

Working with Collaborative Pianists

- When preparing for a performance with piano, contact your pianist in a timely fashion. For a studio class, this should be at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance of your performance. For a jury, this should be at least 3 to 4 weeks in advance.
- If you intend to perform a piece with a difficult piano part, such as the Hindemith, Casterede, or Schnyder, try to contact your pianist at least two months in advance. If you intend to perform the Grøndahl, less time is necessary. Remember, your pianist needs time to prepare, too!
- Arrange to give your pianist your music in a timely fashion. Be as clear as possible and upfront about desired tempos. If there are cuts, make sure your pianist knows about it before they waste time preparing a section they won't perform.
- Schedule at least one rehearsal prior to your coaching/lesson with your teacher. When signing up for studio class, Friday recital, or juries, be sure to consult with your pianist prior to adding your name to the list.
- Be on time to your rehearsals and coachings. Be sufficiently warmed up.
- If applicable, pay your pianist before your performance, recording, etc. Ask your artist for an invoice or exact amount owed at least 24 hours prior to the service.
- Pay your pianist using the method they prefer. Usually cash, check, or app (Venmo, Paypal). Do not ever write a bad check, and don't pay your pianist in loose change.
- Refer to your pianist as either a "pianist" or "collaborative artist". Avoid the term "accompanist". Most of the literature you'll play is chamber music, and the piano part is usually way more difficult than the trombone part! Show proper respect!
- Keep in mind that all string instruments need to be tuned before a performance or recording. This includes piano, and especially harpsichord!
- Always ask if your pianist wants/needs a page turner, and unless they have one they like to work with, it is your responsibility to find one. Make sure the page turner is trained properly and shows up in time to be briefed by the pianist.