Dear students, dear teachers, dear staff,

The cautious opening of the university after the first lockdown enabled us to conduct most activities face to face. Now, the new nationwide lockdown presents us with new challenges. Due to our social responsibility as a public institution, we are subjected to the general rule to reduce face to face contacts to an absolute minimum. The Executive Board of the University intensively discussed how a balance between the interest and needs of our university members and our duty to care and protect them could be found.

In the light of these considerations, the presidential board of the university has decided to keep the university open, but to suspend face-to-face classes until Jan. 10, 2021.

Practice at the Milchstraße will be maintained over the holidays and during the first week after the vacations. We assume that the federal restrictions currently in effect will continue beyond Jan. 10, 2021. Since the „Hamburg SARS-CoV-2 Containment Ordinance“ will continue to provide exceptions for „artistic training sessions,“ we plan to resume face-to-face classes within much narrower limits than before, beginning on Jan. 11, 2021. Irrespective of this, teaching will begin in digital formats after the Christmas vacations on Jan. 4, 2021. Artistic lessons from this week can be compensated later in face-to-face formats.

The following regulations apply until further notice:

- Practice possibilities at Campus Milchstraße will remain open – this also includes the holidays. The opening hours for the upcoming week have been adjusted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21.12.2020</td>
<td>6 am to 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22.12.2020</td>
<td>6 am to 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23.12.2020</td>
<td>6 am to 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24.12.2020</td>
<td>6 am to 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>25.12.2020</td>
<td>8 am to 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>26.12.2020</td>
<td>8 am to 3 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• The porter’s lodge at the Hebebrandstraße gate will not be manned from Dec. 21, 2020 to Jan. 04, 2021. During this time, we ask those who need to rehearse to use the rehearsal facilities at the Milchstraße.

• For the period from Dec. 21, 2020 to Jan. 10, 2021, the facilities at the Milchstraße are accessible for individual rehearsals only. Seminars and group rehearsals are not allowed. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Executive Board of the University. Already planned individual artistic lessons can still take place in the Milchstraße until Dec. 23, 2020. However, we ask that you consider whether these lessons can also be moved to digital teaching formats.

• The Theater Academy will use the Forum for rehearsals from Jan. 4, 2021, to Jan. 10, 2021 while following all applicable hygiene and distancing rules.

• Christmas vacation will not be extended. Classes will continue in digital teaching formats from Jan. 4, 2021.

• Starting on Jan. 11, 2021, individual artistic lessons can be given again in a face-to-face format. However, classes may also be moved to a digital format without restriction and without consultation with the Executive Board of the University. In this case, we ask students and instructors to cooperate to find solutions that suit both parties.

• Artistic-theoretical lessons (Music Theory) will take place in digital teaching from Jan. 04, 2021 until further notice. We are monitoring the situation and intend to return to the face-to-face format as soon as possible if the lockdown rules are lifted or relaxed.

• Starting from Jan. 11, 2020, artistic-practical group classes/ensemble classes can be held in face-to-face format with up to five students plus instructor (e.g., chamber music, ensembles in voice, jazz, drama, choral conducting, etc.).

• Theoretical-scientific seminars and lectures will continue exclusively in digital format from Jan. 4, 2021. Already scheduled in-class or hybrid appointments for seminars and lectures will be moved to digital teaching.

• The events at the Institute KMM were already planned as digital teaching formats for the
remaining winter semester.

- The Executive Board of the University will decide upon request by and with the responsible faculty member whether certain rehearsals or classes (e.g. university orchestra, drama projects, group classes in music therapy) can be carried out.

- Examinations may be conducted in face-to-face formats when all hygiene and distancing rules are followed. Non-mandatory group events such as internal class recitals will not take place from Jan. 4, 2021 until further notice.

- As of Jan. 4, 2021, and in compliance with the applicable hygiene and distancing rules, the library will remain accessible to university members during the usual opening hours. Returns are possible at any time via the porter’s lodge.

- The respective head of the university administration and the academic service areas make direct arrangements with their employees, whether mobile work can be carried out and ensure that the respective work areas are accessible. To minimize contacts, arrangements for mobile working should be made possible.

- The Belcanto Café remains open if legal regulations and economic viability allow. However, we would like to stress that the consumption of food and beverages in the foyer and on all other circulation areas of the HfMT (hallways, stairways, foyer) is prohibited, regardless of where the food and beverages were obtained. In addition, the consumption of food and beverages from the Belcanto on site or in the traffic areas constitutes an administrative offense that may be punished by a fine! The HfMT reserves the right to report such violations to the respective authorities.

All the rules outlined here can only be maintained if all parties involved strictly adhere to the regulations. All members of the HfMT should be aware of the massive restrictions and burdens in most areas of public life and be very conscious of the fact that the exemptions granted for us place great trust in us and, at the same time, entrust us with a special responsibility. I urge you to uphold the trust placed in us.

In this spirit, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, for which all of us have many hopes.

Yours sincerely

Elmar Lampson