

**COVID CONCERT AT ST MICHAEL'S**  
**24 OCTOBER 2020**

The government guidelines for indoor performances run to 47 pages. We are required to consider six subject areas.

- 1 Thinking about risk
- 2 Who should return to training, rehearsal and performance
- 3 Managing performances
- 4 Keeping those involved in performing arts safe
- 5 Cleaning objects, equipment and environment
- 6 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and face coverings

### 1 Thinking about risk

The preparation of this paper is itself evidence that we are thinking about risk. The risks that have been identified are:

- Infection passing between audience members
- Infection passing between artists
- Infection passing between HGO personnel
- Infection passing between any two of the above groups
- Infection passing to subsequent users of the church from contaminated surfaces.

These risks will be reduced to a minimum by the planning and measures set out in this paper. It should be noted that there are a number of underlying factors favourable to the venture.

- This is a very large building with extreme ceiling heights. There is every opportunity for air to circulate, and good opportunities for ventilation.
- The members of the audience will all be facing in the same direction. There will be no face to face engagement.
- Without detriment to the performance quality, the singers will be more than three metres away from the front row of the audience
- Properly trained opera singers do not project high velocity air currents.
- The church is already in use for worship and satisfies the criteria for a Covid 19 secure space. Alternate pews are permanently taped off as part of social distancing.
- There is a big forecourt which will allow of spacing in queues at entrance.

### 2. Who will be taking part?

There will be only a small number of performers: four singers and a pianist.

### 3. Managing the performance.

This is the main task to ensure safety. All the different stages of the audience experience will be considered.

#### Sale of tickets

This will be entirely online, with no cash sales at the venue. Online ticket purchasers will on arrival give their names or show print-at-home tickets. There will be a limit of 6 tickets per purchaser (i.e. per bubble/family group).

#### Arrival and entry

Attendees will, as necessary, form a queue, with social distancing of minimum one metre between family groups. Before entry, there will be a ticket check, a temperature check and hand sanitiser.

#### Taking seats

Audience member will be instructed by stewards where to sit. They will sit down directly – no congregating.

#### Interval

If there is an interval, audience members will remain in their places, but being able to stand up and stretch.

#### Drinks

There will be no drinks provided. Audience members will be permitted to bring their own.

#### Programmes

The programme will be in electronic form.

#### Friends Leaflets

Will be available for people to pick up and take as they leave

#### Leaving the building

To avoid congestion at the exit, audience will leave in sequence as directed by the stewards.

#### HGO stewards

Will maintain social distancing of at least one metre, between themselves, and between themselves and audience or performers.

#### Artists

Singers will stand at the top of the chancel steps. With the piano in its normal position, there will be no risk to or from the pianist. Rehearsal will be in the church in the afternoon, with access to the upper room as necessary.

#### Chairman's remarks

All speeches, announcements, introductions to the music, will be from the lectern.

#### 4. Keeping the artists safe

Artists will maintain a social spacing of at least one metre at all times.

#### 5. Cleaning objects, equipment and environment

##### General

There will have been no use of the church since the previous Sunday. Any residual viruses will have died. The building will be in a safe state.

##### Printed paper

All necessary steps will be taken to ensure that any friends leaflets laid out for audience members to pick up are virus free.

##### Equipment

No equipment will be being used. Just the piano and the human voice

##### After the concert

Within less than 24 hours, the church will be in use again for worship. All materials brought into the church for the concert will be taken out. The pews on which people have been sitting will be sprayed with disinfectant. All surfaces likely to have been contaminated will be suitably treated, e.g. tables, light switches, door handles, work tops, the toilets.

#### 6. PPE

##### Audience

Audience members must wear face coverings from arrival in the forecourt until they are in their seats, and also when leaving. They may be removed during the performance.

Appreciation of the singing will be by clapping of hands, not by shouting out.

##### Artists

No need for face coverings

##### HGO stewards

Will wear face coverings at all times when dealing with the public. Not when seated for the performance.

7. The designated person responsible for ensuring that these procedures are followed and that the church is properly cleaned after the concert is Roger Sainsbury