

Elaine Klimasko—The Effect of Covid 19 on the Music Industry

How has Covid-19 affected the music industry?

Elaine Klimasko — It's been devastating for the music industry. I was just speaking with a colleague on the phone before our interview started, and she was talking to a close friend who's a cellist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York, which has been shut down. I mean, that's one of the great orchestras of the world, and they were paid a wonderful salary, but their life is very difficult. I mean, sometimes you can imagine doing four four or five hour offers in a row—you know, you get home, and you don't unwind until 3am. And they just lost their salary, they lost everything. I mean, some of them just had to move back to their parent's homes in different states and everything, it's just been devastating. And here locally in Ottawa, I mean, we have, you know, fine musicians in the National Arts and Orchestra, but we also have very fine musicians who aren't part of the orchestra, but come in or sub with us sometimes, you know, we're on a regular basis with many of them. And they're fantastic musicians, you know, from all sections of the orchestra, and I mean, they have nothing now. They're just—I don't know how they're managing, it's really devastating. I mean, it's devastating not to be able to pay your rent, but it's also devastating for your soul not to be able to make music and do the thing you love to do the most. So, I just—my heart just goes out to them. I just don't know how they're managing.