

Dear Yale College Ensemble members,

As you know, the current pandemic has required adjustments across all aspects of life and the university has been working to develop a plan for the fall semester. As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, the university's plans are guided by considerations for the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and neighbors. Announcements from [President Salovey and Provost Strobel](#) as well as [Dean Chun](#) have specified that, in the residential/remote model, performances will not take place in person, but may be reimagined to take place online. The School of Music has also announced that it will not present public performances during the fall semester.

The Yale College ensembles (Yale Bands, Yale Glee Club, and Yale Symphony Orchestra) are normally organized around preparing and presenting performances to co-present audiences, but the value of these communities goes far beyond those activities. These organizations function as families and serve as zones of exploration, learning, and nourishment for student musicians and for a broad network of supporters. The Yale College ensembles will remain vital, active spaces this coming fall, with a focus on maintaining and growing our communities, including welcoming new members. We will continue to make space for reflection and fellowship. We will offer opportunities for our membership and our audiences to learn more about the histories of our ensembles and engage in strategic planning for the future. We will commission new works from BIPOC composers to expand the library of works available to ensembles like ours. Finally, we will make music together and share it with our communities. Modes of music making will be different this fall, relying primarily on virtual tools, and we will make the most of opportunities to connect across distance and to celebrate together.

We know that the arts provide space for rest and reflection, vital conversations, and the amplification of voices – especially important in this current moment. We are confident that pausing in-person performance will not limit the voices and creative minds of the student body. And so, whatever the fall semester may hold for us, whether you are on- or off-campus, we look forward to supporting Yale's musicians to explore new inventive modes of expressing and creating.

William Boughton
Director, Yale Symphony Orchestra

Jeff Douma
Director, Yale Glee Club

Tom Duffy
Director, Yale Bands

Kate Krier
Associate Dean for the Arts, Yale College