

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

Dear AGMA Member:

AGMA is monitoring this pandemic and its devastating effects on our industries and the entire country, with new issues arising each minute which require serious consideration. We are writing to let you know that we have been in frequent communication with our signatory companies about the growing list of schedule changes and performance cancellations resulting from the rapid spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and bans on mass gatherings.

We are so sorry this is happening and know full well the particular toll this crisis is taking on our members. Rest assured that AGMA leadership, staff, and representatives have been working around the clock to provide our members with the advocacy and representation they deserve in this time of crisis.

A few things we want to share:

1. We are working with your employers to try and ameliorate the negative effects of any postponements, cancellations and closures by suggesting alternatives such as live-streaming and rescheduling;
2. We are accepting emergency waiver requests for contractual changes required by modifications like changing schedules and live-streaming;
3. We are demanding effects bargaining to address critical issues like extended sick pay, continued health coverage, enhanced unemployment, complete or partial fulfillment of contractual wages and benefits, and issues related specifically to soloists and production staff. We are mindful of concerns specific to certain working categories, such as travel considerations for soloists and foreign artists;
4. We are evaluating company invocations of Force Majeure clauses and exploring potential legal responses;
5. We are compiling an up-to-date database of our signatory companies' responses to the COVID-19 crisis to highlight and advocate for best practices; we are monitoring the reactions and plans of our signatory companies to understand emerging industry trends;
6. We are constantly monitoring the health and safety of all artists, especially at those companies that have not yet cancelled rehearsals. We are reassessing how best to keep you safe at work in light of the most up-to-date information available from federal, state and local health officials, if your company is continuing to operate.

We hope you are finding these regular updates helpful. Please remind your colleagues to check their emails and the AGMA website frequently!

In fact, please keep watch for AGMA's call to action, which you will receive shortly. We need everyone's help and personal stories to ensure that federal, state, or local relief funds be made accessible to the artists and to arts institutions acutely impacted by this public health emergency. Our elected leaders need to hear from as many of us as possible. We will provide you more information, guidelines, and talking to points for this in a future email.

We will be in touch again soon. Please continue to check in with AGMA's [coronavirus resource page](#), which contains updates from AGMA, and information about the [AGMA Relief Fund](#) which provides emergency financial assistance to members in need, as well as other resources.

In Solidarity,

Len Egert
National Executive Director

Ray Menard
President

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