

MEMO

To:	Oakland Symphony musicians
From:	Maya Rath
CC:	Michael Morgan, Steven Payne, Craig McAmis
Date:	9/21/2016
Subject:	Rehearsal venues

Comment:

Several of us have been working over the summer to find alternative spaces for our rehearsals this year.

We had space in Montclair at the Bay Area Children's Theater confirmed but they let us know late Friday afternoon that they have just received noise complaints from the neighbors and that we would have to end rehearsals by 9:30 pm.

The other space we viewed is at **2101 Broadway**. It is literally across 21st Street from the Paramount Theatre - same side of the street as the Paramount.

It is a vacant building, formerly used as a bank and Lane Properties is generously willing to let us use the space for free. (Lane Properties is the same company developing the new Uber headquarters on the corner of 20th and Broadway. They are a big deal and it's great to develop a relationship with them.)

So the October 10 and October 12 rehearsals will be held at this venue. The space is a slightly odd shape so we probably will not be able to have the orchestra in exactly the same configuration as you are used to on the Paramount stage. We are also not sure what an orchestra will sound like in the space.

There are plenty of rooms in the building in which we can store percussion equipment overnight. Parking will most likely be on the street. The Paramount Garage normally closes at 7 pm. I can certainly ask about them keeping it open later but the price of parking there has gone up considerably and the Symphony can only over musician parking for Thursday and Friday.

I do want to acknowledge the Oakland Metro Operahouse for letting us use their venue last year.

They had good hearts and good intentions but had never worked with an orchestra before. I know they are very disheartened that we will not be having all our rehearsals there. We may have to rehearse there for the March set given it's full orchestra and chorus.

Thank you for your patience while we continue to figure out good rehearsal spaces for the orchestra. We have had an exhaustive search throughout Oakland and beyond, but the unfortunate reality is that, until the Calvin Simmons Theatre and the other ballroom spaces within the Kaiser Convention Center come back online, we will not find the perfect venue.

Special thanks to Amy Likar, Sergi Goldman-Hull and Michael Morgan for looking at the venues and providing their feedback. It was very helpful to have musician input into this process.