

Collaborative Ensemble – MUS 126-01 – One Credit
Thursdays, 1:00-1:50 pm
Dr. Marlais PAC 1227, and SVS

This class serves as a required part of applied lessons for those who are in the BM Performance track. BA and BME students are encouraged to take the class. An ensemble is required for anyone taking applied lessons.

As of March 4, 2016 –

MUS 126 counts as a major ensemble. This class, with an additional 2 credits of large ensemble, must be taken in order to fulfill degree requirements.

Examples of a large ensemble are the following:

(All of the following may be repeated for credit)

MUS 101 - Grand Valley Singers Credits: 1

MUS 102 - Concert Band Credits: 1

MUS 103 - Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra Credits: 1

MUS 107 - Grand Valley Marching Band Credits: 1

MUS 112 - Symphonic Wind Ensemble Credits: 1

MUS 117 - Grand Valley University Arts Chorale Credits: 1

MUS 108 - New Music Ensemble Credits: 1

BM students may take collaborative piano for up to 7 semesters and may sign up for a major ensemble for 2 semesters.

A pianist in any of the degree programs may use MUS 126 as a major ensemble. They must, however, also take 2 semesters of a large ensemble.

Collaborative ensemble will be shared between Dr. Marlais and an applied studio teacher or ensemble director. Students with little or no experience in collaborative piano will work in the voice studios or in another studio that Dr. Marlais finds appropriate to gain skill. MUS 126 is offered every semester, Thursday 1:00-1:50 (PAC 1227).

1) All students taking piano lessons will pick up an accompanying contract from Dr. Marlais and take it to the designated voice/instrumental instructor or ensemble director they will be working with during the semester. The collaborative piano contract is to be signed in advance of the project. This will help focus everyone's attention on the value of this important work. **Please give Dr. Marlais a copy of your signed contract by Monday, Oct. 3 (Fall semester) and Feb. 14 (Winter semester).**

2) During the weekly class - piano students will take the collaborative repertoire to the accompanying class and give this importance as they would any other repertoire piece. Students are expected to learn the accompanying repertoire before going to the instrumental/vocal applied lesson or ensemble rehearsal. Dr. Marlais will coach students on their repertoire, without and then with their collaborative partner, as soon as they are ready. Dr. Marlais will help students with the learning of their accompaniments,

especially orchestral reductions. The class will learn how to modify and make easier piano scores. While students are getting their accompaniments prepared, the class will sight-read ensemble pieces – duets, trios, and quartets, practicing their ensemble skills. Sometimes collaborative music will be given as an assignment, to be “prepared” for the next class. Score reading will also be addressed.

*****After midterms students will sign up for a specific day/time to be coached with their collaborative partner(s). Students must play for Dr. Marlais with their partner at least once.**

3) The instrumental/vocal studio professor/ensemble director will be obliged to hear the accompanist and the soloist *at least twice* during the semester. (The more times a student can go for a coaching, the better the pedagogical experience.) **Students should be sure to get in their two coachings in a timely fashion in order to obtain a grade. It is not up to the professor to contact the student for coaching. Please be proactive and communicate with the professor, even if the student you are working with does not. While it is important for the other partner to contact the pianist, this is often not the case.**

4) Repertoire will be assigned between 1-3 students. For example: 2-3 singers in a vocal studio, or 1-2 instrumentalists in an instrumental studio. BM students – 20 minutes of repertoire (depending on the difficulty): BA and BME students – 10 to 14 minutes of repertoire; minors – 5 minutes of repertoire. University ensembles in need of pianists will have the strongest pianists in the department assigned to them. Pianists will be expected to be there for several rehearsals before each performance.

5) Note to performance faculty: *Accompanying scholarships* are for instrumental/vocal students in a professors’ studio who do not have to pay for a student accompanist during the semester. Since the piano students are taking collaborative ensemble as a co-requisite for their piano lessons, they will work with the student(s) of your choice for free*.

*This will include three performances for free, such as a studio class/jury/MPR. Included in this time are the hours of rehearsal for these three performances. For other performances in addition to these three, the student will be paid as the accompanying contract states. Even if an accompanist is not playing an entire half or full recital, they should be paid for the full rate.

Every faculty member must ensure Dr. Marlais that the student accompanist will perform the piece that he/she has worked on for a jury/student recital hour/other important event. If you plan to change repertoire before a public performance and not use the student who is learning the repertoire for free, please do not use the student pianist. This ensemble must be a strong learning experience for the student pianist and it must culminate in a public performance.

6) It is reasonable to expect that the respective vocal/instrumental professors and/or ensemble directors make every effort to provide coaching on ensemble details and other musical ideas that are of instructional and artistic value to the student pianist.

7) At the end of the semester, the applied instrumental/vocal teacher or ensemble director will write an assessment of the piano student's work during the semester and give it to Dr. Marlais who will place it in the student's file in the music office.

8) Dr. Marlais is the coach/administrator and the liaison for all faculty and students in this program. Dr. Marlais will keep a log of all contracts so that students have the necessary papers in order to graduate.

9) Students cannot double dip. Therefore, they cannot accept money for the accompanying they do as part of their contract work.

10) Collaborative ensemble experiences may change every semester or every year in order for students to learn different kinds of repertoire and coaching styles. Discussion of this will occur at the beginning of each semester.

11) Please contact Dr. Marlais if you will not be able to attend class. Collaborative piano is a performance studio class, with requirements similar to studio piano.

For every absence that is not well documented, your grade will be reduced by one grade increment. (A becomes an A-, A- becomes a B+). If you miss a coaching with the vocal/instrumental professor more than once during the semester, it will cause you to fail the course. Be professional in manner and appearance. Be on time for all coachings.

Do not schedule conflicts with this class.

12) Performance attire:

Concert attire is black for most performances. What looks best on stage is the following: long tailored pants, flared skirts falling at the knee or below the knee, sensible shoes, nylons on legs for women. Please no jeans, shorts, hats, sandals, winter boots, flip-flops, or revealing, clingy, or tight outfits. Gum chewing is not permissible.

13) Each student will participate in "Octubafest", a rip-roaring fun event with the tuba players!

14) Please see Accompanist Contract and the Accompanist List on line under "Student Forms" in the website of the Department of Music and Dance

15) Labor Day recess – Sept 4-6, Midterms Oct 10-14, Thanksgiving Nov 23-27

Juries are the week of Dec. 12, 2016, March 9, 2017 – week of Spring Break

March 17th – Clarinet Day (Dr. Marlais performing), April 24, 2017 – Juries and finals

COLLABORATIVE PIANO ENSEMBLE CONTRACT Date: _____

Term: _____

Name of student accompanist: _____

Name of professor: _____

This contract serves as a Co-requisite for those who take piano lessons.

Make a copy of this form with #1 and #2 below filled out for Dr. Marlais and keep a copy for your own records. Give to Dr. Marlais by Oct. 3 (Fall semester) or Feb 14th (Winter semester). After the coachings are finished by the end of the semester, give this form again to Dr. Marlais to complete the semester requirements.

Semester: Fall Winter (circle one) year: _____

1) Obtain the signatures of the professors involved:

Voice/instrumental studio teacher and/or ensemble director you will be working with:

2) List below the students you will work with and their repertoire:
(List phone numbers/emails) The student who is working with the accompanist will contact the accompanist to start collaborating.

After #1 and #2 above have been completed, start to practice and work with your collaborator and professor:

By the last week of classes, give Dr. Marlais this form again, this time complete with signatures and dates after each coaching by the vocal/instrumental professor or ensemble director. There will be at least two coachings.

Coaching #1: _____ Date: _____

Coaching #2: _____ Date: _____

**N.B.* Repertoire will be assigned between 1-3 students. BM students – 20 minutes of repertoire (depending on the difficulty); BA and BME students – 10 minutes of repertoire; minors – 5 minutes of repertoire.

ASSESSMENT OF COLLABORATIVE PIANO STUDENT-

(To be completed by the applied voice/instrumental faculty member or ensemble director)

Name of professor: _____

Name of student accompanist: _____

Term: _____ **Date:** _____

1) How well prepared was the collaborative piano student during the semester?

Excellent Good Average Unsatisfactory

Please comment as necessary:

2) Was he/she on time to rehearsals? Yes no

Please comment as necessary:

3) Did the student grow as a musician during the semester? Yes no

Please comment as necessary:

4) What does the student pianist do well?

5) Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

6) What grade would you give this student for the semester?

Please return to Dr. Marlais during finals week.