College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Policies and procedures for collaborative relationships and accompanying services

Introduction

An integral part of any professional musician's work is collaboration with other musicians – from the largest orchestral ensemble to the intimate interaction between two individuals. The development of skills necessary to ensure rewarding collaborations is therefore fundamental to any musician's success in the field.

In the performance arena, this translates to developing the musical and interpersonal qualities needed to communicate ideas and articulate common goals. The Collaborative Piano program at the College of Music is dedicated to fostering this development in every duo involving a pianist, and believes strongly that the quality of musical relationships is significantly enhanced when all parties are equally invested in the musical outcome.

To this end, the Collaborative Piano faculty has crafted these policies and procedures to help guide instrumentalists, vocalists and pianists in their efforts to make music together. Our hope is that they will clarify the process and establish the foundation for successful and rewarding collaborations across the College.

The Collaborative Piano faculty at the College of Music are:

Dr. Margaret McDonald	Margaret.McDonald@colorado.edu	303.735.1360
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In addition, two full-time faculty pianists support the Collaborative Piano program and accompanying services at the College of Music. They are:

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1. For instrumentalists and vocalists

Pianists have long played an essential role in the learning, preparation and performing of music by all musicians in a wide variety of settings. Recognizing this, the College is committed to providing pianists for all ***necessary services*** for students enrolled in a degree program with a required performance (applied lesson) component. Necessary services are defined as College- and curriculum-required events that require a pianist, including:

* Weekly lessons and studio classes for voice majors;
* All required juries and degree recitals;
* Pianists for large ensembles and courses;
* College-sponsored competitions and master classes.

a. ***Who are the pianists?***

At the College of Music, the pianists who support accompanying services are overseen by the Collaborative Piano faculty. These include:

* pianists enrolled in the Collaborative Piano program,
* pianists with an accompanying assistantship,
* pianists registered for supervised or advanced accompanying, and
* faculty pianists (listed above).

All pianists involved in College-required events must be approved by the Collaborative Piano faculty; a list of these pianists is available upon request. Students who would like to hire an external pianist that is not on the approved list should speak to the Collaborative Piano faculty before doing so.

b. ***Long-term partnerships with a pianist***

In the spirit of fostering true collaborative relationships, instrumentalists and vocalists are strongly encouraged to seek out pianists with whom they wish to work on a long-term basis. Such partnerships will need to be approved by both applied faculty (i.e. the vocalist's or instrumentalist's studio teacher as well as the pianist's studio teacher) to ensure that the chosen repertoire is in the best interest, pedagogically, of both students. All duos are welcome to coach with the Collaborative Piano faculty, particularly in preparation for public performances.

i. **Voice lessons -** Given that the College considers weekly voice lessons a necessary service, they fall under the definition of a long-term partnership. Each student required to take voice lessons for their degree program will be allotted **1 (one) hour** of pianist time a week – namely, 30 minutes for a rehearsal and 30 minutes for a lesson. Should a student exceed these allotments, they will bear the responsibility of compensating the pianist accordingly.

The following categories of students will ***not*** be provided a pianist through the College:

- Freshmen,
- Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degree students who have had a pianist provided by the College's accompanying services for six semesters,
- Bachelor of Arts degree students who have had a pianist provided by the College's accompanying services for two semesters,
- Master of Music degree students who have had a pianist provided by the College's accompanying services for four semesters,
- Doctoral students who have had a pianist provided by the College's accompanying services for six semesters,
- Bachelor of Fine Arts majors.

ii. For instrumentalists, it is generally expected that the weekly time commitment in such a long-term partnership will not exceed **2 (two) hours** a week – namely, one hour of rehearsal and one hour for the lesson.

c. ***Short-term partnerships with a pianist***

If a student wishes to be assigned a pianist by the Collaborative Piano faculty for a short-term partnership, such as in the case of a recital or jury, they must complete the *Request for a Pianist Form*, which can be accessed through the accompanying services website at: http://music.colorado.edu/departments/offices/accompanying/, and submit this by the deadlines listed below.

Once an assignment has been made, if there is to be any change in the repertoire or timeline, this must be reported to the Collaborative Piano faculty. The assigned pianist may or may not be able to adjust to the change, depending on their other obligations. While the faculty and pianists will do their best to accommodate the change, it may not always be possible, in which case the student will need to hire a pianist on their own. A list of approved pianists is available upon request from the Collaborative Piano faculty.

In partnerships where the assigned pianist is a collaborative piano major, piano TA, or student taking supervised or advanced accompanying, the instrumentalist/vocalist may be asked to come in for coachings with the Collaborative Piano faculty.

i. **Recitals –** The deadline for submission of a request for a pianist is **9 weeks** prior to the date of the recital. Copies of all repertoire must be turned into either Professor McDonald or Nguyen by the deadline. The request must be complete and include all recital details such as date, time, and location of the recital as well as a full listing of the repertoire.

   If an exact recital date has not yet been scheduled, students should request a pianist in anticipation of the approximate date, as the 9-week deadline will still apply.

   A pianist assignment then will be made based on all information provided; students will be notified of the assignment within a week's time, giving them 8 weeks of preparation time prior to the recital. Students will be allotted **8 hours** of rehearsal time with the pianist as well as any necessary lessons and studio classes; beyond that, the student will bear the responsibility of compensating the pianist accordingly.

ii. **Juries –** The deadline for submission of a request for a pianist is **5 weeks** prior to the date of the jury. Copies of all repertoire must be turned into either Professor McDonald or Nguyen by the deadline. The request should include, when possible, all details of the jury including date, time, and location of the jury as well as the repertoire.

   A pianist assignment then will be made based on all information provided; students will be notified of the assignment within a week's time, giving them 4 weeks of preparation time prior to the jury. Students will be allotted **4 hours** of rehearsal time with the pianist as well as any necessary lessons and studio classes; beyond that, the student will bear the responsibility of compensating the pianist accordingly.

iii. **College-sponsored competitions –** The deadline for submission of a request for a pianist will ***be announced*** and will be no less than **5 weeks** prior to the date of the first round of the competition. Copies of all repertoire must be turned into either Professor McDonald or Nguyen by the deadline. The request should include, when possible, all jury details such as dates, times, and locations of all rounds (in the case where there are multiple rounds) as well as the repertoire.

   A pianist assignment then will be made based on all information provided; students will be notified of the assignment within a week's time, giving them 4 weeks of preparation time prior to the competition. Students will be allotted **4 hours** of rehearsal time with the pianist as well as any necessary lessons and studio classes; beyond that, the student will bear the responsibility of compensating the pianist accordingly.

iv. **Guest master classes –** The deadline for submission of a request for a pianist is **5 weeks** prior to the date of the master class. Copies of all repertoire must be turned into either Professor McDonald or Nguyen by the deadline. The request should include, when possible, all details such as date, time, and location of the class as well as the repertoire.

A pianist assignment then will be made based on all information provided; students will be notified of the assignment within a week's time, giving them 4 weeks of preparation time prior to the competition. Students will be allotted **4 hours** of rehearsal time with the pianist as well as any necessary lessons and studio classes; beyond that, the student will bear the responsibility of compensating the pianist accordingly.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to notify the collaborative piano faculty of any scheduled master classes well in advance of the class, even if student performers and repertoire may not yet be determined. This will allow the Collaborative Piano faculty to identify, in advance, possible pianists for the event.

v. **Faculty-supported projects –** In the case of special studio and/or repertoire projects that may arise and do not fall into any of the above categories, faculty should speak directly to the Collaborative Piano faculty to see whether any pianist might be available for the project in question. These will be assigned on a case-by-case basis, depending on pianist availability and schedule.

2. For pianists

Collaborations with instrumentalists and vocalists can be very rewarding and may enhance your performance skills on a number of different levels. The College of Music strongly encourages all pianists to engage in collaborative relationships with other musicians – be they duos, trios, or larger formations.

Pianists who are providing accompanying services either as part of their TA assignment or in fulfillment of a degree requirement (Supervised and Advanced Accompanying) will be assigned appropriate partnerships by the Collaborative Piano faculty. Pianists will be expected to meet all of their assignments in a professional manner. In order to support the pianists in their preparation and performance of assigned repertoire and to ensure quality of work, the Collaborative Piano faculty will provide regular coachings. Students are expected to sign up for such coachings on a regular basis and/or to come in for lessons as requested; failure to meet this expectation may result in the removal of a student's accompanying assistantship.

Pianists who are participating in many different partnerships should take care to protect their time and physical health. While such assignments may be integral to a pianist's work assignment and musical growth, it goes without saying that pianists with assistantships are also students at the College and must have enough time and energy to fulfill their own educational goals. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the Collaborative Piano faculty if they have questions or concerns about maintaining balance in their work.

IV. **Guidelines for successful collaborations**

All musicians engaged in collaborative music-making are equally responsible for the successful outcome of the project. A few guidelines that may help in the overall quality of the collaboration are:

a. ***Respect for the music*** – By agreeing to perform a work together, partners are committing to realizing the music to the best of their abilities. This means that each partner must invest individual time in the practice and learning of the score before coming together, and also have an understanding of how the various parts work together. This not only makes for much more efficient rehearsals, but for more rewarding ones as well.

b. ***Respect for each other*** – Collaboration implies equal contributions from all parties. This means that rehearsals must be conducted in a professional manner, including such things as being on time, being prepared, and listening to each other, both musically and verbally.

c. ***Communication*** – Be sure that everyone involved in a project is equally informed of all important information, such as repertoire (or repertoire changes), dates, times and locations of rehearsals and performances, etc. It is essential that all partners maintain open communication with each other so that common goals can be established and reached.

It is expected that all instrumentalists, vocalists, and pianists will abide by these guidelines. Should there be any reports of continued inappropriate or unprofessional behavior, the Collaborative Piano faculty may, at their discretion, terminate a collaborative partnership and cease providing accompanying services through the College of Music.