

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COLLABORATIVE PIANO GUIDELINES

2023 – 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

INTRODUCTION

Collaborative experiences are an essential component of a music education and professional activities as a musician. As such, the development of these skills during the formative years as a performer and interpreter is a crucially important aspect of your studies. These experiences range from rehearsals and performances in large ensembles and chamber music settings, working with composers in commissioning and premiering new compositions, and collaborating with sound engineers to get that perfect run-through recorded with a great tone.

Pianists are often essential in all of these settings and the SFA School of Music is committed to providing collaborative pianists and fostering musical development for those pursuing a major in music. As such, the School of Music is providing these policies and procedures to best facilitate all musicians in their aspirations to create rewarding collaborative experiences.

The Director of Collaborative Piano in the SFA School of Music is:

Dr. Ronald Petti rpetti@sfasu.edu 936.468.1191

The collaborative piano staff in the SFA School of Music are:

Dr. Thomas Nixon nixont1@sfasu.edu 936.468.1763
Margaret Hinchliffe Margaret.Hinchliffe@sfasu.edu 936.468.6036

In addition to the above personnel, other collaborative pianists in the SFA School of Music include: two collaborative piano graduate assistants, students on piano scholarship, and students enrolled in MUEN 1138/3138/5138 Accompanying Class. The collaborative assignments and contact information of these persons will be determined and shared with the appropriate faculty and students.

COLLABORATIVE PIANO WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

For the purposes of this policy as it relates to collaborative piano work with School of Music students, the expected workloads of **staff collaborative pianists** are comprised of School of Music supported events, with primary responsibilities being those defined by the needs of the curricula. As such, these services are provided free of charge to students. These events include:

- Degree recitals* and upper-level juries
- Weekly seminar performances for vocalists
- Studio class or studio recital performances
- Convocation performances
- Large ensemble rehearsals and performances
- Cole/Anderson competitions

Duties of the **graduate assistants in collaborative piano** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Large ensemble performances (workload credit may not be received for courses in which students are enrolled for curricular requirements)
- Weekly seminar performances for vocalists
- Convocation performances
- Studio class or studio recital performances
- Degree recitals and upper-level juries
- Cole/Anderson competitions

The collaborative responsibilities of piano scholarship recipients and those enrolled in MUEN 1138/3138/5138 Accompanying Class are similar to those defined above and are determined by the Director of Collaborative Piano in coordination with the piano faculty and staff on a semester-by-semester basis.

Students who wish to engage an external pianist for their collaboration are free to do so, but then must arrange and agree to the necessary fees associated with those services.

* Degree recital repertoire responsibilities are defined in the student handbooks. 25 minutes of repertoire for BME recitals; 45 minutes of repertoire for BMP/MMP recitals. Repertoire requests beyond those amounts can be accommodated, but will be done on a per recital basis and fees for the extra work will be discussed and agreed upon.

The following are not required workload components for collaborative pianists within the SFA School of Music. Staff and students may charge for these responsibilities. Fees will be discussed and/or posted for clarity of financial expectations prior to the initiation of these services:

- Non-degree student recitals
- Degree recital responsibilities beyond curricular requirements
- Vocal coaching beyond allotments for seminar performances
- Events not sponsored by SFA School of Music
- Non-SFA audition/competition performances and recordings

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

Students and faculty needing to request collaborative piano services must utilize the Collaborative Piano Request Form and provide all of the necessary information as defined by the form. This must be done in accordance with appropriate deadlines related to pianist assignments. In addition to the link provided in this document and hosted on the School of Music website, QR codes that link to the online request form are posted around the SFA School of Music.

The request timelines/deadlines are provided below:

- Recital scheduling must be done in coordination with the applied faculty (studio faculty) and collaborative musicians (pianists/other chamber musicians involved in the performance).
- Degree recital scheduling for the Fall Semester opens April 1st. Degree recital scheduling for the Spring Semester opens November 1st. In situations where either date falls on a weekend, recital scheduling will begin the following business day. Students are encouraged to proactively plan their recital booking and schedule accordingly. While students are able to reserve the recitals on the dates listed above, **the recitals must be booked no later than eight weeks prior to the recital date in order to allow for ample preparation time for the collaborative musicians.**
- Scheduling for performances outside of curricular requirements will open April 15th for the Fall Semester and November 15th for the Spring Semester. **As these are not required events, pianists are not expected to collaborate without charging a fee. This fee must be agreed upon prior to the initiation of services to ensure clear communication about the affiliated costs.**
- Hard copies of the scores for pianists are due at the time of reservation. If scores are not turned-in to Dr. Petti within five days of the collaborative piano request, that request will not be considered for scheduling/pianist assignment.

ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

Whether the collaboration is in a large ensemble or a duo, all musicians involved in preparation and performance bear equal responsibility for the success of the initiative. As such, below are some guidelines that are helpful to know and establish in order to foster successful collaborative relationships.

- Proactive communication. Be sure to communicate all of the necessary information in order to be successful in a timely, considerate manner. These include: repertoire, performance date, rehearsal availability, unforeseen schedule changes, etc.
- Professionalism. Always be prepared for the rehearsals, show-up on time, and treat each other with mutual respect.
- Value the interpretive collaboration. When rehearsing, we all must keep in mind that music is a subjective, interpretive art form, and ideas other than our own should be respected, considered, and evaluated. Truly great performances arise from mutual exploration and understanding of the representative demands of the individual work.

All musicians are expected to honor these guidelines. In cases where these have been repeatedly violated, the collaborative pianist may choose to, upon consultation with and approval of the Director of Collaborative piano, discontinue the collaborative partnership.