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LONG CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS PROTOCOLS FOR INDOOR EVENTS

Negative COVID-19 test result OR voluntary proof of COVID-19 vaccination now required to attend all indoor events

AUSTIN, TEXAS – SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 – **The Long Center for the Performing Arts**, in partnership with **Ballet Austin**, **Austin Opera**, and **Austin Symphony Orchestra**, today announces updated health and wellness protocols while Austin is in Stage 5. Effective immediately, these new protocols will be required to attend all **INDOOR events**:

A printed copy of a **negative COVID-19 test result obtained within 72 hours** (3 days) of the event for all patrons aged 12 and older. In lieu of a negative test, a patron can voluntarily provide printed proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, with final vaccine dated at least 14 days prior to the event. Printed negative test results or proof of vaccination must be dated with your full name matching your ID. Masks must be worn at all times except while actively eating or drinking.

For Long Center socially distanced **OUTDOOR events on the H-E-B Terrace**, a negative COVID-19 test result is not required. For larger **OUTDOOR events that utilize the Long Center's lawn**, additional public health & safety measures may be implemented, including negative COVID-19 tests. Masks must be worn at all times except while actively eating or drinking.

This policy is in accordance with local public health recommendations and will be in place while Austin is in Stage 5. Ticket holders will be notified of any updates to this policy as the health environment changes, including in Know Before You Go emails and at TheLongCenter.org, BalletAustin.org, AustinOpera.org, and AustinSymphony.org.

After a turbulent year for the Austin community and beyond, these four organizations remain steadfast in their support for all of Austin's arts institutions, live event venues, and those who contribute to and support the thriving cultural sector that has put Austin on the map. These new health & wellness protocols for the Long Center campus, in partnership with the venue's Founding Resident Companies ensure that live events continue to take place safely and securely.

"The Long Center eagerly joins together with Ballet Austin, Austin Opera, and Austin Symphony Orchestra in making the safety of our patrons, artists, staff, and community our highest priority," says Long Center President & CEO, Cory Baker. "These steps will allow our organizations to continue our mission-driven work and ensure Austin can continue to safely experience the arts when they need it most."

For more information including FAQs, please visit the websites below:

Long Center
TheLongCenter.org

Ballet Austin
BalletAustin.org

Austin Opera
AustinOpera.org

Austin Symphony Orchestra
AustinSymphony.org

ABOUT THE LONG CENTER

Uniquely located facing the city skyline, the Long Center is an iconic cultural hub and community gathering place, a reflection of the eclectic and creative soul of Austin. By serving and uplifting the artistic community while being a catalyst for innovative experiences and creative discovery, we're proud to bring what Austin is to communities near and far every day, on virtual stages and actual ones, through connections and community. Built in 2008 and with a local history that spans many more generations, we are dedicated to elevating Austin's creative sector.

ABOUT BALLET AUSTIN

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the creation of original artworks, classical ballet instruction, and life-long health and wellness through dance and fitness. With a rich history spanning six decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs, and a large, classical ballet academy, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their home at the Butler Dance Education Center in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin's Sarah & Ernest Butler Family Fund artistic director, actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. The New York *Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing." For additional information on Ballet Austin and to purchase tickets and classes, visit balletaustin.org.

ABOUT AUSTIN OPERA

Serving Central Texas since 1986, Austin Opera inspires audiences with its trademark blend of innovation and artistic excellence. With the leadership of General Director & CEO Annie Burridge and the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor Timothy Myers, Austin Opera presents a curated season of grand opera productions at the Long Center, the crown jewel of Austin performing arts venues. Combining the finest American and international stars with the outstanding local talent of our Orchestra and Chorus, Austin Opera's productions include accessible takes on classic operas as well as challenging new works that reinforce the continuing relevance of opera.

Opera ATX, powered by Austin Opera, brings groundbreaking new works, emerging artists, exciting composers, and dynamic directors to Austin. By tapping into our city's live music DNA, Opera ATX reflects the spirit of the city and the pioneering image it is known for. We create the conditions for operatic experiences completely new to Austin—and perhaps completely new to the art form—by exploring alternative venues and unique local partnerships. Driven by Austin Opera's love of opera, love of audiences, and love of Austin, Opera ATX shows how Austin is shaping its opera company and inspiring innovative experiences.

Austin Opera is also a force in hundreds of classrooms across Central Texas, nurturing the next generation of opera audiences through its award-winning education programs. We work directly with educators, community leaders, students, and parents to make opera relevant, educational, and entertaining for students of all ages.

In 2020, Austin Opera was voted “Opera Company of the Year”—and Timothy Myers was named “Conductor of the Year”—in the [BroadwayWorld Opera Awards](#).

To learn more about Austin Opera, visit austinopera.org or follow along on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) at @austinopera.

ABOUT AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1911, the Austin Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is Austin's oldest performing arts group. The ASO offers a complete season of musical and educational programming. The Masterworks Series includes eight concert pairs running monthly September through May in the state-of-the-art Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts. The ASO season also features the Sarah & Ernest Butler Pops Series: October & February Pops at the Long Center and December & June Pops at Palmer Events Center. Programming for the entire family includes the Halloween Children's Concert, as well as the popular James C. Armstrong Youth Education Programs, which include Children's Day Art Park, Young People's Concerts, High School Concert Tour and a variety of other school programs. Community concerts include the H-E-B Austin Symphony July 4th Concert & Fireworks and the Hartman Foundation Concerts in the Park which are free to everyone.