

Collaborative Piano is a vital component of any School of Music, but the desire for collaborative pianists always exceeds available resources. For this reason, the School of Music is revising and underscoring its policies around collaborative pianists. The current document lays out where things stand, but additional revisions are likely moving forward.

At the end of the day, students are responsible for engaging their own collaborative pianists, and this often involves a system of payment. You might think of this cost as similar to purchasing textbooks for other courses. The School of Music, however, is doing what it can to ease the burden on students.

For individual students needing pianists for rehearsals, lessons, recitals and other events, there are two options.

1. The School of Music has a graduate program in Collaborative Piano, and many of those students are Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). As such they are both students and employees of the School of Music. Their duties often involve work with our large ensembles, but they sometimes have additional hours available. The Director of the Collaborative Piano program (Prof. Tim Lovelace) assigns those hours based on availability and the educational needs of the collaborative piano students. For these reasons, some School of Music students may receive a collaborative pianist at no cost. Those assigned are limited and are used for the education needs of the pianists.
2. When a Collaborative Piano GTA is not available, the student will need to engage their own pianist based on the norms and standards in their area of study.

To request a Collaborative Piano GTA, please use this form and complete it by the end of Welcome Week (for the fall semester) or by the end of the last week of fall semester classes (for spring semester):

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTcyLthnlpRcdthZEOOlksfvBKPj3\\_wgA-Iq0vdEpUAd1TYw/viewform?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTcyLthnlpRcdthZEOOlksfvBKPj3_wgA-Iq0vdEpUAd1TYw/viewform?pli=1)

These requests will be reviewed by Prof. Lovelace. If a GTA is not available, he will send a list of known collaborative pianists available for hire.

In working with a pianist – either a GTA or freelance – please be sure that all rehearsal, lesson, jury, and recital times are communicated in advance and that the music is delivered as early as possible. When working with a GTA, the following policies must also be observed:

1. GTAs are themselves students with their own class schedules. Please be flexible in scheduling and mindful of their need for adequate time to prepare music.
2. GTAs have a limited number of hours they may work each week. These hours cannot be exceeded in any week.
3. GTAs will reschedule any commitments that they cancel or miss.
4. GTA responsibilities do not normally include off-campus lessons, rehearsals, or performances.
5. All questions and disputes involving a GTA will be resolved by Prof. Lovelace in

consultation with the appropriate faculty.

6. When hiring a collaborative pianist please ensure that all fees and commitments are agreed to in writing.