Dear students, dear colleagues,

Time flies and suddenly we find ourselves in the middle of the summer semester. We have called it the creative semester and we can already see that it lives up to its name. Terms such as Zoom meetings, telephone conferences and dial-up links have crept into our everyday language. A year ago, these terms would have caused astonishment. Now we already conducted a disputation, a senate session including the necessary digital vote, and smaller concerts digitally.

I have witnessed commitment that goes far beyond the norm. Seminars have to be redesigned and working materials compiled. Artistic lessons have to take place under completely different circumstances and working from home has to be aligned with personal conditions. This affects students, teachers and administrative staff alike. Whether it is the time difference in Asia that forces students to attend their seminar at midnight or whether some have to look after children or relatives in addition to the work in their home office - all these problems and difficulties can only be met with creativity, prudence and optimism. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for this work and your commitment.

The steps organized so far, which will lead to a normalization of teaching, have been very well received. Our practice and teaching rooms are fully booked, and many teachers combine distance and presence formats in their teaching. The larger rooms are also available for this purpose. The Event Office has now allocated these rooms to individual instrumental groups, so that a smooth allocation is guaranteed. The opening on CampusNorth begins on 25 May. On the basis of a hygiene concept developed especially for this location, teaching will be resumed step by step. All lessons and rehearsals are only possible in coordination with the KBB of the Theatre Academy.

Since 18 May, our university library has been offering a limited service. Please inform yourself about the opening hours under: https://www.hfmt-hamburg.de/die-hfmt/bibliothek. If you have questions regarding the library, you can also use the chat program from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3 pm: http://my.cbox.ws/HfMT-Bib.
In compliance with the distance and hygiene rules, classes that cannot be taught digitally can now take place in suitable rooms on the CampusAußenalster. Here, the principle of voluntariness applies for both, teachers and students. Our colleagues in the administration are currently in the process of taking appropriate safety precautions, such as commissio ning Plexiglas protective walls. Theoretical-scientific seminars and small group teaching will continue to take place digitally, with a few exceptions, in order to have the larger rooms available for artistic instruction. The basis for the use and allocation of the rooms is their size. In general, 10 square meters per person are estimated. 20 square meters per person is used for wind instruments, singing, choir, as well as acting and movement lessons. The rooms can be booked as usual via ASI-MUT. In seminars, teachers must keep a list of the students involved in the lessons for a possible tracing of infections. Furthermore, Intensive work is being done to implement upcoming attendance examinations (including entrance examinations). The number of participants is important for the choice of rooms. The number of participants depends on the respective admission and examination regulations. Since the presence of an audience is not possible until further notice, the public will be included via live stream, which will be provided by the webcast team.

At all locations, the usual distance and hygiene rules apply. These include in particular the wearing of a mouth and nose mask. Exceptions are individual work and two-person discussions in the office at a distance of at least 1.5 meters, individual practice and teaching situations in which wearing a mask is not possible (wind instruments, singing, acting, speech training, etc.). A minimum distance of three meters must be maintained in instrument groups and during singing, where various studies assume increased aerosol emissions. Washing hands and disinfecting should have become standard practice by now. Ventilate your classroom or practice room after each lesson. The piano keyboards in the piano indoor rooms are still cleaned by the A-Team. For the classrooms, the A-Team is available „on-demand“ in the foyer and should be informed before using the keyboard again to take over the cleaning. A detailed description of all regulations can be found on our website and in the FAQs: https://www.hfmt-hamburg.de/fileadmin/u/pdf/CORONA-REGELUNGEN_ab25.5.20_.pdf

Despite the impact of the pandemic, many members of our college have looked ahead: Whether it is the planning for a semi-staged performance of Mozart’s Requiem in 2021 or a series of events in November on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven’s 250th birthday, artistic creativity is unbroken, during the creative „Corona Semester“ and far beyond.

I wish all of us confidence on our path towards a more „normal“ everyday life.

Yours,
Elmar Lampson