

Health and Safety Policy: Canterbury Philharmonia orchestra

Date: 22nd September 2023

Identification of potential risks:

1. Sound: issues around sound exposure, proximity to loud instruments for some players
2. Injuries through lifting/moving instruments e.g percussion: drums etc: weight, awkward lifting, tripping over equipment.
3. Individual player injuries e.g stands, snapped strings, slip on wet floor (from instrument condensation, reed jars etc)
4. Fire/Earthquake risks at location: access/egress; plan in case of evacuation: issues when venues are too small and the orchestra fits tightly on the stage.
5. The Piano: safety of access to venue, lack of guard rail, issues re carrying heavy instruments upstairs.

Mitigation of risk

1. We comply with any Health and Safety Policy of the venues that we use. The Policy of the rehearsal venue and principal concert venue has been made available to all players, through a link on our website.
2. Sound: Identify sound/decibel levels (both peak and cumulative exposure) for different players/sections; ensure distance to reduce exposure, ensure access to sound shields.
3. Carrying heavy instruments/equipment: we recommend people carry what they are capable of and seek assistance when required e.g. in carrying Timpani.
4. Remind players to keep belongings close and check for trip hazards. This reminder to take place once a term/once a year?
4. Encourage individual safety responsibility. Have First Aid kit for small emergencies e.g. cuts. Appoint someone to bring this to the concert venue if required, or locate its presence at any venues we use.
5. At The Piano, ensure access to the backstage facilities through ground level doors which need to be open when the orchestra arrive and leave. Check who is responsible for closing the doors prior to the concert and appoint someone if necessary.
5. Outline earthquake/fire evacuation plan to the orchestra at beginning of the yearly rehearsals and inform any new players subsequently. Outline plan to the orchestra in any new venue. Ensure stage is not crowded and everyone can leave quickly in case of emergencies.