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I. Introduction

WELCOME to the Piano Area at the Ithaca College School of Music! The piano faculty is excited to have you here and is dedicated to helping you achieve all your musical, pianistic, and professional goals. As the Undergraduate Catalog states, the School of Music “affirms its fundamental belief that music and the arts are essential components of the human experience. The School of Music contributes to the ongoing realization of this belief by preparing the music leaders of tomorrow—highly trained professional musicians educated through expert musical instruction coupled with outstanding performance experiences.” Our program of piano study provides you with abundant opportunities for practicing, performing, attending concerts, and interacting with an outstanding faculty. In short, we seek to help you become the best possible musical professional in all areas of the piano.

This handbook has been compiled in order to acquaint you with the piano program and to assist you in planning your course of study. It is intended to provide information specifically related to piano majors. Other sources, such as the Ithaca College Undergraduate Catalog and the School of Music website, can be consulted for information dealing with broader aspects of music study at Ithaca (e.g., theory, major ensembles, core curriculum classes, etc.). After studying this handbook, you will know what will be expected of you and what you can expect from the piano program. Hopefully it will remain a ready resource for any questions that may arise during your course of study.

II. Piano Major Courses of Study

A student majoring in piano will enroll in one of the following courses of study:

- (a) Performance
- (b) Performance and Music Education (4 ½)
- (c) Performance—Collaborative Emphasis
- (d) Music Education
- (e) Bachelor of Music with an Outside Field (BMO)
- (f) Sound Recording Technology (SRT)
- (g) Music Theory
- (h) Jazz Studies

(i) Undeclared—Generally, undeclared students follow the music education curriculum for piano. Students must decide on a degree program by the fifth semester of study.

(j) Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Music—This program provides the opportunity for students to major in music and to pursue substantive studies in the liberal arts.

Each of these courses of study will have its own particular set of requirements. The details for these curricula are all discussed in the Undergraduate Catalog and on the School of Music website.

III. Piano Lessons: Requirements and Policies

Each student taking applied piano lessons is responsible for arranging a weekly lesson time with his/her teacher before the semester starts. The teacher will provide instructions and procedures on this matter as the semester approaches.

Performance majors and 4 ½ majors will receive a one-hour lesson each week; all others (Music Education, BMO, SRT, Theory, Jazz, Undeclared, and BA) will receive a half-hour lesson each week.

Performance and 4 ½ majors will register for four credits per semester; all others will register for two credits per semester.

The student is expected to come to each lesson fully prepared, which includes warming up beforehand. Each teacher will outline a set of studio policies, which will cover such topics as grading and attendance.

IV. Juries and Grading

Piano majors are required to play a jury exam at the end of every semester of piano study (except in certain instances, as explained below). The juries are an important opportunity for the student to demonstrate on-going progress in piano technique and musicianship; at the same time they offer the piano faculty a way to evaluate the student's accomplishments in piano performance in relation to the particular level of study within the student's curriculum. The juries also afford an opportunity for the faculty to offer written critiques for the benefit of the student. Factors entering into a faculty evaluation include the student's quality of preparation, technical security, accuracy, memory, and musicality. All music must be performed at juries from memory.

Performance and 4 ½ majors will play a 20-minute jury of at least 20 minutes of music, consisting of a variety of styles appropriate for the level of the student. All other majors will play a 10-minute jury of at least 10 minutes of music showing a variety of styles.

Each student should bring enough completed jury sheets for the faculty panel. These are available in the music office or online.

Piano juries are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. If the majority of the faculty fail the student's jury, the major teacher will issue a grade for the semester no higher than "D." The grade of "I" (Incomplete) will not be used in these cases. The chair of performance studies will be informed of the jury failure. The chair will then request that the associate dean send a letter of Final Academic Warning to the student. To be removed from Final Academic Warning, the student must pass the jury in the following semester and receive a semester grade of C- or higher. If the student fails two juries in succession, or passes the following jury and still receives a semester grade lower than a C-, that student will be dismissed from the music program.

The individual piano instructor determines the semester grade for piano lessons. The specific teacher should be consulted for details, but regardless, the following things will most likely be considered: preparation at weekly lessons, performance level at the piano jury, evident technical and musical growth in lessons and performances throughout the semester.

There may be certain semesters when the jury is altered in length and/or content or even excused entirely.

A jury exam is not required, unless instructed by the studio teacher, when:

- 1) The student performs a satisfactory required recital during the course of the semester.
- 2) The student performs a satisfactory elective recital during the course of the semester, unless it is the semester of the Performance or 4 ½ Barrier Exam.

The length and content of the jury will be altered as such:

1) During the last semester of private lesson study, regardless of degree program, the student will perform only one work on the jury that has been prepared independently (“self-prepared piece”). The self-prepared piece is chosen in consultation with the studio teacher; however, the student may not seek help from the studio teacher while learning and preparing it.

2) During the semester of Student Teaching for Music Education or 4 ½ majors, the student will perform a “Block Jury” at the end of that Block of study.

V. Performance Major and 4 ½ Major Barrier Exam

At the end of the second semester of study, the student must demonstrate, via the Performance Barrier Exam, that he/she meets the performance level to continue in the Performance or 4 ½ degree program. The Barrier Exam will take place at the same time as the semester jury, and will be assessed as follows:

1. Pass: The student successfully passes the Barrier and continues in the Performance or 4 ½ degree program.
2. Probation: The student passes the overall jury but not the Performance Barrier Exam. The student may take the Barrier Exam again at the following semester’s jury, at which time the Exam must be passed or the student will receive a failing grade for the jury (and thus a D for the semester). At this point, the student will be required to switch to a non-Performance degree program.
3. Fail: The student fails both the overall jury and the Performance Barrier Exam, receiving a D for the semester grade. The student will also be required to change to a non-Performance degree program for his or her remaining time at Ithaca College.

The Performance Barrier Exam is mandatory regardless of any concerto performance or recital that may have occurred during the second semester of study.

VI. Auditioning to Become a Performance Major or 4 ½ Major

If a student is already enrolled in another degree program and wishes to audition for the Performance major or 4 ½ major, the student may use one jury as the “performance audition.” Consult the following link for audition requirements:

http://www.ithaca.edu/music/admission/auditions/instrument_req/?item=702.

The Performance Barrier Exam will still take place at the end of the second semester of study.

VII. Degree-Required Recitals and Elective Recitals

Performance majors and 4 ½ majors are required to perform two degree recitals:

- 1) Junior Recital (1 cr.) A minimum of 35-40 minutes of music, all from memory.
- 2) Senior Recital (2 credits) A minimum of 45-50 minutes of music, all from memory.

Each required recital is graded by a committee of at least two piano faculty members, one of whom being the student’s individual instructor. The final grade for these recitals is determined

by averaging the grades assigned by the members of the grading committee, as outlined under “Performance Requirements” in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Students wishing to perform an elective recital should discuss the length and content of the recital with their studio teacher. The length should consist of at least 25-30 minutes of music. As with required recitals, students may register for elective recitals: a half-elective recital will be .5 credits; a full-elective recital will be 1 credit. Only the major teacher grades elective recitals. Should a student decide to do a joint recital as part of the elective recital experience, the length of performing for each student should be no longer than 25-30 minutes of music.

VIII. Performance Repertoire and Pedagogy

All piano majors meet weekly as a group (Monday, 3pm) with their studio teacher to perform repertoire and discuss performance technique and pedagogy. This course is graded as Pass/Fail and is taken for .5 credits. Individual studio instructors should be consulted for specific course requirements and procedures. Various performance spaces in the Whalen Center are used for this course; students should consult the weekly room schedule, posted on the teacher’s bulletin board. The first meeting in the Fall Semester is typically a combined studio and faculty meeting, held in the Hockett Family Recital Hall.

IX. Recital Attendance and Piano Area Events

In addition to the recital attendance requirements set forth by the School of Music, each piano major should consult the studio teacher for specific required recital/concert attendance during each semester. A source that is made available to all piano majors and piano faculty is the list of IC Piano Area Events. This list, compiled each semester, includes every faculty, guest, and student recital performance—as well as other piano-related events—both on-campus and off-campus.

X. The Pianist as Collaborator

Required of all first-year piano majors, regardless of degree program, *The Pianist as Collaborator* (MUEN 11700 and MUEN 11800) is a two-semester sequence (1 credit each semester) designed to introduce concepts and develop basic skills relating to vocal and instrumental collaboration. These include: proper balance of the various components within a musical texture, matching articulations, breathing, voicing, pedaling, preparation techniques, rehearsal techniques, the development of listening skills, etc. The course is taught in a combination lecture/master-class setting. In addition, students meet on a weekly basis in smaller groups with the instructor for more intensive coaching and application of collaborative techniques.

XI. Keyboard Musicianship for Keyboard Majors

All keyboard majors are required to take two semesters (1 credit each semester) of *Keyboard Musicianship for Keyboard Majors* (PFSM 17500 and PFSM 17600). A grade each semester of at least C- must be achieved; if not, the student will need to retake the course in which a grade of D+ or lower was earned. Keyboard Musicianship covers advanced keyboard skills that will prepare the student for life as a professional pianist. These skills include: sight-reading; improvisation; harmonization of primary, secondary, secondary dominant, Neapolitan, and augmented sixth chords, using various left-hand and two-handed accompaniment styles; chord progressions; transposition of various keyboard textures, including entire hymns; open choral and instrumental score reading, playing any and all combinations of

parts; proficiency in all instrumental transpositions; proficiency in reading alto and tenor clefs in combination with treble and bass clefs; and basic figured bass realization.

XII. Other Required or Elective Courses: Accompanying Masterclass, Piano/Instrumental Duo, Piano/Vocal Duo, Chamber Music Ensemble, Piano Ensemble, Piano Literature, Piano Pedagogy, Intro to Harpsichord, Intro to Organ, Piano Technology

The piano area offers various specialized courses (listed in the heading above), some of which are required for certain degree programs. Performance and 4 ½ majors are required to take some of these, however students in other degree programs can elect to take them, with the permission of the instructor in some instances. Consult the Undergraduate Catalog for descriptions of each course.

XIII. Concerto Competition

The annual Concerto Competition starts during the first week of Spring Semester. The Piano Preliminaries are held in Ford Hall, with the piano faculty acting as judges. Students must apply to compete at the end of the Fall Semester, in consultation with the studio teacher. The performance time for each contestant is 10 minutes, so cuts may need to be implemented. The piano area is permitted to send up to 5 students to the Final Round, which is held on the following Sunday in Ford Hall. The piano faculty reserves the right to send no one to the Final Round, if they so choose. Students are responsible for finding their own accompanist and for securing rehearsal time in Ford prior to the preliminaries. Any student enrolled for lessons with an IC faculty member during the semester of the Concerto Competition is eligible to compete.

XIV. Practice Rooms and Signups

Each semester all music majors queue for practice room signups. This happens during the first few weeks of the semester. Stay posted for announcements regarding day and time. All piano majors, regardless of degree program, are permitted up to three hours/day of guaranteed practice time in a grand piano practice room. Rooms are reserved between 8am and 10pm, Monday through Friday. At any other time—whether on weekends, or before 8am or after 10pm on weekdays—practice rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. When taking a break from practicing, return in 15 minutes or less or else others may claim the space. Be considerate of colleagues who are looking for available spaces to practice! Also, be sure not to leave anything valuable in a practice room when leaving for a break. The college is not responsible for personal items missing from a student's practice room.

XV. Piano Care and Maintenance

We are fortunate at Ithaca College to have high-quality practice and performance pianos. Each piano major is expected to be vigilant towards the care of the college's inventory. You must observe the following: 1) NO food or drinks permitted on the pianos at any time (i.e., on the lid or on the music desk). 2) In general, place nothing at all on the lid. Binders, books, and bags can all scratch the finish. If working with instrumentalists, do not let them place their instrument, instrument case, or wire stand on the piano lid. 3) If you remove the cloth piano cover from one of the performance pianos, please do not place it on the floor. The cover will pick up dirt and could scratch the finish of the instrument. 4)

Students are prohibited from using the concert pianos (Hockett, Ford, Nabenhauer Halls) as practice instruments. These pianos are used only for official dress rehearsals, coachings, Repertoire Classes, and recital performances. Official policies regarding proper care of all keyboard instruments in Whalen can be found online at http://staff.ithaca.edu/dmckech/keyboard_policies/. It is your responsibility for knowing these guidelines and for adhering to them.

Our full-time piano technician at Ithaca College is Mr. Don McKechnie. If a practice or performance piano needs maintenance, fill out the appropriate form, found either on Mr. McKechnie's bulletin board at Whalen 1212 or online at http://www.ithaca.edu/music/current_students/maintenancerequest/.

XVI. TIPS Program

TIPs (Teaching Intern Program) is a program designed to give Ithaca College piano majors the opportunity to experience a private teaching internship. Teaching takes place in a supervised environment and offers Ithaca College students immediate feedback on each lesson they teach. This is a professional-level program with quality teaching and high learning expectations.

Any piano major may participate either for credit (independent study) or not for credit. Teachers receive a stipend for their teaching. All lessons are 30-minute private lessons and are given at Ithaca College. More information can be found online at <http://faculty.ithaca.edu/dsmartin/TIPS/>.

XVII. Tutoring Opportunities for Keyboard Musicianship

Junior and Senior piano majors may be considered to serve as Keyboard Tutors. These positions entail working with students currently enrolled in any of the Keyboard Musicianship courses who wish to receive additional assistance in Keyboard Musicianship or advice on effective practice techniques. Appointments are scheduled via e-mail and/or phone communication between the student and the tutor. In addition, tutors are required to offer a weekly one-hour "drop-in" session in one of the piano labs. Tutoring forms are used to track the requirements (detailed by the instructor), progress, and attendance. Tutoring positions are granted to piano majors in good academic standing after an interview with either Dr. Martin or Dr. Birr. Preference will be given to those who have already completed *Piano Pedagogy* (MUMC 49300). Keyboard tutoring positions are considered to be work-study positions.

XVIII. Ithaca College Chapter of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

The Ithaca College chapter of MTNA connects IC music students with music professionals around the state and nationwide. Under the leadership of student officers and adviser Dr. Jennifer Hayghe, the IC chapter is active in the Ithaca community, organizing piano recitals in retirement homes, teaching in the IC Teaching Intern Program, and hosting its annual Instrument Petting Zoo at the Community School of Music and Arts. The IC chapter annually attends the New York State Music Teachers Association (NYSMTA) conference and the national conference of MTNA. In the Fall of 2011, the Ithaca College chapter worked behind the scenes to help produce the NYSMTA conference held at Ithaca College. The

chapter also participated in the March 2012 national conference in New York City, where they attended a Murray Perahia recital at Lincoln Center.