

CBOI & PEACE PROMS: COVID SAFETY STATEMENT OF INTENT

At CBOI & Peace Proms we are acutely aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how venues and schools operate. We are constantly liaising with our venues and Government Departments, and monitoring evolving public health guidelines. We want our workshops and concerts to go ahead as planned and be a wonderful experience for everyone however, the well-being of our members and our Peace Proms community are our top priority and we will only proceed if legislation allows; if public health guidelines clearly indicate that it is safe to do so; if additional safety measures necessary for choirs are not cost prohibitive or logistically unmanageable; if we have adequate uptake from schools; and if we can operate at full capacity.

In the hope that we can proceed as planned, it is essential to have all the administrative work completed in advance. We are very grateful to all our schools who have completed their full application. At best we will be able to perform live again; at worst, schools have full access to our exceptional choral education and performance pack and children can enjoy singing again. At CBOI & Peace Proms we believe this is critical for the well-being of children and school communities.

CURRENT GOVERNMENT & MUSIC EDUCATION AUTHORITY ADVICE ON SINGING.

Current guidelines on singing outlined below indicate that singing in school is permitted with certain safety measures recommended.

Ireland: Department of Education

Singing in school is permitted however, *“Choir practices/performances and music practices/performances involving wind instruments may pose a higher level of risk and special consideration should be given to how they are held ensuring that the room is well-ventilated and the distance between performers is maintained”*

Northern Ireland: Education Authority Music Service

Singing in school is permitted. *“Singing within classes does not require pupils to observe social distancing, however for school choir rehearsals where pupils attend from multiple classes, all participants should observe distancing of at least 2m”*

UK: Music Mark // Music Unlocked

Singing in school is permitted. *“We are confident that a well-managed singing lesson which follows these recommendations will create no more risk (and quite probably less) than many other subjects”* The following safety measures are advised:

1. **“Schedule singing sessions before a break** if possible, so the empty room can be ventilated immediately afterwards.
2. **Limit singing sessions to no more than 40 minutes.** Children will only actively be singing for a fraction of this, even though the time is being used in a focussed, valuable and musical way.
3. **Ventilate the room** as best you can during the session. If there are higher windows, opening these provide clean air without making the room uncomfortably cold.
4. **Face all children in the same direction** so that nobody is singing directly at another person’s face. It may help to offset rows, placing singers in a checkerboard pattern.
5. **Keep the dynamic (volume) down**, generally to no more than mezzo piano (moderately soft). Focus on making a beautiful sound, not a loud one.
6. **Do not insist on musical-theatre levels of diction.** Emphasising consonants creates additional water droplets ranging from visible to aerosol size (below 5µ) and increases risk of transmission.
7. **Project words and music** onto a whiteboard if possible. If you must distribute paper copies, have children name theirs and retain it for future sessions. All state schools in England can make copies of most music under the Schools’ Printed Music Licence, which the DfE funds.
8. **Ventilate the empty room after the session** for a good fifteen minutes. This is especially important if you sing in a shared space (like a school hall) and another group will use it after you.
9. Music Mark is confident in advising the sector that its ensembles and choirs may perform within the same guidance as they rehearse, irrespective of venue”

SAFETY MEASURES and VENUE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKSHOPS AND CONCERTS

All venues will be well ventilated and have put rigorous hygiene and cleaning procedures in place including installing hand sanitisers at all entrances. In addition to the entry requirements implemented by specific venues, CBOI & Peace Proms intend to implement the following safety measures at workshops and concerts:

- School pupils – CBOI & Peace Proms will hold a record of each child and Teacher / Chaperone registered to attend workshops and concerts so they can be contacted if needed for Track and Trace.
- Teachers / Chaperones are subject to venue entry requirements (see below) and must show proof immunity before being permitted entry to the building. This applies for both workshop and concerts.
- For concerts, as before, school groups will be assigned to a block and on the day of the concert we will fill the blocks from the bottom up on a first come first served basis.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES WHICH MAY BE PUT IN PLACE IF NECESSARY

- Risk assessments will be carried out at all venues prior to workshops and concerts.
- Choir blocks may be subdivided into pods.
- Schools may be required to ensure that children aged 8 to 14 yrs take a lateral flow test prior to and on the day of workshops and concerts. Schools may be required to organise and monitor this with parents. This is also recommended for Teachers / Chaperones.
- Workshops and Concerts may be shortened. Live workshops may be replaced by digital workshops with the conductor.
- Choirs may be asked to wear masks when singing or only when not singing (except those exempt)
- The pre-concert rehearsal may not take place, allowing for shorter time in the performance venue. This will also allow stringent cleaning in between performances.
- Choirs may be socially distanced however we are hoping that this will not be necessary

VENUE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – NI, UK and IRE

- All venues are operating at full audience capacity.
- In line with government advice in the U.K and N.I, we recommend that anyone taking part in, or attending our events should take a rapid COVID-19 test (Lateral Flow Test) before they attend the event, and on days two and eight after the event.
- In the absence of similar advice from the Government of Ireland, we also recommend that those taking part in or attending our events in Ireland take a rapid COVID-19 test (Lateral Flow Test) before they attend, and on days two and eight after the event
- Anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend the event.
- U18s attending our events are not required to show Covid-19 certification however, children aged 8yrs and over are encouraged to take a lateral flow test prior to the event where possible.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Venue entry requirements for over 18s: All event related Staff, Ticket holders, Teachers / Chaperones and Performers should be prepared to show one of the following:

- Proof of full vaccination – both doses received (with the second at least 14 days prior to the event) or
- Proof of a negative NHS Lateral Flow Test taken no more than 48 hours prior to the event start time or
- Proof of natural Covid-19 antibodies based upon a positive NHS PCR test within 180 days of the event (including 10 days self-isolation following the result)

Face Coverings: Face coverings are mandatory for over 18's and should be worn on arrival and throughout the event unless you are eating / drinking or exempt. We also recommend face coverings for anyone 11yrs and over.

U.K.

Venue entry requirements for over 18s: All event related Staff, Ticket holders, Teachers / Chaperones and Performers) should be prepared to show one of the following:

- A valid NHS Covid pass via the NHS App or an NHS COVID Pass letter (available by phoning 119 and selecting “NHS COVID Pass Service” or
- Text or Email proof of a negative lateral flow or PCR test result (within the last 48 hours); or
- Proof that you have been double vaccinated and at least 14 days have passed since the date of your last vaccination by presenting a Covid Vaccination Card or any overseas proof of vaccination status; or
- Text or email proof that you have previously had Covid -19 within 180 days of arrival for the event (and after the 10-day self-isolation period following the result).

Face Coverings: It is not mandatory to wear face coverings at events however everyone over 11yrs is encouraged you to wear face coverings in shared space including the concourse, toilets and queuing areas. We also recommend face coverings for anyone 11yrs and over throughout the concert.

IRELAND

Venue entry requirements for over 18s: All event related Staff, Ticket holders, Teachers / Chaperones and Performers should be prepared to show **Proof of immunity and Photo ID. The following are acceptable proof of immunity:**

- Digital COVID Certificate (DCC)
- A HSE vaccination card or international equivalent.

Face Coverings: Face coverings are mandatory for 18s while entering and exiting the venue, and in shared spaces including the concourse, toilets and queuing areas. Even though not mandatory, we also recommend face coverings be worn by everyone 11yrs and over in common spaces and throughout the concert.

Exceptions to mask wearing include those who are unable to wear them because of a physical or mental illness or disability.

****All of the above is subject to change between now and our events.**

****Safety measures at all of our venues can be viewed at the links below**

[SSE ARENA, BELFAST](#)

[M&S BANK ARENA, LIVERPOOL](#)

[RDS DUBLIN](#)

[NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA, DUBLIN](#)

[WIT, WATERFORD](#)

[UL, LIMERICK](#)

RESEARCH INTO SINGING AND COVID RISK

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

Research carried out by the University of Bristol showed that “singing is no more risky than talking”

MUSIC MARK, UK

A study carried out by Music Mark UK indicated that “Most risks associated with singing are equally risks that can be found in a maths lesson or a staff meeting.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF PERFORMING ARTS

A study carried out by the International Coalition of Performing Arts into the spreading of aerosols while singing showed:

1. “the overall chance of contracting Covid during a 30-minute music rehearsal (including choir) was .00051% or 1 in 1.96 million’ with mitigation factors in place.
2. Singing does not produce substantially more aerosols than speaking at a similar volume.

[International Coalition of Performing Arts – Aerosol Study](#)
[Bristol University Aerosol Study](#)