

Piano Area Recommendations for Use of Piano Accompanists in Fall 2020

SAFETY

1. The Piano Faculty feel strongly that no piano student, freelance or TA, should feel pressured, directly or indirectly, to accompany in-person lessons and/or rehearsals this fall.
2. Because of the current situation with COVID-19, we urge studios in need of an accompanist to make every effort to utilize virtual substitutes for the majority of the work through pre-recorded accompaniments and/or virtual rehearsals.
3. The Piano Faculty encourage and support creative solutions for lessons and rehearsals, such as:
 - a. Pre-recorded accompaniments for lesson situations.
 - b. Virtual rehearsals with one party muted (which eliminates confusion due to dual lag, allowing the muted party to sing/play with their partner in real time); exchange of rough cuts of accompanying tracks; online score study and exchange of feedback; and other ideas to be collected. These practices can also greatly improve the quality of pre-recorded accompaniments.
4. To discuss these and other safe alternatives, the Piano Faculty will schedule panel discussions early in the semester about best practices for helpful and efficient online collaboration. One of the panels will include an experienced guest clinician in collaborative piano. These panels will be open to all interested faculty and students.
5. The Piano Faculty are also preparing a written document to distribute to students with guidelines and links for improving virtual collaboration. We welcome ideas from Dr. Jutras and applied faculty for inclusion in this document.
6. If a piano student volunteers to accompany an in-person lesson, we call upon voice/instrumental faculty to limit in-person interactions between the accompanying pianist and a single vocal/instrumental student to a few times per semester (no more than 3 total without recital or 5 total including recital and dress rehearsal). For example, a semester's work for a singer/piano duo could include 2 in-person lessons, 1 rehearsal scheduled in a large HHSOM space, 1 dress rehearsal in a concert hall with faculty present, and a recital. The rest of the work would happen online.
7. Additionally, no piano student should be placed in a collaborative situation more than 3 times a day. HHSOM Administration feels strongly about this rule and encourages applied faculty to check with the students about compliance before scheduling an in-person accompanied lesson.
8. Social-distancing as mandated by HHSOM should occur at all times between pianist, student being accompanied, and teacher, effectively creating a triangle of distancing. The distances should adhere to HHSOM guidelines (8 ft or 20 ft, see [HHSOM Guidelines](#)). **The unavailability of a large enough studio is NOT a reason to abandon proper distancing.*

9. All participating parties are required to wear masks. **Pianists not wearing masks may be dismissed without pay. If another party other than the pianist is not wearing a mask, the pianist is entitled to leave with full pay.*
10. In-person meetings should be limited to a maximum of 50 or 30 minutes as applicable by instrument (see [HHSOM Guidelines](#)). **NO make-up meetings can be provided in the case of lateness or short-notice cancelation. If a lesson was cut short for any reason, including the pianist's own fault (which can be reflected in compensation), that does not mean that the next lesson can be extended.*

COMPENSATION AND PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

1. The Piano Faculty feel strongly that our student accompanists need to be treated with respect and be given professional courtesy by all faculty and students.
2. Cancelations should be communicated at least 12 hours in advance, otherwise the full fee for the scheduled meeting is due to the accompanist.
3. Creation of virtual materials, Zoom rehearsals, email communications with musical feedback, and other collaborative practices during this time constitute a significant amount of work that should be valued and compensated accordingly.
4. As much as possible, students should discuss in advance the amount of work needed and the appropriate compensation.
5. Based on feedback from piano students, we encourage "bundle" compensation agreements for the entire semester.
6. Requests to re-record or edit completed accompanying tracks should be compensated additionally, unless discussed in advance.
7. The Piano Faculty will continue evaluating best practices and encourage collaboration that is beneficial to everyone (see points 3-5 under section 1).
8. Studio faculty should encourage singers and instrumentalists to follow best practices when communicating their needs to student accompanists and equally listen to feedback from student accompanists. For example, it may significantly improve the creation of recorded accompanying tracks if pianists receive a recording of the solo part with counting or metronome for extended rests.