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CINCINNATI BALLET, CINCINNATI OPERA, CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CINCINNATI POPS, AND MAY FESTIVAL TO ADJUST COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIENCES AMID DECLINING CASES

CINCINNATI – The Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops, and May Festival announced today that they will adjust their COVID-19 protocols for audiences as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to decline across the region. **Effective on March 14, 2022**, audience members will no longer be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test certification to attend performances, and the wearing of masks in Music Hall will be optional.

This announcement comes after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) publication of its <u>latest guidance on COVID-19</u>, which is based on hospitalization data and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Hamilton County, Ohio is currently categorized by the CDC in the "Low" COVID-19 community level.

The leaders of all four organizations—**Scott Altman**, President and CEO of the Cincinnati Ballet; **Christopher Milligan**, The Harry Fath General Director & CEO of Cincinnati Opera; **Jonathan Martin**, President and CEO of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops; and **Steven Sunderman**, Executive Director of the May Festival—joined together in support of the new plan:

"Regional COVID-19 data, the advice of our partners, the experts at TriHealth, as well as public health and government officials have informed our COVID-19 protocols from the very beginning, and we continue to be guided by the same data to inform our adjustments. As we approach the second anniversary of the onset of the pandemic, we've reached a new inflection point in the regional data which allows us to adjust COVID-19 protocols for audiences at Music Hall. We collectively share our gratitude to our arts and venue partners and ArtsWave for their collaborative efforts in ensuring effective and consistent protocols and to our audiences for their unwavering support and cooperation through the years."

Complete COVID-19 details can be found on the organizations' websites. Each organization is also communicating updated protocols directly with patrons and ticket holders by email.

The organizations included are listed, along with links to their COVID-19 protocol pages: <u>Cincinnati</u> Ballet, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops, and May Festival.

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