

No. 13 / Beginning of the 2020 Summer Semester

Dear Members of the Hanns Eisler School Community,

We are in the midst of the last week of preparation at the School before the summer semester gets off to a belated start on Monday, April 20. It will be an extraordinary semester!

First of all, we would like to remind you of the parameters listed in the Berlin Senate's paper dated April 3:

- The summer semester does not count toward the prescribed number of semesters to complete a course ("Regelstudienzeit") – just as public life has come to a standstill, so has your course: if you cannot attend all the lessons and courses and take exams as planned, this will not affect your *Regelstudienzeit* adversely. You will have an additional semester to catch up on instruction you have missed and exams you were unable to take.
- However, students will have the opportunity to take exams offered and receive credits, depending on the circumstances of each individual case.
- All instruction will exclusively take place online until further notice (for remarks on the registration process, please see our email of April 14). A date when in-person instruction will resume has not been set. Negotiations are underway at the federal level and the Berlin Senate will implement any easements that may occur during the course of this semester in Berlin. We are in close contact with the Senate Chancellery on this subject.

We know that the restrictions on your personal practice time are extremely hard for you to bear. At the moment, the academy buildings are still closed until further notice, by order of the Berlin Senate. However, we are internally preparing for the following scenario: as soon as the restrictions are eased and we receive permission, we want to be able to allow individual persons access to the practice wing of the Marstall building, according to a special schedule. We have joined the UdK in discussing this issue with the Berlin Senate, trying to achieve an improvement over the current situation.

We would like to offer the following information to our assistant lecturers: we are also in intense negotiations with the government on your behalf, trying to secure reliable answers regarding your fees in the summer semester. Our goal is to have your contractually specified number of hours remunerated (not only those actually taught) – we will keep you informed on this issue.

These are critical times for the music profession, and the waves of solidarity for freelance artists as well as the innumerable creative offerings that enrich these days, cannot cover up the insecurities we are faced with. As an institution, we want to stand together in solidarity. When these coronavirus times are over, we will be able to make use of opportunities we did not have before. Positive thinking has never been more important!

In this spirit, I send you my very best regards, joined by my colleagues in the directorate.

Sarah Wedl-Wilson
Rector