

Sad, but Necessary, Immediate Steps by the Willamette Master Chorus



The WMC Board of Directors met (virtually) and discussed how the coronavirus pandemic affects our audiences, chorus, and the community at large. We note that CDC (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that for the next eight weeks, organizers throughout the US cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of at least 50 people.

In addition, Governor Kate Brown closed restaurants and bars (except for takeout), banned gatherings of more than 25 people, and urged Oregonians to avoid gatherings of more than ten people.

Willamette Master Chorus is committed to curtailing the spread of this virus through compliance with the CDC's and Governor's recommendations and best practices for public health. **As such, the board decided to postpone our fundraising Gala set for April 18, as well as our May 3 and 17 concerts at the Mt. Angel Abbey.** New dates for both the fundraising event and concerts are being discussed and will be announced as soon as possible. We hope in time to fulfill all of our promises to our fans and supporters.

Postponing events is understandably difficult for the board, our audience, staff, and chorus members. We treasure every opportunity to impact our community with beautiful music and to promote our mission. Postponing concerts and events that provide vital funds is a difficult decision but is necessary at this time.

This decision will create both artistic and financial hardships for the chorus, and we hope to rely on your patience and support during these challenging days. If you have tickets to the Gala or the May concerts, we ask that you keep your tickets and await information about new dates for these events.

As a non-profit organization, we provide concerts at the most reasonable cost possible and do not budget for large incomes or reserves. With the potential loss of our annual fundraiser and one of our four concerts, we envision a shortfall in our budget. If you are able, please consider a [donation](#) to help sustain our mission at this difficult time. We understand the wide-spread financial pressures during the pandemic, and so we are especially grateful for your support right now.

If you have any questions, please contact our administrator, Jessica Carpenter, at the WMC office at info@willamettemasterchorus.org or 503-580-0406.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and consideration during this very troubling episode.

Sincerely,

Scott Reichlin, MD, President
Willamette Master Chorus Board of Directors
March 20, 2020

For more information about the current situation:

[The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[The Oregon Health Authority](#)