

#return_nr.9

Dear students, dear teachers, dear staff,

The word return in our newsletter stood and stands for the return to normality. Nine issues of the return newsletter have been published over the last 12 months. A year ago, we could not have imagined that there would only be a glimmer of normality on the horizon. However, the return to normality is currently still delayed, and we have to continue learning how to deal with this pandemic.

Review and outlook

After recovering from the initial shock of the pandemic exactly one year ago, we began tentative attempts towards achieving safe study and work possibilities. The focus was and still is the wellbeing of all members of our university! Our hygiene concepts are based on the understanding and trust of all those who shape daily life at our university. The measures serve to enable as much as possible under the given circumstances. The practicing possibilities, the artistic lessons, the individual rehearsal phases,

and our concerts are a clear indication of the correctness of the chosen path. Thus, even under difficult conditions, artistic development remains possible.

Looking at the past year, it is evident how rapidly digital teaching formats have been implemented. Sometimes the technology does not work as smoothly as we would like it to work and takes us to the limits of implementing certain content of teaching. Nevertheless, many things have proven their worth and will continue to enrich our work in the future. However, a year passed in this pandemic also means a year of new experiences such as various kinds of stress. Home office, childcare or even the feeling of being left alone are factors involved in living this pandemic through.

For artistic performance to still be possible in our university, immense work must be done in administration, as well as building and stage management. This work, which often requires physical presence, enables our teaching staff and our students to continue their artistic and academic endeavors



Foto: Christinae Körte

even if this means does not stepping into the spotlight of our online streaming options. This is, nevertheless, very vital for our university, especially in these current times. I would like to thank everyone involved!

The lockdown at the HfMT does not mean a full stop of our artistic and academic efforts. This can be seen from the fact that during the past year - in addition to many regular events during the semester - the Mendelssohn Summer School, the university competition D-bü, the Leschetizky Piano Competition or the Pop Course, among others, have taken place. A wide variety of artistic projects by students were also implemented. We have experienced highly exciting podcasts, seen streaming performances, heard CD debuts.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming many new colleagues who came to the university in a situation in which this institution, otherwise bursting with energy, could only be experienced from a distance. Encounters and initial acquaintance had to take place via zoom calls. Work has been going on at our two construction sites despite the Corona pandemic. The summer semester is starting for the Theatre Academy and the Institute for Culture and Media Management at the new Wiesendamm Campus. Construction work on the JazzHall at the Außenalster campus has also progressed. Test operations will begin in a few weeks. The JazzLabor, the future central location for jazz education, is also nearing completion.



The JazzLab in March 2021

In the upcoming summer semester, two dean offices will also have new leadership. Prof. Georg Hajdu will hand over the leadership of Dekanat IV to Prof. Cornelia Monske and will continue to serve as Associate Dean. Long-time Vice President and dean Prof. Dr. Michael von Troschke is retiring and handing over the leadership of Dekanat III to Prof. Dr. Nina Noeske. She will be supported by Prof. Dr. Hans Bäßler and Prof. Dr. Jonas Dietrich who both will take over the role as Vice-Dean. As of the summer semester, the office of Vice President for Studies and Teaching will be held entirely by Prof. Dr. Jan Philipp Sprick. The University Senate was also newly elected. I congratulate the new Dekanathheads and the new senate members on their election, and I look forward to continuing to develop the university together with you.

The summer semester will begin the same as the old one ended. In regard to hygiene regulations, the "5+1 rule" for artistic classes will remain in place. Theoretical/scientific group classes and seminars will continue to be held in online or hybrid format and there will be no public events. Wearing a medical mask is mandatory inside the building. Spacing and regular air circulation remain important regulations to prevent the virus from spreading. All binding regulations are constantly adapted to the pandemic situation and published on our website. In order to be able to maintain the comparatively extensive possibilities of presence - also in comparison with other music and theatre colleges - we depend on all of you strictly adhering to the regulations.



Foto: Sabina Dhein

Die Theaterakademie im März 2021

Unfortunately, it happens again and again that individuals do not adhere to the rules and do not even react to the requests of the front door secretaries or the facility managers to follow the rules. This behavior is unacceptable and endangers all efforts to achieve successful building launches, which are also based on a large leap of faith. In this context, it has recently even become necessary for the police to be informed by the front door secretaries in order to resolve unacceptable gatherings on the terrace in front of the foyer. To continue, there have been regular complaints from residents living close to the university, who essentially could also make use of a possible intervention by the police. The university is a public place. At the Alster park situated directly in front of the university, masks are compulsory at certain times, even outside. We must therefore not only ensure the health protection of our students and employees, but also be aware - especially as an educational and cultural institution - of our exemplary character and the privileges we have compared to many institutions that are currently completely closed.

In order to ensure additional security in the future, rapid tests will be available. Community testing centers already offer the opportunity to have a free test once a week. In addition, a rapid test is supposed to be made available once a week to students and teachers via the university. Currently, reliable planning has been hampered by unclear delivery dates so we cannot yet predict when we will be able to begin this process. We will keep you informed about the status by mail and our website. It is the hope of all of us that vaccinations will be another step towards containing the pandemic. As a university, we have no influence on the vaccination sequence and, accordingly, we cannot make vaccination commitments or appointments for members of the university.

Due to Senate mandated curfew restrictions, we will be closing the college at 8:00 p.m. on both campuses beginning April 06.

Digital courses, meetings, etc. can still be held via Zoom in the summer semester. With the new campus license, all staff, faculty, and students now have a licensed account. This eliminates the time limit and allows all functions such as breakout sessions, voting, etc. In addition, five rooms will be equipped with the Zoom Rooms feature to expand opportunities for hybrid instruction. We used the webinar feature for two events during the winter semester and received very good feedback. As a result, this feature is available for larger university events and conferences. You will be informed separately about the registration procedure. If you have any questions, the eLearning team can advise you at: digitalelehre@hfmt-hamburg.de.



March 2019 ... how the time flies.

I would also like to use this opportunity to draw your attention to the services offered by the [Music and Health Office](#). It also offers individual counselling (eva.bleckwedel@hfmt-hamburg.de). Do not be afraid to take advantage of these offers, seek the conversation!

If you have financial problems, please contact the President's Office. There the contact person is Maria Pallasch (office address: praesident@hfmt-hamburg.de). We are able to provide support for financial emergencies during the summer semester through the Emergency Assistance Fund. Please check the HfMT website for current funding opportunities.

We all hope to return to normality soon. One thing is certain, the new normal will be different than before the pandemic. However, it will also open many new opportunities and perspectives for us, and it is up to us to seize them, to question them artistically, and to shape them.
I wish you a good start into the new semester.

Yours truly,

Elmar Lampson