

Request for and Assignment of a Collaborative Piano Teaching Assistant

Collaborative Piano Teaching Assistants (hereafter referred to as “TA”) strive to provide a mutually beneficial experience for themselves and the musicians with whom they collaborate at the University of Minnesota. The collaborating work they do is an important part of their learning: working with students and faculty outside their own studio can provide positive experiences vital to their education.

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Request

- Student fills out and submits online Collaborative Piano TA Request Form:
<http://music.umn.edu/students/collaborativeForm.html>
- 2009 fall semester deadline: Friday, September 11, 4 p.m.
- 2010 Spring Deadline: Wednesday, December 16, 4 p.m.

Step 2: Assign

Collaborative Piano Advisor, Timothy Lovelace, assigns TA, if available.

Your Collaborative Piano TA will contact you at the beginning of the second week of classes, telling you how many hours she/he can play for you in the semester.

Step 3: Communicate

'09 Fall Semester—2nd Week of Class

Collaborative Piano TA contacts student. Student must reply during the second week to discuss scheduling of lessons, rehearsals, and selected repertoire. Students who do not comply with this procedure jeopardize their TA assignments.

2010 Spring Semester TA contacts student in early January.

POLICY

1. Student and faculty may need to be flexible when scheduling lessons or rehearsals with a Collaborative Piano TA.
2. Student must use her/his assigned TA hours on a weekly basis rather than using them aggregately near the end of the semester.
3. Collaborative Piano TA will reschedule hours they themselves cancel or miss.
4. Scores must be provided in advance so the Collaborative Piano TA may adequately prepare for rehearsals and lessons.
5. Collaborative Piano TA responsibilities do not include off-campus lessons, rehearsals, or performances.
6. Freelancing is allowable by university policy and is left to the discretion of the Collaborative Piano TA.
7. The Collaborative Piano TA's stipend covers rehearsals, lessons, juries, and studio performances; it does not include competitions or recitals. Students must take the initiative in discussing fees with their assigned TA.
8. Questions or disputes involving a Collaborative Piano TA will be resolved by the Collaborative Piano Advisor, Timothy Lovelace. Regular communication between Prof. Lovelace and other faculty is welcomed and encouraged.
9. Approximately 70 requests for a Collaborative Piano TA will be filled. If the student cannot be assigned a Collaborative Piano TA, Prof. Lovelace will contact the student, referring her/him to specific freelance pianists.

FAQs About Collaborative Piano Teaching Assistants

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

1. I am an undergraduate. May I still request a Collaborative Piano TA?

Yes. All music majors studying with an applied teacher may request a Collaborative Piano TA. During the second week of classes, you will be contacted if a TA is not available for you.

2. What if I don't need a collaborative pianist at the beginning of the semester? May I request a Collaborative Piano TA later that semester?

No. You must submit the online Collaborative Piano TA Request Form by the deadline in order to be assigned a Collaborative Piano TA. If you miss the deadline, contact Tim Lovelace at lovelace@umn.edu in order to be referred to a freelance pianist.

3. I haven't worked with a Collaborative Piano TA before. Should I give her/him the music before we rehearse or just bring it to our first rehearsal?

Collaborative Piano TAs are busy playing much music for many students. You must arrange to give your Collaborative Piano TA the piano part well before your rehearsal. Let your pianist know semester and weekly repertoire goals. Expecting your pianist to sight read—particularly in public—is unprofessional.

4. Since I haven't worked with a collaborative pianist very much, what should I expect at the first rehearsal?

Before the first rehearsal, let the Collaborative Piano TA know what you want to accomplish. She/he will then know what to prepare before rehearsing with you.

5. Must I stick to the repertoire selections I wrote down on the Collaborative Piano TA Request Form or may I change them later in the semester?

List only the repertoire you know for sure you will be learning in the semester. If you want to add new music during the semester, discuss it with your Collaborative Piano TA to see if she/he has time to learn additional music.

6. Will the Collaborative Piano TA primarily play the piano part or will she/he serve as a coach?

The sharing of musical ideas between the two of you is appropriate, as is the discussion of how your respective parts work separately and as a whole. Respecting each other's desire and ability to make progress will encourage the right atmosphere for productive rehearsals.

7. Must I pay for rehearsals and lessons with a Collaborative Piano TA?

If a Collaborative Piano TA is assigned to you, you do not pay for rehearsals, lessons, juries, or studio performances within the number of hours assigned to you. You must take the initiative in asking your TA about payment for additional hours.

8. Does the school pay the Collaborative Piano TA for my recital?

No. The Collaborative Piano TA's stipend does not pay for recitals or competitions. You must take the initiative in discussing a recital fee with your Collaborative Piano TA.

9. Should I consult my Collaborative Piano TA when scheduling a recital?

Yes. Collaborative Piano TAs have a full calendar, so the two of you—with the guidance of your teacher—should choose the date together. Also, please follow this procedure when selecting a dress rehearsal time.