

2024 Collaborative Piano Program Manual

Information subject to change | Updates as of 12/19/2023

The Collaborative Piano program provides training for exceptional pianists who are already committed to collaborative arts or are considering a career in this area. Solo pianists who are exploring studies and work in this field are encouraged to consider the program, as it is an excellent introduction to various facets of the collaborative arts. The term “collaborative arts” includes any area of piano performance that involves more than solo piano (i.e., piano-vocal duo, piano-instrumental duo, orchestral piano, piano chamber music, opera coaching, choral accompanying, etc.). The program combines practical experience with theoretical study and covers a wide range of the keyboard collaborative arts.

Depending on each pianist’s interests, students may participate in orchestral performance under resident and visiting guest conductors, instrumental collaborations (studio accompanying, duo performances in various venues, chamber music), vocal collaborations (art song performances, vocal chamber music, studio accompanying, opera), and contemporary works with various ensembles.

The Collaborative Piano Program includes weekly individual coachings, studio classes, and seminars with artist-faculty from the Aspen Music Festival and School and visiting guest artists. Seminar subjects may cover a wide range of vocal and instrumental repertoire, including special topics in song literature, composer-focused workshops, playing orchestral reductions, conducting, and other areas related to the collaborative artist’s work.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All AMFS participants must adhere to the expectations outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

Collaborative Piano Kick-Off Meeting (Required)

Meet with your student-colleagues and the collaborative piano artist-faculty to learn all about program expectations and opportunities available to Collaborative Piano students.

- Monday, June 24 (first Seminar)

Studio Accompanying Hours and Primary Study/Performance Projects

Primary projects for **Vocal Collaboration** Fellows will focus on art song study and public performances. The majority of projects for **Opera Coaching** Fellows will prioritize opera. However, the lines between these programs are not rigid, so that all pianists will have a range of opportunities and experiences (opera, song, cabaret, new music, etc.) based on individual interests, abilities, and scheduling. Through these various projects, pianists will have opportunities for coaching/instruction with AMFS artist-faculty Myra Huang, Cameron Stowe, Patrick Summers, and Kenneth Merrill, among others. Weekly activities for all **Vocal Collaboration** and **Opera Coaching** Fellows will include assignments for studio accompanying (5-7 hours on average per week), allowing pianists to observe and benefit from the teaching of AMFS’s voice artist-faculty members, alongside additional experiences in choral accompanying and playing for voice performance classes.

Instrumental and Orchestral Collaboration Fellows will participate in duo sonata concerts and chamber music, in addition to accompanying the annual AMFS concerto competitions and weekly studio accompanying. Through these projects, pianists will have coachings with Cameron Stowe, Anton Nel, and various members of the AMFS instrumental artist-faculty and Collaborative Coaches. **Orchestral Collaboration** Fellows will also have opportunities to perform with the AMFS orchestras, working under resident and visiting guest conductors.

All accompanying hours are a part of the core curriculum for the Collaborative Piano program.

CLASSES

Visit the **Class and Non-Orchestral Performance Schedule** (to be available electronically through the [AMFS Student Portal](#)) for a complete listing of classes, locations, and dates. Be sure to check this schedule regularly, as it will continue to be updated throughout the summer season.

Collaborative piano students attend and perform in the following weekly classes. Students interested in performing should communicate with their teacher.

Collaborative Piano Seminar and Studio Class:

- Mondays, 6-8 pm in Castle Creek 01

Opera Coaching Seminar

Opera Coaching Seminars will be offered with AOTVA Artistic leadership and Cameron Stowe. These sessions are open to all collaborative pianists and will include conducting workshops and other related topics.

Weekly Yoga (Optional)

- Local yoga instructor, Jen Campbell, will offer one yoga session per week. Sessions will start at a beginner level and become more advanced throughout the summer. This class is open to Collaborative Piano and Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS students.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Sonata Showcases

The Collaborative Piano program will offer three Sonata Showcases for instrumental ensembles. AMFS artist-faculty will pair students for these recitals.

- These showcase recitals will take place July 13, July 27, and August 10 from 6:30-8 pm in Edlis Neeson Hall on the Bucksbaum Campus.

Opera Encounters and VocalARTS Showcase

Every Saturday from 10 am-12 pm, Opera Encounters are presented on the mainstage of the Wheeler Opera House. Collaborative Pianists with an emphasis in **Vocal Collaboration** or **Opera Coaching** will collaborate with Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS singers to prepare presentations of opera scenes and arias as well as other varied repertoire to be workshopped in front of an audience.

- Each program will have a theme and host, in addition to artist-faculty who will help prepare the performance.
- Two programs (July 6 and July 20) will be dedicated **VocalARTS Showcase** recitals (art song recitals).

- Assignments are communicated by the AOTVA Company Manager.

Chamber Music

All Collaborative Piano students are invited to apply for participation in chamber music. Those interested will complete a pre-season survey (Due May 1) about their preference for the chamber music experience, including repertoire requests. Coachings and schedules will be facilitated by the Chamber Music Coordinator.

Spotlight Recitals

Public performances take place each week at various venues including churches, libraries, and Harris Concert Hall. Performance-ready students can apply to perform with their collaborator, or as a soloist, via an online form on their [AMFS Student Portal](#).

- Short works or single movements are preferred to allow performance opportunities to as many students as possible. Complete works may be programmed on early-season recitals. No concertos on Spotlight Recitals.
- Teacher approval is required for performance.
- The Office of Student Services will assign performances based on schedule and venue. Performances are assigned first-come, first-served, and preference will be given to students who have not had other performance opportunities.
- The Office of Student Services will facilitate the application, teacher-approval, and assignment process.

Concerto Competition

Concerto Competitions are open to students in the Orchestral, Solo Piano, or Collaborative Piano programs. Winners receive the opportunity to perform as a soloist with an AMFS orchestra or ensemble.

- Interested students can sign-up to compete through a form on their [AMFS Student Portal](#).
- Teacher approval is required for participation.
- The Office of Student Services will facilitate the application and teacher-approval process.

Harris Hall Performance Classes

Collaborative Pianists with an emphasis in **Instrumental Collaboration** or **Orchestral Piano** may have the opportunity to perform with their collaborator for renowned guest-artists in the weekly 1 pm Harris Hall Performance Class.

- Teacher approval is required for performance.
- The guest Teaching-Artist will select the performers.
- The Office of Student Services will facilitate the application, teacher-approval, and selection process.

String Showcase

Collaborative Pianists with an emphasis in **Instrumental Collaboration** or **Orchestral Piano** may have the opportunity to perform with their collaborator in a String Showcase Recital, which are held weekly on the Bucksbaum Campus. Outstanding players will be nominated by members of the AMFS artist-faculty to perform at this recital series.

Music with a View

Collaborative Pianists may be selected to perform in a mixed program in the Music with a View recital series at the Aspen Art Museum, date TBA.

ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Collaborative Program Administrator

The Collaborative Piano program has a dedicated administrator who will facilitate the scheduling of weekly Instrumental and Orchestral Collaboration assignments (including instrumental studio hours, performance collaborations, and concerto competition pairing).

- Eliza Ching, Collaborative Piano Program Coordinator and Collaborative Pianist / Coach,
collaborativepiano@aspenmusic.org

Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS Company Manager

The Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS program has a dedicated administrator who will facilitate the scheduling of weekly accompanying and other assignments between Opera Coaching fellows, Vocal Collaboration fellows, and AOTVA singers.