

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

Dear AGMA Member:

We are writing today to update our members on yesterday's dramatic events involving cancellations and closures by many of our signatory companies. Here is today's summary of the measures that AGMA is taking and the resources available to our members during this crisis.

All AGMA actions are premised on three overriding concerns: (1) the health, safety, and well-being of our artists; (2) the economic security of our members and our signatory companies; and (3) assurances that the federal, state, and local governments promptly enact relief packages addressing the economic needs of our artists *and* their companies.

To these ends, the following are among the actions AGMA is taking:

- Working with our companies to find creative alternatives to the invocation of “force majeure” clauses wherever possible. These clauses are contained in most contracts and permit companies to cease honoring the terms of our collective bargaining agreements. For example, we are working with companies to allow them to reschedule or live-stream performances in exchange for continued compensation. Requests for contractual waivers are being handled on an emergency basis.
- Requesting that our companies promptly bargain over the impact of closures and cancellations. We are making every effort to secure contractual wages and benefits, including continued compensation for all or part of the closure period, additional sick leave, continued health benefit coverage, assurances that any government financial relief received by our companies is shared by artists, and the like.
- Working with our sister unions and companies to ensure that any benefit negotiated on behalf of one group of artists is made available to *all* artists on the property.
- Updating the AGMA website [COVID-19 resource page](#) daily, sometimes hourly, to provide the latest information, such as OSHA guidance to employers, [the Department of Labor](#) directions to state unemployment compensation agencies to liberalize the rules for receipt of unemployment benefits, and [mental health resources](#) that are available to members

· Ensuring that member resources such as the AGMA Relief Fund, the Actor's Fund, and Union Plus are managing the expected increase in demand for services.

As we are learning, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis is presenting new challenges almost hourly. AGMA staff is working round the clock to do *everything* possible to mitigate the economic harm of this public health crisis on you and your families. Our number one priority is to keep our members safe, healthy, and supported.

Please check your email and the AGMA website for regular updates. Please reach out to your AGMA rep if you have any questions. Thank you and know that AGMA is here for you during this difficult time.

In Solidarity,

Len Egert
National Executive Director

Ray Menard
President

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