



Dear Hochstein Friends,

As I'm sure you are aware, NYS orange zone restrictions will go into effect tomorrow (11/25) for much of downtown Rochester and for some bordering suburban areas. Affected schools will temporarily close, and "mass gatherings" will be limited to a maximum of 10 people.

While we call ourselves *The Hochstein School*, please understand that we are not considered a "school" for state purposes. Our students are generally in our building in much smaller groups and for far shorter time periods than they are in a K-12 school building. All of our current in-person activity allows for proper social distancing and use of PPE, and our COVID safety protocols have been effective at limiting the risk of spread. **As such, our doors will remain open in the orange zone, with only a few changes.**

#### **WHAT WILL CHANGE**

- **In-person orchestra programs** (HYSO, Philharmonia, Sinfonia, and Concertino Strings) will be suspended until further notice.
- Due to rising local COVID cases, **neck gaiters and bandanas will NO LONGER be permitted** as acceptable face coverings. The CDC recommends multi-layer cloth or disposable surgical-style masks, and both of these options are complimentary at the screener desk.
- *IF YOU ARE NO LONGER COMFORTABLE coming into the building for your in-person lessons, please speak to your teacher about the possibility of continuing online.*

#### **WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME**

- In-person individual lessons (*unless you and your teacher opt to transition to online lessons*)
- In-person small classes with 9 or fewer students enrolled
- Online lessons and classes will continue as scheduled

If you have questions about your particular activity, please contact the Front Office at 585-454-4596, or contact your teacher. If you have questions about our COVID policies, please email [healthscreeners@hochstein.org](mailto:healthscreeners@hochstein.org) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

This Thanksgiving season, we are thankful for YOU and your continued support and cooperation as we navigate these difficult times.

Sincerely,

***Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Quackenbush***

President & Executive Director

***Gary L. Palmer, Ph.D.***

Assistant Director & Dean

Co-Chair of Piano Department