**Recap of NATS Study as presented by Kathleen Hansen, Master Director, San Diego Chorus**

I know that it's easy to get overwhelmed by all of the information that is coming out about the safety of singing together, and it's hard to find time to click through and read everything on your own. Here is my attempt at pulling together the top ideas and top links so that you don't have to!

Many organizations helped to fund the University of Colorado (Boulder) et al study (including GALA Choruses, BHS and SAI, all of which I am a part). I have been attending the briefings and asking questions on behalf of GALA choruses, so I'll pass this along to all of my musical friends here as well. Please remember that everything presented here is preliminary. The study group has not yet gone through the peer review process, but they wanted to get the information out ASAP, so they are releasing it for us to consider.

**The key takeaways are as follows:**

\***There is no such thing as "no risk" when gathering**, but many things can be done to lower risk of COVID transmission

\***The more airflow, the better:** Singing outside is safer than singing inside. Singing in an open-sided tent is safer than singing inside. Singing in an enclosed tent with little airflow is very dangerous. Singing in a room with terrible airflow and an old HVAC system is very risky. Singing in a room with good airflow and appropriate HEPA-filters is an improvement.

\***Time matters:** All of the models show increased risk after 30 mins or so - both indoors AND outdoors

\***Air exchange matters:** In between singing/playing sessions, rooms should be emptied out and allowed to exchange air 1 - 3 times before re-entering, suggested time for air to exchange safely is approximately 30 minutes.

\* **Masks matter:** Wearing masks is advised. For everyone. They type of mask matters greatly, and the fit of the mask matters greatly. Wearing it at all times when gathering matters greatly. They said that a well-fitting mask should leave a mask-line on your face when it is removed!

\***Distance matters:** whether indoors or out, even WITH a mask, a minimum of a six-foot distance between people is recommended for music-making (9 for trombone players =) )

If you'd like to see the latest FULL PRESENTATION of findings, (75 mins), it can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8JgK-vA8Qc&feature=youtu.be> The graphics in the video are very helpful to understanding the findings.

The link to the study page is here: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>

They update it frequently. There are many links to follow from that page.

Additional important links for you and your organizations to explore can be found here:

Georgia Tech Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu/

Know Your Own Tolerance for Risk

<https://testyourself.psychtests.com/testid/2122>

CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aec979d3e2d09db8bcad475/t/5eb86f694a67d30048528163/1589145456606/2020-05-11+Event+Safety+Alliance+Reopening+Guide.pdf>

University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music COVID Research

<https://moversmakers.org/2020/08/04/uc-ccm-covid-research-how-bad-is-the-news-for-voices-and-winds/?fbclid=IwAR3_pd8YTm1arfYn4bkjG-uEQYmb_sMIvKJHBeF9z648P-sa6v79vUuAw8Y>

Western ACDA Division paper

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vap-Xo3lKR2DWfHYcHAIPvlMgASpMhTK>

ACDA COVID-19 Resources

<https://acda.org/resources-for-choral-professionals-during-a-pandemic/>

Chorus America COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.chorusamerica.org/resource/top-resource/choruses-covid-19-coronavirus>

Barbershop Harmony Society COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.barbershop.org/landing-pages/covid-19-resources-for-barbershoppers>

NATS COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.nats.org/cgi/page.cgi/_article.html/Featured_Stories_/NATS_COVID_Resources_Page>

Finally, here is a graphic to help us remember: Masks, distance, timing, materials, airflow, and of course, hygiene followed by a couple of key screen shots of the slide presentation.





