and explore the art. The public areas are just as safe as restaurants and bars, if not more so, so don't be afraid to go and see some art while social distancing.

Music Procedures at CSP and Around the World

BY BRITTANY MCCARTY

WHAT COMES TO MIND when you think about life before COVID-19? Who would have thought that 2020, both the start to a new year and the beginning of another decade, would bring about a global pandemic that had, has, and will have, lasting implications for an indefinite period of time.

Well, for those of you who enjoy music, whether listening, playing, watching, or all the above, there have been changes as well as indefinite postponements when we are able to see our favorites perform live. For classical music varieties, here is a brief overview of the latest updates on concert schedules.

Here at Concordia, the Music, Fine & Performing Arts Department will be having its annual Christmas concert virtually online this year (Dec. 4-6). In other parts of the Twin Cities, music staff share different ideas. For example, while the Minnesota Orchestra will be holding live, in-person concerts with a reduced audience running from now until June 2021, and the St.

Paul Civic Symphony has temporarily suspended both performances as well as rehearsals until further notice.

Although it has extra costs, the Schubert Club (comprised of various Twin Cities classical music organizations) is offering a streamed, online version for most of their concerts, otherwise they will be postponed to later in the 2020-21 season. Through concerted efforts, they have made this decision "by the guidelines of elected officials and the Minnesota Department of Health to keep everyone safe."

Looking across our nation, the following locations are currently holding in-person performances with social distancing seating: Milwaukee, WI; Indianapolis, IN; Omaha, NE; Dallas, TX; New York City, NY; California, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

And around the globe: Similar to here at home, there are several ways in which the music world is running right now. In Calgary, Canada, the Opera and Symphony have been postponed until

December. In contrast, the National Boys' Choir of Australia is currently showing live performances. In the United Kingdom, The Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall will be closed to the public until the end of the year as well. For the London Symphony Orchestra, it is uncertain; however, they will be recording all live performances for online viewing. The London Philharmonic Orchestra will be streaming their live performances both online and on broadcast.

Finally, to circle the globe a bit further – there is the famous St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Russia). This elite group tours all over Europe and Asia, and last year (2019) they toured Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Romania, Estonia, Japan, and South Korea, just to name a few. There has been no public announcement as to whether they will be touring this year.

Conclusively, let this list be a guide as you navigate through your options on the concert front, whether it be for a class, internship, work, or your pure fulfillment and appreciation for the fine arts.