

Sexton Music Studio COVID-19 Pandemic Update

June 12, 2020

With all of Virginia now in [Safer at Home: Phase Two](#), and Prince William County Schools tentatively [planning on re-opening in some capacity as of August 25](#), many questions have arisen about the Studio's plans. While there's a lot still not known, here's what we can say now, in convenient FAQ format!

Q: When will Sexton Music Studio be re-opening for in-person lessons?

A: [Sexton Music Studio](#) is physically located inside a church building, the Bull Run Unitarian Universalists congregation. The building is closed to all non-essential activities through August 2020. We are currently exploring what may be possible for September 2020.

Q: I may not be comfortable returning in person when the building re-opens. Can I continue virtual lessons?

A: Of course! This also obviously applies to our out of town students. Virtual lessons are clearly part of our new normal.

Q: Can I split it up, come in some of the time and do virtual lessons some of the time?

A: Yep!

Q: What precautions is Sexton Music Studio taking to ensure student and teacher safety?

A: Prior to physically re-opening, the Studio will be deep cleaned. The congregation also maintains a cleaning contract which includes the Studio, stairwell, and entryways. This has been continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand sanitizer will be used before and after each lesson for both student and teacher. After each lesson, instruments, materials and furniture used will be wiped down and sanitized. If you haven't reviewed the CDC's website ["How to Protect Yourself and Others,"](#) please do so.

We have also purchased a HEPA H13 air purifier for use in the Studio.

Q: Who can be in the Studio?

A: Chris, the student, and a parent or guardian, if applicable and appropriate. Parents, there's a lovely coffee shop next door at Grounds Central Station, and they also have outdoor seating. Try the iced mocha coffee!

Q: What are your lesson formats?

A: We do not do group lessons; this helps reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Often, students in the same family have concurrent lessons, but not at the same time in the same space. Lessons either run 30 or 60 minutes each.

Q: Should I wear a mask?

A: Adults should absolutely wear a mask, and Chris will be doing so. If you need one, just ask, we'll have extras. We do not currently have any voice students; singing has been identified as an increased risk factor for COVID-19 spread.

We plan on following the Governor's guidance that all children aged 10 and older should also wear a mask. For children under 10, a conversation with their parent or guardian is essential on what fits their age and maturity. Let's have a chat.

Q: Is Sexton Music Studio in a highly trafficked area of the building?

A: Not especially, no. We're on the third floor, which is not used for church services. Occasionally on Sunday mornings, side rooms have been used for things like religious education and committee meetings. These are well away from the Sexton Music Studio portion of the floor. The building has been closed and all services have been conducted by Zoom since mid-March, 2020.

Q: The building also has an outdoor space. Can we have lessons in the courtyard?

A: Weather permitting, sure! Just coordinate in advance, and be aware people might hear you. On the plus side, that might be a positive motivator to practice a bit more!

Q: Has Chris been tested for COVID-19?

A: Chris has not exhibited any symptoms which have warranted testing. A family member living in the home required a test on June 8 in advance of a minor medical procedure as a standard operating procedure of the facility. They tested negative for COVID-19.

Q: Are you accepting new students?

A: Sure. We're definitely setting up scheduling for the fall as well. Right now it's all virtual through at least August, per the Q&A above. First lesson remains free for all new students, and anyone referring a student gets a free month on a half hour weekly lesson basis. Call or text Chris at 703-975-5075, email chris@sextonmusicstudio.com, or visit the [Sexton Music Studio webpage](#) or [Facebook](#) for more information.

Q: I have a question that wasn't answered here...?

A: Likely! We're all in this strange new world together, friends. Contact Chris and let's chat.