

# Freelance Pianist List

## Professional Guidelines for Student Vocalists & Instrumentalists

Vocal and instrumental students within the School of Music are responsible to secure their own accompanist for lessons and curricular performances. To facilitate a student's ability to find reliable, professional, and courteous accompanists, the School of Music distributes the Freelance Pianist List to applied professors who share the list with students in their studios.

The Freelance Pianist List is an endorsement of the high level of skill and reliable professionalism of students on the list. Vocalists and instrumentalists who collaborate with these students should also hold themselves to a high standard of professionalism. Standard professional practices for these collaborations are outlined below.

- **Music:** When you contact a student accompanist, communicate the title and composer of each musical selection that he or she will need to learn and perform that semester if they choose to accompany you. When you have secured an accompanist, plan to deliver music at least 3-4 weeks in advance of the first rehearsal and more time may be needed for recital preparation. Generally, pianists prefer double-sided copies of music except in the case of two-page pieces. Always check that copies of music are clear and that no parts of the accompaniment are missing.
- **Agreements:** When you contact a student accompanist, communicate all expectations for the semester. In addition to the repertoire that will be learned, include planned rehearsals and planned performances. The student accompanist may have a written agreement that he or she wishes for you to sign regarding these expectations and rates that will be charged.
- **Rates:** For student accompanists on the Freelance Pianist List, recommended rehearsal rates regularly fall between \$20-30 per hour (undergraduate student pianists) and \$25-35 per hour (graduate student pianists) depending on the professional experience and required skill level of the accompanist. Each student accompanist is responsible for setting his or her own rates. An additional and reasonable fee commensurate with the time commitment and performance expectations may be charged for performances (studio classes, area recitals, masterclasses, recitals, juries/reviews, etc.). Payment is usually made near or at the final accompanied performance of the semester, though some student accompanists prefer to be paid at more regular intervals.
- **Rehearsals:** Always meet to rehearse with a student accompanist before attending a lesson where he or she will be present. Plan to also rehearse between any lessons to apply feedback that was received. As a minimum, student accompanists plan to attend at least 2 lessons before a mid-semester performance (studio class, jury, masterclass, etc.), and they plan to attend a minimum of 3-4 lessons to prepare for a jury or review performance. For solo recitals, consider scheduling weekly 30-minute meetings (alternating between rehearsals and lesson attendance) with your student accompanist.
- **Rescheduling/Cancelling:** Be punctual and notify others at least 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel a rehearsal. Remember, reliability is one of the most important aspects of professionalism. Cancel rehearsals sparingly and only when necessary.
- **Absentees:** If you cancel a rehearsal with your student accompanist with less than 24-hours notice, the accompanist may still charge you for the planned rehearsal. If you are absent for two or more rehearsals, your accompanist is released from his or her obligation to accompany you.
- **Community Pianists:** These guidelines are intended for student accompanists and serve as a resource for community-based pianists only as reasonably applicable. In the case of students working with community pianists, please discuss these procedures with your pianist and ask for his or her preferences.

If unforeseen questions arise about professional standards for collaboration, your applied professor is an excellent resource. As the School of Music Staff Accompanist, I am also readily available and happy to serve as a resource.

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