

COVID-opportunity

[Anthony Pursell](#)

Director of Bands, University of Central Missouri Bands

I. Ensemble concerns related to COVID

- A. Misconceptions
 - 1. Playing in band is dangerous
- B. Educating the public
 - 1. [International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#)
 - 2. [PDF of Powerpoint slides from the study](#)
- C. Value of ensemble participation
 - 1. Opportunity to shed light on what we really do for students
 - 2. Band is simply the vehicle

II. Safety in the ensemble environment

- A. What you can do to make your classroom safe
 - 1. [Construct a conducting podium shield \(about \\$50\)](#)
 - 2. Plexiglass can alter the airflow that the HVAC is depending on, so limiting its use to the conductor (with other precautions in place, is essential)
- B. What you can ask your students/parents to do to prepare for their band experience
 - 1. [UCM Marching Band precautions](#)
- C. What you can ask your administration to do to help you prepare for the school year
 - 1. HVAC system with an advanced filter
 - 2. HVAC system creates substantial airflow during your rehearsals
 - 3. Limit indoor rehearsals to 30 minutes

III. The opportunity

- A. Budget- & Resource-related deficiencies now erased
 - 1. Accessibility to private lessons via online meeting software
 - 2. Affordability and/or accessibility to special teaching
 - a) Color Guard instruction (demonstration)