



HOCHSCHULE  
FÜR MUSIK  
HANNS EISLER  
BERLIN

31 March 2020

## Corona Bulletin No. 12 / Dialogue with Politics

Dear Members of our School Community,

The School's directorate continues its intensive dialogue with Berlin's government, and also our cooperative discussions with the other arts academies, in order to find the best solution for the summer semester for all of you.

This afternoon, we had a 90-minute conversation with Undersecretary of State Steffen Krach. It was his wish to have the rectors of the arts academies personally describe to him the situation they find themselves in with regard to the upcoming so-called "digital" semester, so that he can take this into account when making political decisions.

Both UdK and HfM pointed out with particular emphasis what the current loss of individual lessons, correpitition, chamber music, orchestral practice and - an especially sensitive issue - the lack of practice space for you, dear students and our entire community, means.

The arts academies have suggested a "Lex corona": a creative semester that is not counted towards the prescribed number of semesters to complete a course ("Regelstudienzeit"), yet which, in this exceptional situation, may offer impulses for the students, but should take place without the pressure of having to accrue ECTS points or examinations. However, it should give all those who wish to take their exams, finish their degree or need to document their progress (e.g. for scholarships) an opportunity to accumulate the credits they need via digital tuition offerings. On this issue, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, which is putting so much effort into developing digital formats which will also serve us well in the future.

We have received a number of requests for semesters of leave. However, we would like to invite you expressly to view this summer semester as an opportunity to remain engaged with the Hanns Eisler community. And we will not give up hope that our buildings will be opened in the foreseeable future. As soon as even the slightest loosening of the current lockdown happens, we want to open the practice facilities at the Marstall building for you, with a special system of time slots for controlled access. We made this very clear to the authorities. We explained to the Undersecretary of State that like top athletes, you need to stay in shape.

Our suggestion of a "Lex corona" met with great understanding and goodwill from the Undersecretary of State, and on Friday it will be discussed with all the Berlin universities and academies and a decision will be made. We will report back to you as soon as we can.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Wedl-Wilson  
Rector