

Dear VMAC Community,

It is with heavy hearts that the board of trustees has come to the conclusion that we must cancel our 2020 summer chamber music program. We have been in communication with each other about this for weeks, keeping a close eye on the progress of the pandemic. As time has progressed, it has become clear that, even if some aspects of life were to return to normal in the next few months, it would be unwise to hold an event as soon as July that involves communal living and eating in a relatively large group. In addition, a number of participants have voiced reluctance to attend (even if NVU is open which at this point is uncertain). Given that, it seems fairly likely that should we choose to go ahead with the program, attendance would be low.

Another aspect of this crisis the board has considered is support of our coaches. While there clearly are financial constraints posed by not having our program this summer, we have decided to continue paying our wonderful coaches their full salaries. We have strategized a number of ways to accomplish this and are happy to inform you that all coaches have now received half their salaries with the second half coming later in the summer. The responses we have received from them have been uniformly that they are overwhelmed and grateful. Needless to say, the feeling is mutual - we are grateful to them and happy to do what we can to help them during this most trying time especially for professional musicians.

That said, as you can imagine, we need financial support more than ever during this challenging time. To that end we ask that you consider donating to VMAC any fees or a portion of any fees you have already paid. This might be particularly beneficial as the CARES Act now allows donations related to Covid-19 to charitable organizations up to \$300 to be above-the-line deductions that do not require itemization. Or, if you wish, we will refund your fees. Please contact us at VMACinfo@gmail.com as soon as conveniently possible with your decision.

We will be sending you more updates over time but wanted to be clear now about the status of VMAC's 2020 program so that you can plan accordingly. We will miss you all! VMAC is a magical world where we reunite with friends and make new friends all bonded by the joy of making music. It is a gift - a bit of a respite from our daily lives - that we all look forward to each summer. While it certainly will not be the same this year, in the end the health and well-being of our community dictated our decision. We wish you all well and look forward to brighter days when we can actively plan for VMAC's 2021 summer session.

With sincere warmest wishes to you all,
Your Board of Trustees