



# 2023 Solo Piano Program Manual

Information subject to change | Updates as of 5/15/2023

Piano students at the AMFS study with members of the internationally renowned artist-faculty, receiving an average of ninety minutes of lesson time per week, through a combination of private and class study. In addition, they attend weekly performance classes as well as panel discussions hosted by the faculty. Pianists can be nominated to perform in a weekly recital dedicated to pianists or apply to perform in Spotlight Recitals. Students may also apply to participate in the annual Piano Concerto Competition for the opportunity to perform a concerto with one of the Aspen orchestras. Students may also elect to study and perform mixed-ensemble literature, which may include chamber music with either strings or winds, two-piano/four-hand repertoire, duo sonata class, and mixed contemporary ensembles. Other music-related classes are available including keyboard studies, piano pedagogy, and lectures from the artist-faculty on a variety of relevant topics. All solo piano students also participate in the AMFS chorus.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **Program Kick-Off (Required)**

Students meet with colleagues and the piano artist-faculty to learn about all the opportunities available to Solo Piano students.

- First and Full-Session Students: Monday, June 26, 4-5 pm, Castle Creek 01
- Second-Session Students will be contacted by their Aspen teachers directly.

### **Lessons (Required)**

Weekly private lessons are considered a critical part of a student's educational experience. Full Session and Half Session I students will meet with their private teacher directly after Convocation to schedule their lessons unless the artist-faculty member has been directly in touch pre-season. Half Session II students will receive contact information for their private teacher at Orientation. Visit the online Student Handbook for more information. Visit the [Solo Piano](#) program page of the AMFS Website for Teaching Faculty sessions of residence.

### **Campus Classes (Required)**

Classes are offered by world-renowned AMFS artist-faculty and visiting faculty.

- **Studio Classes** are offered by AMFS piano artist-faculty. Classes are scheduled within two weekly class blocks devoid of conflicts. Students should plan to take full advantage of the

classes offered and should not schedule other conflicting activities. Students interested in performing should communicate with their teacher.

- **NEW! Performance Classes (all departments)** are offered in each session. All solo piano students and artist-faculty in residence come together to exchange musical ideas. Students interested in performing can sign-up through an online form located on their AMFS Student Portal.
- **Piano Notes** is an opportunity for artist-faculty to give presentations on relative topics to their field. Enrolled students can submit the **Piano Notes Survey** (available online through their AMFS Student Portal) to suggest topic ideas pre-season. The survey will remain open through Program Kick-Off dates.
- 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.

### Chorus Participation (Required)

All Solo Piano students will perform in the AMFS Chorus for productions of Jimmy Lopez: *Bel Canto* and Mozart: *Idomeneo*. Students will engage in chorus preparations with Patrick Summers, Co-Artistic Director of the Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS program.

- Participation in one production required. Half Session pianists are required to do the production that lands in their session. Full Session pianists will be pre-assigned to one of the two opera productions.
- Students should expect a time commitment of about 6 hours per week (about 25 hours over the session).
- Assignments and rehearsal information will be communicated in Aspen by the Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS Company Manager.

### PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

See the [Student Handbook](#) for a full list of performance opportunities in Aspen. Popular opportunities for Solo Piano students are detailed below.

#### **Aspen Center for Physics Recitals: Mondays at 5 pm**

Students in the Solo Piano program can apply to perform on the Physics Piano Recital series that takes place weekly at the Aspen Center for Physics. Students may apply to perform an entire piece or a single movement. The application is available through the AMFS Student Portal. All applications will be sent to Aspen teachers for approval. Performers will be selected by AMFS artist-faculty. Assignments and schedule details will be communicated by the Student Recitals Coordinator. See the application form for specific deadlines and recital dates.

#### **Harris Hall Performance Classes: Tuesdays at 1 pm**

Many of the world-renowned artists that visit Aspen in the summer present public classes in Harris Concert Hall. Each respective teaching artist is responsible for choosing the participants for their performance class. Applications are available through the AMFS Student Portal and will be sent to Aspen Teachers for approval. In most cases, applications are due 10 days prior to the class date. See the application form for specific deadlines and class dates. Piano teaching artists for the 2023 season include Inon Barnatan and Mikhail Voskresensky.

### **Spotlight Recitals**

Spotlight Recitals are a setting for students who wish to perform chamber and solo works – concertos are not accepted. Students who are placed in chamber music will receive a preassigned performance date on this series. Those preparing solo projects or ad hoc chamber music projects may apply for a performance date by submitting a Spotlight Recital Application through their AMFS Student Portal. All applications will be sent to Aspen teachers for approval. Opportunities fill quickly in late summer so make sure to arrive at Aspen prepared to apply early. Students may apply multiple times, but priority will be given to those who have not yet performed on the series. See the application form for specific deadlines and recital dates.

Harris Hall: Wednesdays and Thursdays

- Soundcheck: 1:30-2:30 pm, Performance: 3 pm

Aspen Chapel: Thursdays

- Soundcheck: 3:30-4:30 pm, Performance: 5 pm

Aspen Community Church: Saturdays

- Soundcheck: 12-1 pm, Performance: 1:30 pm

Pitkin County Library: Mondays and Fridays

- Soundcheck: 1-2 pm, Performance 2:30 pm

### **Basalt Library Recitals: Thursdays at 5:15 pm**

Outstanding students may be invited to perform on the Basalt Regional Library Recital series by the School and Festival Operations department. A shuttle will be arranged to transport student performers to and from the Bucksbaum Campus and Basalt. Recitals take place weekly on Thursdays, starting July 20.

### **Concerto Competitions**

Piano students can compete for the chance to perform as soloist with the Aspen Conducting Academy Orchestra in the Benedict Music Tent. Competition pieces, concert dates, deadlines, and participation rules will be available on the AMFS Student Portal. Application forms are due by the published date and must be submitted through the AMFS Student Portal. Applications will be sent to Aspen teachers for approval. **All Solo Piano students should plan to attend the winning performance.**

### **Chamber Music**

Aspen students in the Orchestra/Instrumental, Solo Piano, and Collaborative Piano programs may apply to be placed in an ensemble and assigned to a special project. Students participate in intensive coaching and rehearsals in preparation for a Spotlight Recital performance. Groups may work intensively for two to three weeks or may work together for the entire session, depending on the complexity of the repertoire. Visit the [Chamber Music](#) page on the AMFS website for more information and commitment expectations. **Placement:** In mid-April, Full Session students may apply to be placed in chamber music through their AMFS Student Portal. Chamber Music applications are due by May 1 for placement consideration. Assignments, coachings and all schedule details will be facilitated by the Chamber Music Coordinator.

### **SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE**

Pianists are strongly encouraged to attend performances by AMFS guests, artist-faculty, and student colleagues. Be sure to also review the [AMFS Season Calendar](#) for the full lineup of concerts and events! A consolidated list of recommended performances featuring pianists will be included below and updated on your AMFS Student Portal.