

Cancellation of *The Final FrontOrchesis* due to COVID-19  
(March 2020)

Dear Orchesis Community,

By now it's likely you've heard of Columbia University's decision to conduct the rest of the semester remotely. In addition to classes being moved online, the administration has cancelled all events (including rehearsals and shows).

We recognize how difficult the past few weeks have been and join the entire campus community in feeling the upsetting reality that all of the special events we have dedicated ourselves to and looked forward to will no longer be able to take place this semester.

It is with heavy hearts that we confirm the cancellation of our Spring 2020 show, *The Final FrontOrchesis*. We have so much love for this show, this group, and all of you that it saddens us greatly to have to write this message. As sad as we are, we hope that at the very least, definitive information helps to alleviate some of the anxiety and uncertainty of the past few days.

As an E-Board, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of effort you have poured into this organization as dancers and to express the insurmountable gratitude we have for all of you. In the weeks ahead, we will be in communication with you about how we plan to celebrate all the hard work that has gone into *The Final FrontOrchesis*. We will share opportunities for all of you to participate in that celebration at that time.

*To those of you who were performing with us for the first time:*

Thank you for including Orchesis as a part of your Columbia-Barnard experience. We are so grateful for your energy and enthusiasm for your pieces and this show. We always loved seeing your bright, smiling faces at WIPs and rehearsals, no matter how early or late. Seeing you all find and grow your love of dance through Orchesis is part of what makes this organization so special, and we truly hope to see you onstage with us in the fall.

*To our board:*

As an E-Board we feel so lucky to have worked on this show with such a dedicated, incredible group of people. Your hard work designing show promo, ordering bagels for WIPs, booking rehearsal space, ordering and inventorying costumes, and keeping us organized within ourselves and the Columbia arts world has not gone unnoticed. We can't wait to put on a fabulous show with you in the fall.

*To our choreographers:*

You make Orchesis what it is on a daily and weekly basis. Thank you for sharing your passion, hard work, and dance moves with us all. It breaks our heart that your pieces won't be able to

grace the Roone stage this semester. You each have inspired us all to be more inclusive, loving, and creative people. Throughout this semester, we have felt honored to have the opportunity to produce a show filled with your works and are so deeply saddened that we won't be able to see that show through. Please keep creating - we love you all so much.

*To our seniors:*

This is by far the most difficult for us as an E-Board to come to terms with. We are so saddened to not be able to see you take the Roone stage one last time. We feel so unbelievably grateful for every ounce of love and energy that you have given to this organization. Thank you for being the leaders that have taught us what Orchesis is. You have built a legacy of inclusive, community-oriented dance and a culture of unconditional love and support that we will continue to work to uphold everyday. As heartbreaking as it is to say goodbye to many of you in this way, we promise to honor the incredible devotion you have all shown to this organization. We are so sorry, and we love you. Know that Orchesis remains a home for you long after you graduate.

While this is truly disappointing for us all, this is not the end of Orchesis in the slightest. We hope to see you back for auditions next fall or in the audience at our show in December.

We understand how stressful and confusing this transition may be for everyone and encourage you to lean on each other and remember that Orchesis is at its core a family and a support system. We invite you to reach out to us as well as your other campus resources with any questions, concerns, thoughts, and needs.

With Endless Orchy Love,  
Sanjana Marcé, Zoe Novello, and Lauren Ogden  
*Orchesis E-Board 2020*

[The Final FrontOrchesis on Spotify](#)