

#return_nr.4



Foto: Mai-Linh Le

Dear students, dear colleagues,

the official lecture period of this extraordinary semester is slowly coming to an end and this is the last newsletter of this semester. However, it is already becoming apparent that wherever possible, the lecture-free period until the beginning of the winter semester will be used for attendance classes, for scenic projects, for choir and ensemble conducting classes and similar events.

Many of the possibilities that currently exist are the result of the dedicated work of the *Veranstaltungsbüro* and especially of our A-Team. Cleaning the piano keyboards or regular airing - all tasks that are necessary to meet the Corona-related hygiene requirements. I would like to thank the *Veranstaltungsbüro* and A-Team very much on behalf of all of us for their commitment.

The development of a hygiene concept for the opening of the forum is also a major step forward. Rehearsals, examinations and concerts are now possible under the conditions mentioned [here](#) and in accordance with the [Corona legal regulation](#) of the FHH. Here, too, a very complex network of regulations and organisational issues had to be taken into account in the preparation. Thanks to the extraordinary work of the webcast team, we can additionally experience a multitude of concerts via [live stream](#). Stefania Secci from the class of Prof. Michael Rieber kicked off the event by broadcasting her examination concert directly from the orchestra studio.

The Presidium receives many requests for individual extensions of lessons. In principle, the regulation is that this summer semester is considered a regular semester. With great commitment, all teachers have carried out their lessons with digital or alternative offers. Digital teaching formats naturally have their weaknesses, especially with regard to individual artistic instruction. For this reason, we have created many opportunities for teaching in classroom format over the last four weeks (within the scope of the regulations), which have been very positively received so far. Since the coming winter semester officially begins on October 1, 2020, but lectures in the winter semester do not start until November 2, 2020, the months of September and October are reserved for a flexible catch-up of attendance classes from the summer semester. I ask students and teachers to find amicable solutions for this. Should this be difficult in individual cases, the catch-up phase can also extend to the end of the win-



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ter semester. In all cases in which individual artistic one-to-one lessons cannot be realized in classroom format to an appropriate extent, a written request for extension of the individual lessons can be submitted to the responsible dean in agreement with the main subject teacher. In consideration of the capacities, the Presidium will then make decisions for each individual case.

Many of you have registered for final and module examinations despite the difficult situation. We are making every effort to ensure appropriate framework conditions and adequate preparation for these examinations. If you find out before the examination that you do not feel well enough prepared for the examination due to justifiable reasons, you can - again with the agreement of the main subject teacher - submit a request to the responsible examination board to postpone the examination.

Please understand all these measures and regulations as I described them in my first letter in early April: We are making every effort to make this summer semester an unusual but „countable“ semester for many of you. However, even if this cannot be realized for a variety of reasons, you should not suffer any disadvantages. In such cases, we will continue to try to find individual solutions within the scope of our possibilities.

News from the Campus Milchstraße

The re-opening activities give us a sense of normality. This is essential for our profession as artists, teachers and scientists. Nevertheless, I would like to remind you of the still valid regulations of the Hamburg Senate. The universities are still not open for either classroom teaching or public access (§ 46 Abs. 1 Satz Corona-RVO). For the purposes of this regulation, the term „public“ refers to persons who are only staying temporarily at the universities. In this respect, students are also considered to be „the public.“ Thus, if one or the other step towards normality has not yet been taken, this is due to the regulations that have been in force up to now for the universities in Hamburg. We are monitoring these developments very closely. Rest assured that any further changes will be taken into account immediately in the planning of the operations of our university. This also applies for the lecture-free period.

Starting on July 1, 2020, our opening hours will be extended: from Monday to Friday on the Campus Außenalster from 8 am to 10 pm and on weekends from 10 am to 10 pm. From July 1, 24 new rehearsal-rooms and three new classrooms will be opened (currently 16 rooms are available). Booking will continue to be made via ASIMUT.

As you have probably already noticed, our Belcanto is open again. Soon some tables will also be set up.

I ask you to observe the safety measures in the interest of all of us. This includes wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose throughout the entire



university (outside the practicerooms, classrooms and offices) and washing and disinfecting your hands regularly. Since this week, the first Plexiglas-walls are also in use. Please make use of them, especially during wind and singing lessons.

News from campus Hebebrandstraße

Despite contact restrictions, the Theatre Academy was able to successfully complete the entrance examinations for the directing programs in acting and musical theatre. The selected candidates form the first year for the reformed Bachelor's degree in both subjects. A new class has also been appointed for the Master's program in Dramaturgy.

Congratulations to all future students!

With its »Was zählt!« fund, the Claussen-Simon-Stiftung has supported innovative university projects for digital teaching and learning. The Theatre Academy's application „Art in Quarantine - Research-based Learning for Theatre“ was successful. Various new event formats will be offered in the current semester under the umbrella of a „Digital Academy“: „Theatre as social practice“ is the title of an online lecture series with experts from theatre practice. As part of a series of moderated discussions, students can enter into a one-to-one exchange with representatives from the fields of directing, acting or dramaturgy. Among those invited are Antú Romero Nunes, Florentina Holzinger and Nicolas Stemann.

In an open teachers' conference, the experiences of digital teaching will be evaluated and new methods and research approaches developed for the coming semesters. An interdisciplinary exchange and sustainable format ideas are in the focus. On Friday, July 10, 2020, an online symposium will take place under the motto „Staging Quarantine“, to which students and teachers of the Theatre Academy as well as all other interested parties are warmly invited. The symposium offers a dialogue between theory and practice: in addition to contributions from theatre studies, curatorial and artistic positions on theatre in (and after) the cultural-institutional lockdown will be discussed. Students also have the opportunity to present the results of their own artistic research from the creative semester. Details of the symposium programme will be announced shortly on the homepage of the Theatre Academy.

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News from campus Altona

In the summer semester, teaching at the Institute for Culture and Media Management (KMM) continued to take place completely digitally, both in the attendance study programme and in the distance learning program, including oral examinations and written exams. The program included several digital excursions, including discussions with the Senator for Culture, Dr. Carsten Brosda, Martina Kix, the Editor-in-Chief of ZEIT Campus, Ole Reißmann, the Managing Editor of DER SPIEGEL, digital visits to Hamburg foundations and a digital future workshop at the Kompetenzzentrum Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft des Bundes



(federal competence center for the cultural and creative industries) in Berlin. The selection process for the winter semester 2020/21 has also started digitally, and the number of applications for the attendance study programme has even increased compared to previous years. The deadline for distance learning applications is July, 1.

In contrast to other areas of the university, teaching in the winter semester for all courses of study at the KMM Institute begins on October, 1. In view of the ongoing pandemic situation and the expected continued restrictions on contact and distance rules, teaching at the KMM Institute is currently being planned for various scenarios. If necessary, continuing with a fully digital semester is also included as an option.

The podcast »Wie geht's? Kultur in Zeiten des Corona-Virus« (How's it going? Culture in times of the Corona-Virus), which now includes more than 45 discussions with artists, culture and media managers and scientists, is currently being continued once a week: <https://www.wiegehts-kultur.de>. Current information on studies and teaching, including regularly updated FAQs on the effects of the corona virus on the work at the Institute KMM can be found on the Institute's website: <https://kmm.hfmt-hamburg.de>

With kind regards
Elmar Lampson

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