

#return_nr.5



Fotos: Thorsten Kollmer

Dear students, dear colleagues,

This special year demands great care and creativity from all of us. I have the impression that all areas of our university are keeping a close eye on the infection and are working intensively on solutions to achieve as much normality as possible. Nonetheless, the time that is spent on this adds to our already extensive core tasks. The combination of working from home, taking part in online meetings while taking care of family members, practicing, learning, reading, or researching are a great burden for students and teachers. I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude for their commitment in the past months.

Despite these limitations, the past months have also shown how everyday life before the Corona pandemic is being regained step by step. The Figaro performance at the end of the semester, the many streamed concerts, the pop course, and the Theodor Leschetitzky piano competition could take place despite extensive hygiene requirements. The Mendelssohn Summerschool will follow immediately, and we are already at the beginning of the winter term, which begins on 1 October. However, October is still used in many areas of the university to catch up on exams and lessons. This means that seminars and lectures at the Milchstraße - like the university - will begin on 2 November. Different regulations apply at the Institute for Culture and Media Management and at the Theatre Academy.

The summer months were used to implement the various political requirements and to discuss new scientific studies. This semester, of course, will still be clearly influenced by the pandemic, but we are in a completely different situation than in mid-March when the university had to be closed. All rooms at the university can currently be used and, based on the known user groups, can be booked until the end of the winter semester. A utilization plan in accordance with the distance regulations has been developed for all rooms. The plan includes the number of people per room, which also depends on the respective activity. Furthermore, distance markers on the floor of each room indicate the mandatory distance. A utilization plan is provided in each room, which illustrates the conditions under which the room can be used. In concrete terms, this development means that one-to-one artistic instruction as well as ar-



tistic-scientific and artistic-practical small group instruction can largely take place in classroom format. For all other teaching formats, implementation in hybrid formats, i.e. a mixture of online and face-to-face teaching, applies. Additional technical measures to reduce the risk of infection in some larger rooms without air conditioning are currently being examined. In addition, Plexiglas walls are already in use for singing and wind lessons, and their number is to be increased. An essential core of our artistic education are artistic events. These can also take place again, provided that the applicable hygiene rules are observed.

Many proven measures continue to apply. These include the mandatory use of a mouth and nose cover inside the university. There is no obligation to wear masks during lessons, individual practice or work meetings in offices or meeting rooms where a minimum distance of 1.5 metres between all participants can be maintained. It is very important to ventilate between events and during lessons. Especially during the colder season which does not necessarily invite you to open the windows. Detailed information on this is contained in the attached Corona regulations. There are disinfectant dispensers at several locations throughout the university. I ask you to make use of them.

As always, the implementation of official regulations is associated with many small-scale problems. Especially in an artistic university with its individual requirements. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the colleagues of the Events Office, the Forum, the Theatre Academy and the staff of the Institute for Culture and Media Management for having developed a site-specific hygiene concept for their locations. Special thanks also go to the staff of the building services department, who have made a very constructive contribution to the implementation of the concepts. Finally, thanks is also due to the „Return Working Group“, in which the requirements, questions and wishes of different university members were summarised and translated into reality.

Please read the attached documents carefully. If you have any questions, please contact the „Return Working Group“.

Enjoy the remaining time until the start of the semester and stay healthy.

Yours

Elmar Lampson