



April 20, 2020

After careful and thoughtful analysis of the continued local, regional, national, and global impact of the Coronavirus, the EMF Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel all programming and summer study for the 2020 season (June 27 – August 1).

It is with deep sadness that we had to make this important decision. The health and safety of our students, faculty, patrons, staff, and the entire Greensboro community was at the forefront of this decision. Waiting longer to come to this decision would have had a negative impact upon the well-being of the organization. Bringing over 400 students, faculty, and staff together to form a music community, as well as the gathering of our 21,000+ patrons, creates too great a risk of advancing the spread of the virus, endangering us all.

We are heartbroken that we will not be together in 2020. We *really* wanted to have a Festival this summer. We want to share music with you, and we know you want to be here with us in Greensboro, too. The lost opportunities for our students, faculty, guest artists, staff, and our patrons and sponsors cannot begin to be expressed. We also know the impact of our decision will be felt by our classical music-loving patrons and the greater Greensboro community.

EMF's home office at the Greensboro Cultural Center is currently closed, and year-round staff are working remotely to continue to fulfill its mission to plan and prepare for another summer season of music study and performance in 2021.

As we adjust to this new reality, we have faith that this situation will be resolved soon, and we hope you will have faith in us as we continue to build for EMF's future. In 2021, our Festival will celebrate 60 years of musical excellence, and we can't wait to be together again with each and every one of you to experience EMF. As our Past Board President Dr. Timothy Lane mentioned during this decision-making process, "Absence of music and EMF will make the heart grow fonder."

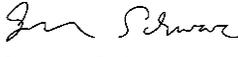
Visit EMF's website ([easternmusicfestival.org](http://easternmusicfestival.org)) and social media channels for updates and information about the 60th anniversary season and how to apply for 2021 summer study.

We would like to acknowledge our incredible funders and patrons for their unwavering support, particularly in these uncertain times. Donations are very much appreciated and vital to the short-term and long-term health of the organization. Contributions to EMF can be made online at <https://www.easternmusicfestival.org/support/donate> or by mail to P.O. Box 22026, Greensboro, NC, 27420.

Stay safe and be well.

  
Chris Williams  
Executive Director

  
Melanie Tuttle  
Board President

  
Gerard Schwarz  
Music Director

# Eastern Music Festival 2020 Season Cancellation

## Frequently Asked Questions

*At Eastern Music Festival (EMF), we have an ethical obligation to do our part to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, patrons, staff, and the entire Greensboro community amid the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. To meet that ethical obligation, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 season. We waited as long as we thought prudent to take this step but, unfortunately, the time for EMF to make this decision was now. Unlike a standing symphony orchestra, EMF requires a much longer lead time to prepare for a summer music festival featuring over 65 concerts and events. The EMF season is only five-weeks long. Presenting a shorter season of performances and summer study is just not feasible and does not reflect or permit a complete EMF experience. Our students and faculty come from all over the nation and world. Many were unsure about their ability to travel and attend our five-week Festival this season. We wish for all of our stakeholders — students, faculty, patrons, and staff — a safe and healthy summer and look forward to a great 2021 season.*

## Patrons

### **Are all 2020 concerts and events canceled or postponed?**

All in-person concerts, master classes, and community outreach performances are canceled for the 2020 season. The health and safety of our students, faculty, patrons, staff, and the entire Greensboro community was at the forefront of this decision to cancel the whole 2020 season.

### **What should I do if I have already purchased or reserved 2020 season tickets?**

EMF is proactively contacting all our 2020 season ticket buyers regarding their ticket order and offering ultimate flexibility for refunds for the price of the ticket(s) and/or contributions to support Eastern Music Festival's ongoing needs. To learn more, please contact the Triad Stage Box Office at 336.272.0160.

#### Suggestions:

- Convert your 2020 season subscription purchase to a full tax-deductible donation to EMF
  - Your generosity will help ensure the future of your Eastern Music Festival experience by offsetting some of the lost revenue from canceling our 2020 season.
  
- Transfer your 2020 renewal to the 2021 season
  - We will renew your 2020 subscription package(s) as it stands.
  - If prices increase for the 2021 season, you will be automatically renewed at no additional cost.
  - This will help ensure the growth and stability of EMF as we plan our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2021.
  
- Receive a full refund for the cost of the ticket(s) purchased. (Fees are not refundable.)

- Please confirm your preferred option by May 30, 2020. Otherwise, your 2020 ticket purchase/subscription package purchase will automatically be deemed to be a tax-deductible donation to EMF, and we will send you a receipt for that donation.

### **Will EMF offer performances or events in the off-season?**

Traditionally, EMF is a summer music festival; however, there might be an opportunity for some fall/winter programming depending on the outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are exploring our options.

### **Will the annual Chamber Crawl still happen?**

Unfortunately, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual EMF Chamber Crawl, scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>, an afternoon of free music events in downtown Greensboro, has also been canceled.

### **How can I stay connected with EMF?**

Follow EMF on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)), subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#), and continue to visit the EMF [website](#) for updates our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season (June 26 – July 31, 2021).

### **How can I help?**

First and foremost, continue to follow the [guidelines of public health experts](#) to stay safe and healthy during this crisis. EMF's home office at the Greensboro Cultural Center is currently closed, and year-round staff are working remotely to continue to fulfill its mission for the next season.

As we adjust to this new reality, we have faith that this situation will be resolved soon, and we hope you will have faith in us as we continue to build for EMF's future. Donations are very much appreciated and vital to the short-term and long-term health of the organization. Contributions to EMF can be made online at: <https://www.easternmusicfestival.org/support/donate> or by mail to P.O. Box 22026, Greensboro, NC, 27420.

### **What if I have additional questions?**

Feel free to contact us via email.

- Patrons, ticketing, season programming: [media@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:media@easternmusicfestival.org)
- Summer study, auditions, applications: [admissions@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:admissions@easternmusicfestival.org)
- General questions: [info@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:info@easternmusicfestival.org)

(-more-)

## **Students/Participants**

### **What should I do if I have paid my deposit for 2020 summer study?**

The reservation deposit and any tuition payments will be fully refunded. The timeline for disbursement of refunds is currently being determined. We will communicate details once we have them. Payments made by credit card will be refunded directly back to the card with which it was paid. If the deposit was paid by a personal check, we will mail you a refund check.

Application fees cannot be refunded because the application and review process have been fully completed by administration and faculty.

### **I was accepted and enrolled for 2020, will that acceptance transfer to the 2021 season?**

Participants enrolled for the 2020 season have three options:

1. You can choose to roll-over your current acceptance and reservation deposit to the 2021 season (pending age limit eligibility). If you choose this option, a refund for 2020 would not be available.

You will still need to submit a new application for 2021, but the 2021 application fee will be waived, and your 2020 reservation deposit and other payments made to-date, if any, will be applied to your 2021 payments.

2. If you want to roll your 2020 acceptance over to 2021 but want a refund of your reservation deposit and other payments made to-date, if any, you may do so. EMF will honor your admission in 2021. As noted above, the application fee for 2020 is not refundable.

You will still need to submit a new application for 2021 and pay the reservation deposit and all other tuition amounts due. The 2021 application fee will be waived.

3. You may choose to re-designate your reservation deposit as a gift to EMF. Your contribution will help ensure EMF has the resources to continue its mission and plan for a spectacular summer study program for 2021.

### **This was my last summer to participate in the orchestral or piano program because of my age. Will you make exceptions to the age limits?**

Unfortunately, due to the nature of EMF's age restrictions, we are not able to make exceptions to the age limits of these programs.

### **How can I stay connected with EMF?**

Follow EMF on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)), subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#), and continue to visit the EMF [website](#) for updates our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 2021.

Submit your recent performances, interesting projects, and other school or professional news to our Admissions Office, and you might be featured on our social media pages.

**What are the dates for next year's Festival?**

EMF's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season dates are June 26 – July 31, 2021. Application information and deadlines will be posted on our website and our social media channels by the end of September 2020.

**What if I have additional questions?**

Feel free to contact us via email.

- Patrons, ticketing, season programming: [media@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:media@easternmusicfestival.org)
- Summer study, auditions, applications: [admissions@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:admissions@easternmusicfestival.org)
- General questions: [info@easternmusicfestival.org](mailto:info@easternmusicfestival.org)