



CoMA and the lockdown

Our position

Our priority, apart from promoting ideas to help us maintain some musical activities and keep in touch with each other, is to support the music directors of our ensembles and all the other musicians whose work benefits CoMA. Specifically, we propose that

Ensembles

- Established CoMA ensembles with a paid music director should aim to continue paying their Music Director. This can be achieved by those members who can afford to do so continuing to pay their ensemble subscriptions.
- Ensembles, if not already doing so, to consider adopting a standing order approach to help support their music directors, an approach that will also serve as a means of stabilising their finances and membership in future.

Members and Friends schemes

Payments to the Ensemble Membership, Friends and Commissioning schemes are CoMA's only consistent source of income and together with the associated Gift Aid, enable CoMA to continue to exist by

- Meeting the requirements of charitable and company status, accountancy, and the Making Music membership and insurance that cover the activities of all UK ensembles
- Maintaining the website, which through its music sales helps to support and promote CoMA's unique music library services
- Ensuring we can continue to commission works for our Open Score programme

Importantly, since November 2019 when we ceased having an office at Rich Mix, we transformed a monthly deficit of several hundreds of pounds into a modest monthly surplus that to date has been put towards CoMA's commissioning scheme.

Central team

CoMA is a key player in promoting participation in contemporary music in the UK and beyond. Central to this is the role of the CoMA ensembles, which as a network performing our ever emerging and evolving repertoire, is in a position to do more than most in promoting and supporting composers through repeated performances of their work.

CoMA Central will do everything it can to help to support ensembles in these efforts and help them to maintain contact with their members. Indeed, with the right kinds of initiatives it may even be possible to continue to build CoMA's membership.

We will devise, organise, promote and, where feasible, fund or jointly fund schemes that provide some income, however modest, to freelance artists, tutors and composers who have supported and worked so generously for CoMA over the past years.

We can also serve as a clearing-house for ideas, promoting and facilitating successful schemes to ensemble members, friends and followers. Similarly we can also promote initiatives that look likely to be successful and help monitor their success.

Note that we have changed our postal address to that of the Registered Office, 13 Wellington Way, London E3 4NE

Website

To bring all this together, over the coming weeks we will be establishing and developing a 'lockdown' section on the CoMA website www.coma.org/lockdown

This section will serve as a resource, a place where you will be able to access activities that have proved successful. They will include composing and performance-based opportunities, and services offered by our artists such as individual tuition, group yoga and meditation classes geared to musicians and platforms for help with practise or specific techniques.

CoMA Update

For the foreseeable future, and as long as new ideas emerge, we will be sending out a CoMA Update as frequently as weekly to all our ensemble members, friends and supporters.

Chris Shurety MBE
Director

1 April 2020