

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

Dear AGMA Artists:

As we enter the second full week of May, AGMA cannot and will not downplay the fact that this is a critical situation for our industries and the world. Never in our history have we faced something quite this catastrophic. This is truly an unprecedented, unparalleled moment we are living through together.

But we will endure.

We know that in the coming weeks, more difficult decisions will be made. Summer festivals are or will be canceled or postponed, and conversations surrounding fall seasons are already underway.

AGMA applauds the companies that have stood by our artists during this financially and emotionally devastating time. AGMA pledges to work with our signatory companies to help navigate through this second wave of tough deliberations.

Companies who have supported our artists during this period are our stand-out leaders and we thank them for backing their moral beliefs with action. We will continue to work with the companies who have fallen short of this standard and do our best to encourage them to follow their lead.

No one can say exactly when yet, but opera houses and ballet and choral companies will open once again, and we will get back to work. The health and safety of AGMA members will remain, as it has always been, AGMA's main priority. AGMA will meet with any signatory companies planning to re-open to ensure that they have plans and procedures in place to guarantee the health and safety of our members in a post-COVID-19 world. We WILL emerge from this dark time, but we must do so deliberately, intelligently, and with utmost focus on our members' health and safety.

Since March, many organizations and unions have been sending frequent COVID-19-related messaging, and AGMA is no different. We understand that email and media exhaustion is real – and we are making a deliberate effort to become more PROACTIVE (rather than reactive) in our messaging going forward. There is still empowering news and the occasional silver lining to share with everyone.

From Misty Copeland dancing with Elmo on Sesame Street and starting the #SwansForRelief project, to a number of dancers and singers providing free classes, to Ryan McKinney launching his series #KeepTheMusicGoing, AGMA

artists remain in the spotlight on a regular basis, advocating for our industries and spreading hope at a time we need it most.

We also want to take a moment to thank AGMA artists who have become fierce advocates for the [AGMA Relief Fund](#) during a time where you yourselves are directly impacted as well. (There have been so many, especially on social media, but some that come to mind are Demetrius McClendon and Jordan Beyeler, dancers who shared their [#AGMAendures](#) stories; Fran Rogers' Tenor Tuesdays; [#CoffeeAndaSong](#) by Lawrence Brownlee, Nicholas Phan, Susanna Phillips, and Myra Huang; and Renée Fleming and Joyce DiDonato's livestreaming efforts.) By [promoting and linking](#) to the Fund in your livestreams and other social media posts, you have greatly helped to amplify its mission and the Fund has received donations because of your efforts. Thank you.

We will talk again soon. In the meantime, please keep checking AGMA's COVID-19 resource page. We are updating it nearly every day with new information and resources. If you have any contract or company-related questions, please reach out to your AGMA staff representative. If you are unsure who that is, you can find them [here](#).

Now more than ever, we need to stand together and support each other.

In solidarity,

Ray Menard, President
Len Egert, National Executive Director

[COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

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