

# #return\_nr.2

Dear members of the HfMT,

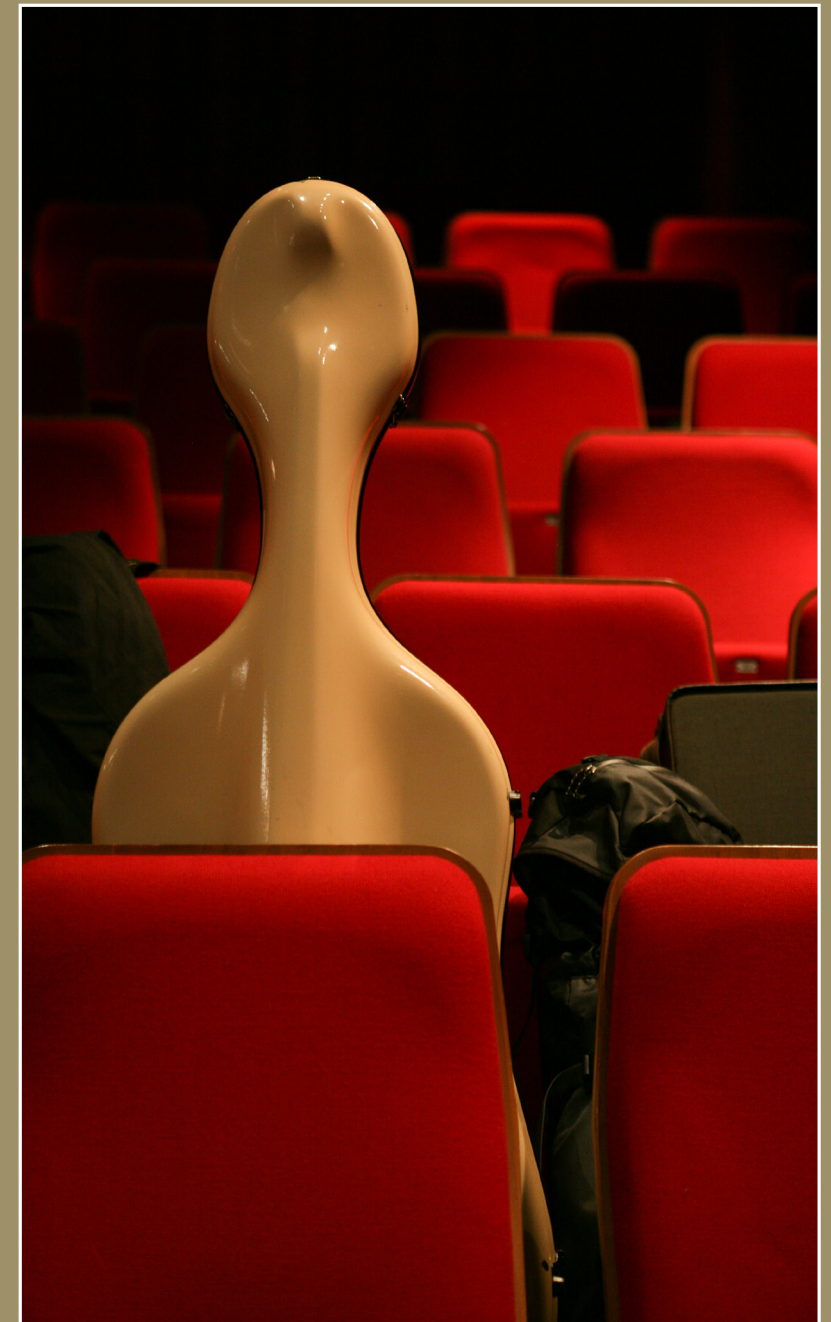
During the last two weeks, we have made some cautious first steps towards a return to a normal operation of our university. These steps were intended as an attempt to test technical and organizational processes in order to be able to react quickly and flexibly to upcoming changes.

A total of 70 hours of practice time could be booked in different rooms via the ASIMUT system. Our students made extensive use of this possibility. Despite initial communication difficulties resulting from often wrong or missing e-mail addresses, word of mouth news about the free practice capacities spread quickly... so please keep in mind to check all your e-mail addresses and regularly check the FAQs on our website (<https://www.hfmt-hamburg.de/faq-coronavirus>).

Together with the event office, our A-Team has worked out a system for cleaning and ventilating the rooms. The students left the university quickly after practising, so that crowds of people could be avoided. In a very limited experiment, teaching was also tested. Thanks to the piano and string section for participating in this experiment. The course of events encouraged us to cautiously start with face-to-face lessons starting next week. The Theatre Academy on CampusNorth will also take the first cautious steps towards reopening. Just as with the academic-theoretical subjects, all teaching in the field of culture and media management will be in digital form until the end of the summer semester.

Our considerations and plans take a lot of information into account. In addition to the resolutions of the Federal Government and the City of Hamburg, we also refer to the recommendations of the Freiburg Institute for Musician's Medicine. The institute evaluates in detail the current studies that are relevant to music practice in the pandemic situation. Their constantly updated risk assessment is a great help to us in coordinating our measures. Through our own initiatives in this area, we are in close contact with our colleagues from the Initiative „Music and Health“ at the Institute for Music Therapy.

From Monday, 11 May, students of the **Theatre Academy** (direction, dramaturgy, acting, opera, singing, song interpretation) will begin individual rehearsals and practice on CampusNorth. Two hours of practice and rehearsal time will be available after a booking via telephone over the gate (040 428482301). Similar to the CampusAußenalster, masks are compulsory throughout the entire building. The hygiene concept stipulates that there must be a 30-minute break between rehearsals and that the rooms must be ventilated. Since the capacities of the A-Team for disinfection are limited to the Milchstraße, no keyboard instruments can be used in the Hebebrandstraße for the time being.





In the main building on the **Milchstraße**, rooms for practising individual instrument groups will continue to be available from 11 May. The room U11 can be used as a workroom for students with children from this date on. Here, it is possible to conduct research or online meetings in a peaceful and productive environment. Room 13 in the Budge-Palais is available to teachers for online teaching. Colleagues from the individual departments are working to improve the technical equipment for the distance learning format.

From Monday onwards, three additional rooms will be available in addition to the Organ Studio for instrumental classroom instruction: The Fanny Hensel Saal (vocals and brass), the Mendelssohn Saal (strings and woodwinds) and the Orchestra Studio (correpetition and piano). The rooms can be booked in the usual way via ASIMUT. The lessons are held under strict hygienic conditions. Only a maximum of three people are allowed in the room and the minimum distance should be between three metres (strings and piano) and five metres (winds and singers). After the lessons, students must leave the university via the fastest route. From 18 May onwards, the opening hours in the Milchstraße will be extended to 9 pm.

All public events at the university are suspended until further notice, but at least until 30 June. The event office and the WebCast team are currently preparing several scenarios that will allow streaming of concerts. Our upcoming efforts will focus on the organisation of the exams. Especially those students who will graduate this summer will be given preference in the process of allocating rooms. The event office is in discussion with the main subject teachers and will contact you about the implementation.

Looking ahead to the winter semester, it is already clear that the semester will begin on October 5. However, all lectures and seminars will not begin until November 2.

The months of September and October will provide opportunities for instrumental instruction, artistic projects and examinations.

I have the impression that we are on a good path together and look optimistically into the future.

Yours truly,  
Elmar Lampson