



Dear AGMA Company,

We understand that you are beginning to consider reopening and what it will take to do so safely. We write to assure you that AGMA is committed to working with you to address the daunting challenges that reopening safely will entail.

It is hard to believe that over two months have passed since the COVID-19 global pandemic caused the shutdown of our performing arts institutions. We are grateful that so many of our signatory companies have become true partners during this crisis -- working collaboratively and transparently to address the safety and economic security of your artists and companies. And, while no one can say exactly when -- *together* we will make sure that AGMA opera houses, ballet, and choral companies come back stronger than ever. We *will* endure!

When discussing reopening, many variables must be explored and there will be no "one-size-fits all" solution. Developing safety protocols will be complicated by the ever-changing scientific understanding of the virus, the patchwork quilt of local, state, and federal orders governing reopening, and the lack of any clear consensus, as of yet, about how to keep both performers and patrons safe. Many industry organizations have recently issued guidelines for safely reopening and, in doing so, have starkly illustrated what a formidable undertaking we all face in the coming weeks and months.

It is for this reason that we must have the conversation about appropriate safety protocols at your company **before** any in-person work or use of your facilities can occur, regardless of whether AGMA artists are on or off contract at this time. Any return to work must be preceded by an agreement between AGMA and the company about how to address the unprecedented safety and health risks that any performing artist is likely to face. If you are in the process of opening your facilities to artists and/or planning a return to work, please contact your AGMA staff member as soon as possible.

Just as we worked together to find solutions at the beginning of this crisis, we pledge to work with you to navigate this next wave of complex decisions. Working together, we can identify reasonably foreseeable health risks, options to mitigate them, and more quickly achieve an agreement for a safe reopening.

We are confident that we will emerge from this unprecedented and dark time. But we must do so deliberately, intelligently, and with utmost focus on our members' health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LEONARD EGERT".

Leonard Egert
AGMA National Executive Director