DEAR UK BAND STUDENTS AND FRIENDS,

As we approach the start of the 2020 Fall semester, we would like to provide some updates related to the University of Kentucky Bands and our plans to resume our artistic and educational activities during the coming weeks. While we will continue to remain flexible and prepare for changes at any given time, we are on schedule to begin scheduled rehearsals with our concert ensembles when classes begin on August 17. Many of you have already received the newsletter for Wildcat Marching Band, with the early week running August 8-15. The information below outlines our upstart plans related to UK Concert Bands auditions, rehearsals, and performances during the 2020 Fall semester. All University of Kentucky safety protocol measures will be in place during the course of our auditions, rehearsals, and performances.
SAFETY FIRST

The University of Kentucky Bands are committed to following all safety guidelines as prescribed by the University of Kentucky, College of Fine Arts, and the School of Music during the course of rehearsals, performances, and all other UK Bands activities. When we meet together in groups of individuals, we will make sure that social distancing guidelines will be in place, masks will be worn at all possible times, and our classroom and performance environments will be clean and sanitized before and following each meeting. In order to provide the safest experience for our students, faculty, and staff, we will continue to monitor all health and safety updates provided by our university and will follow the guidance of our university and college administration.

AUDITIONS

Brass and woodwind auditions for Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, and Symphony Orchestra will take place August 13-14 and will be conducted in a hybrid format including choices of on-line recorded submissions or live (in person) auditions. Instructions and information for ensemble auditions can be found through the UK Bands website at https://finearts.uky.edu/ukbands/concert-ensembles. Please feel free to contact the individual studio faculty members or the ensemble directors shown below for additional information related to ensemble auditions. Audition results and ensemble assignments will be posted no later than Sunday, August 16, with first rehearsals starting on Monday, August 17. Auditions are not required for Concert Band, which is open to all student on campus who play a wind or percussion instrument. Students are encouraged to join the UK Concert Band!
REHEARSALS / REPERTOIRE

UK Wind Symphony (MUC 189/689)
Dr. Cody Birdwell, Conductor / cody.birdwell@uky.edu

UK Wind Symphony rehearsals will take place MWF 2:00 – 3:50 p.m. in the Singletary Center Concert Hall. Fall semester repertoire selections will include outstanding works by several celebrated and award-winning composers including Francis Poulenc, Joaquin Rodrigo, Igor Stravinsky, Michael Daugherty, Robert Kurka, David Maslanka, James Stephenson, David Gillingham, and others. We will rehearse and perform in order to allow for smaller ensembles and social distancing. Parts will be assigned on a rotating basis.

UK Symphony Band (MUC 188)
Prof. George Boulden, Conductor / george.boulden@uky.edu

UK Symphony Band rehearsals will take place MWF 2:00 – 3:50 p.m. in the Singletary Center Rehearsal Room. During the fall semester the Symphony Band will rehearse a variety of music by the masters including Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Vaughan Williams as well as more contemporary compositions by members of the Creative Repertoire Initiative. Most of the music rehearsed and performed this semester will be for smaller groups in order to comply with the social distancing mandate.

UK Concert Band (MUC 187)
Dr. Dana Biggs, Conductor / dana.biggs@uky.edu

UK Concert Band rehearses Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:50 p.m., in the Singletary Center Rehearsal Room. In order to maintain social distancing, the concert band will be divided into smaller ensembles as needed based on instrumentation of the group. Repertoire for the group consists of new and standard concert literature and will be distributed according to available instrumentation.

PERFORMANCES

All UK Concert Bands (UKWS / UKSB / UKCB) performances during the Fall 2020 semester will take place during our scheduled rehearsal times on dates to be determined. Performances will take place in the Singletary Center and will be recorded and made available to the public via livestream. We anticipate three performances this fall for the Wind Symphony and Symphony Band, and two performances for the Concert Band. More detailed information will be shared soon.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

- Jeremy Harmon (j.harmon@uky.edu)
  DMA Conducting. MM / BME - Ohio University
- Ashley Shoupe (ashley.shoupe@uky.edu)
  MM Conducting. BME – Northern Illinois University
- Josh Gillen – (joshgillen@uky.edu)
  DMA Conducting. MM / BME – Auburn University
- Emily Durocher (emily.durocher@uky.edu)
  DMA Percussion Performance. MM – Boston Conservatory / BME – University of Kentucky

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about any information provided in this newsletter, please contact Storey Free (storey.free@uky.edu), UK Bands Office Administrative Assistant, or Katie De Witt (katiedewitt2000@uky.edu), UK Bands Student Assistant, or any of the Directors or TA’s indicated above. We are eager to help all students with their transition to our entirely new environment at the University of Kentucky this fall, and we look forward to having you with us in the University of Kentucky Bands!