



COVID 19 update November 2021

The vaccination programme now gives the great majority of us substantial protection from the severe effects of COVID, so we currently enjoy much more freedom than at this time last year. However, we have sobering advice from the scientific community that the situation will worsen over the winter, and the severity of the problem will be largely determined by our behaviour. The trend on the rest of Europe is worrying

Some members have expressed concern that our attention to precautionary measures at some rehearsals are slipping. This was discussed at a recent Trustees' meeting. We agreed that we should re-affirm our commitment to sensible and appropriate precautions as we move in to winter. We do not believe that we should dictate how individuals must behave by re-imposing rigid rules across the board. Each weekly group has, or should have, a core team responsible for applying whatever measures are appropriate to their local circumstances. I would ask them all to review their protocols at this point, in close consultation with their players, based on the updated (November 2021) guidance posted on our website under "policies and forms". I would draw your particular attention to the section on ventilation, which is perhaps the most important concern now, but more inconvenient as colder weather approaches. Carbon dioxide monitors may be very helpful to determine the need for ventilation breaks, and cost around £60-70. Should a group wish to buy one, we will reimburse the cost up to £70 provided it is used solely in Cobweb Orchestra sessions.

Regardless of how safe you feel personally, or how fed up you are with restrictions (and I admit I am that person!), please be kind to those amongst us who are more vulnerable and need to be protected. Distancing, masking and wearing warm clothing, whether or not you believe they are necessary, are small sacrifices to make for the wellbeing of friends. I do hope we can strike a balance that enables all of us to enjoy playing together over the winter.

Michael Cave

On behalf of the Cobweb Orchestra Trustees