

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT (17 March 2020)

*Re: Coronavirus and Sacred Music Symposium 2020*

(1) We do not anticipate anything interfering with this year's Sacred Music Symposium 2020.

(2) Only if something happens which we cannot control—**such as an Earthquake, Terror Attack, Tsunami, or Public Health Crisis**—would we cancel the Symposium. *Those are possible, but not probable.*

(3) Tragedy is always possible. (“Possible” does not mean “probable.”) —**FOR THIS REASON**, we strongly urge every participant to purchase “refund insurance” on plane tickets, in case something unforeseen happens. *We strongly urge you to do this.*

(4) The following information is for your consideration:

(a) Let us thank God for living in the United States—because the suffering that happens to men, women, and children in third world countries (on a daily basis) is far beyond what we Americans can comprehend. We have so many blessings, living in the United States of America.

(b) Our committee takes the spread of disease—**all disease**—very seriously because several of our committee leaders suffer from health conditions. That being said, **perspective and truth** are always important, in spite of what the American media says. For instance, three times (3x) as many people have died from taking “selfies” as the amount of Americans who have died from Coronavirus—yet nobody speaks of shutting down the economy because of “selfies.” Furthermore, the current number of Americans who have contracted Coronavirus is .00001% of the population. At the same, prudence demands vigilance—there is so much we don't yet know about Coronavirus.

(c) We do not believe the Symposium will be affected by a Terror Attack, a Tsunami, an Earthquake, or a Public Health Crisis such as Coronavirus. Any of these is possible, of course, and if they do occur we will take appropriate action—but never based on speculation or “guesses” by people on television who are paid to provoke the public with sensationalist claims.

(d) We do not minimize the danger from disease—not now, not ever. However, God has given us the gift of reason, and a sensible human being considers the **CONSEQUENCES** of shutting down the entire economy. We believe it is foolish to pretend (as some do) there won't be serious ramifications. *May God watch over us and protect us.*