

Coronavirus shuts down major music events

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With Summer approaching fast, the season of large gatherings approaches too. But after COVID-19 hit the nation, many of these activities have been canceled.

To start, the pushing back of *Coachella* festival dates was a huge upset. Instead of its typical summer showcase, it will now take place during October. Other crowd attractions have also been postponed for the sake of "flattening the curve" of the spread of the virus.

"I had planned to attend *Bonnaroo* from June 13-16 in Manchester, Tennessee. *Bonnaroo* has not been canceled, but rather pushed back to dates in September," said senior Emily Butrum.

Many musicians have called off and

postponed tour dates in hopes that the virus will have since dissipated by the time they go on tour. Many artists have even postponed tours until 2021.

"I believe it is absolutely for the best though. Having large groups of people with no space between them is a great way to spread the virus," said Butrum.

Drum Corps International [DCI] also released a statement saying they were to cancel the 2020 season altogether. For those who have reached their last year, they have been given the opportunity to perform during the next season instead of having to "age out" at 23 years-old.

"I was not shocked when I heard about the cancellation of DCI 2020 due to COVID-19. After the cancellation of WGI [Winter Guard Internationals]

"I wasn't surprised that the ISSMA contests were canceled, but it was saddening to think that I would never play in band again."

Stephanie Combs
senior

Finals it was only a matter of time before DCI pulled the cord," said *Cadets* field commander and FC class of

2019 alumna Molly Sobieski.

Another cancellation affected those who are a part of their school's performing arts program. ISSMA District and State level contests for all participating schools have been canceled for the safety of the performers.

"I wasn't surprised that the ISSMA contests were canceled, but it was saddening to think that I would never play in band again," said senior Stephanie Combs.

A cancellation that occurred in the middle of the performances was the cancellation of FC's Theatre Arts showcase of "Gypsy." The show was able to run its opening weekend, but was unable to

continue to finish the closing shows.

"Most people in the crew knew the show was on thin ice for whether or not it would run [both weeks]. [Director Robbie] Steiner sent out an email regarding the cancellation of the show and my heart just sank. The show that everyone worked so hard for won't even see the second week," said sophomore Ryan Gude.

With so many important dates being canceled and postponed, there have been many concerns from people who were not worried about the severity of the coronavirus at first.

"The coronavirus didn't feel real to me until the school year was canceled, *Bonnaroo* was pushed back, and graduation was in jeopardy," said Butrum. "These events relate heavily to young audiences and allow us to not be desensitized to the virus."



Scarlett Hatton/The Bagpiper