

BYU School of Music
Auditioned Ensemble Vaccine Policy

Though we sincerely regret that we will begin the 2021/2022 academic year still under the scourge of the COVID pandemic, the BYU School of Music auditioned ensembles are committed to a return to rehearsal and concert experiences that more closely align with pre-pandemic practices. To that end, we will follow the counsel of the First Presidency and urge all BYU music students to be vaccinated.

Due to the perceived heightened risk of viral aerosol spread in indoor musical ensembles, all students who wish to be considered for placement in the following auditioned ensembles will be required to be vaccinated:

**BYU Wind Symphony
Symphonic Band
Synthesis
Syncopation
Jazz Ensemble
BYU Singers
Concert Choir
Men's Chorus
Women's Chorus
BYU Philharmonic
BYU Chamber Orchestra
Symphony Orchestra**

With all students vaccinated, these auditioned ensembles will have more latitude to rehearse and perform without restrictions, offering a more substantial artistic and educational experience. Further, we will mitigate the possibility that a performance will be canceled or severely altered due to an internal outbreak.

BYU musicians who choose not to be vaccinated will be assigned to an alternate ensemble which will fulfill their large ensemble degree requirement, allowing all students, vaccinated or not, to continue their degree progress.

Students who are not currently vaccinated but will receive the vaccine during the first week of classes *will be eligible* for placement in the above auditioned ensembles.

We understand that there are strong feelings on all sides of this issue and pray that students will understand that we do not take these decisions lightly. We simply want to do all that we can to protect the health of our wonderful students while ensuring that we can offer them the high-level, artistic ensemble education that has long been the standard in the BYU School of Music.

Shawn Smith, Director of Bands
Ray Smith, Jazz Studies
Andrew Crane, Division Coordinator, Choral Conducting and Ensembles
Kory Katseanes, Director of Orchestras