MASTER OF MUSIC: PIANO PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE

Program Overview

Piano at Westminster Choir College has multiple dimensions at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It fosters the development of students who perform on a high level as soloists, as artist-teachers and as collaborators with other performing artists. A strong foundation of technique and knowledge of piano literature and style are essential to all the foregoing.

Students majoring in piano pedagogy and performance receive private lessons, study major teaching methodologies, and undertake observation and practice teaching.

Curriculum Overview

The program includes a two-semester teaching internship and culminates in a full recital or else in a combination lecture/performance recital. Semester juries are required. A weekly pedagogy lab is required for two semesters, but recommended for all four semesters.

Degrees Offered


Contact

Margaret Cusack  
Professor and Chairperson  
Erdman Hall 26  
609-921-7100, ext. 8253  
mcusack@rider.edu

Ingrid Clarfield  
Professor  
Erdman 11  
609-921-7100, ext. 8290  
clarfield@rider.edu

Program Website: www.rider.edu/wcc (http://www.rider.edu/wcc)  
Associated Department: Westminster Choir College

Related Programs

• Piano Performance (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/general-requirements)  
• Piano Accompanying and Coaching (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/mm-piano-accompanying-coaching)

Faculty

Dalton Baldwin • Adjunct Professor, Piano, 1984. B.A., Oberlin Conservatory.  
Ingrid Clarfield • Professor, Piano, 1982. B.M., Oberlin College; M.M., Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester.  
Miriam Eley • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Piano, 1995. B.M., Baylor University; M.M. Indiana University.

Ena Bronstein Barton • Adjunct Associate Professor, Piano, 1983. Artist Diploma, Escuela Moderna de Musica and Conservatorio Nacional de Musica, Santiago, Chile.

James Goldsworthy • Professor, Piano, 1996. B.M., M.M., Southern Methodist University; D.M.A., Stanford University.

Phyllis Lehrer • Professor, Piano, 1975. A.B., University of Rochester; M.S., Juilliard School.

Thomas Parente • Associate Professor, Piano, 1993. B.A., Jersey City State College; B.M., Manhattan School of Music; M.A., Rutgers University; Dalcroze Eurhythmics License, Longy School of Music; Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University.

J.J. Penna • Associate Professor, Piano, 1996. B.M., Binghamton University; D.M.A., University of Michigan.

Agnes Poltorak • Adjunct Assistant Professor, Piano, 2000. B.M., University of British Columbia, Canada; M.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University.


Betty Handelman Stoloff • Adjunct Associate Professor, Piano, 1978. B.M.A., University of Michigan; M.A., Columbia University.

Master of Music: Piano Pedagogy and Performance Major Requirements

Learn more about General Graduate Requirements. (http://catalog.rider.edu/westminster-choir-college/graduate-programs/general-requirements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PI 611</td>
<td>Piano Pedagogy Lab (2 terms)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 622</td>
<td>Eval Piano Teaching Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 633</td>
<td>Piano Literature Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 641A</td>
<td>Piano Primary (4 terms)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 661</td>
<td>Graduate Piano Pedagogy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 691A</td>
<td>Piano Pedagogy Internship I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PI 691B</td>
<td>and Piano Pedagogy Internship II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 723</td>
<td>Psychology for Music Tchr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MH 731</td>
<td>Intro to Musicology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR 509</td>
<td>Symphonic Choir (2 terms)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory or Music History elective (1 course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core elective (1 course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Free electives | 1 |

Total Credits | 38 |

The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student’s major area, area of emphasis, and/or area of applied study.

Upon approval from the department, students are required to present a public recital.

Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 641A</td>
<td>Piano Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 611</td>
<td>Piano Pedagogy Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI 661</td>
<td>Graduate Piano Pedagogy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
anxiety. Behavioral, physical and cognitive manifestations of performance for practicing, memorizing techniques, and ways of coping with the should they occur. The second includes the reading process, strategies technique, implications for injury prevention, and how to deal with injuries exercise, nutrition, anatomy and physiology as they relate to piano and 2) the pianist as performer. The first includes a study of appropriate The two major emphases of this course are: (1) the pianist as athlete standards will provide a structural basis for the course.

PI 516 Physical/Psych Aspects Piano 2 Credits

Prerequisite

Free elective

Total Credits

38

PI 510 Piano Primary I 1

Core elective

PI 633 Piano Literature Seminar 3

Free elective

PI 512 Chamber Music 2 Credits

Emphasis is placed upon rehearsal and performances of representative collaborative literature for strings and piano, and woodwinds and piano. Students will be assigned movements from major chamber works selected from different style periods. Professional instrumentalists will join them for rehearsals and performances in class. An overview of the development of this repertoire will be presented and listening assignments will augment the study of specific works. A project involving the study and presentation of a piano quartet or piano quintet will be included. Attendance at three concerts of instrumental chamber music is required. Permission of applied teacher and instructor is required.

PI 513 Jazz Keyboard/Improv 3 Credits

This course will enable pianists and organists to become familiar with the theory, harmony, and improvisational techniques of jazz piano. Emphasis will be placed upon getting each student to create spontaneous improvisations. The fundamental goal will be that of enabling students accustomed to following a score to move beyond it. Extensive exposure to material from the “Great American Songbook” as well as to jazz standards will provide a structural basis for the course.

Prerequisite(s): TH 142 and PI 201, or equivalent knowledge and technical proficiency.

PI 516 Physical/Psych Aspects Piano 2 Credits

The two major emphases of this course are: (1) the pianist as athlete and 2) the pianist as performer. The first includes a study of appropriate exercise, nutrition, anatomy and physiology as they relate to piano technique, implications for injury prevention, and how to deal with injuries should they occur. The second includes the reading process, strategies for practicing, memorizing techniques, and ways of coping with the behavioral, physical and cognitive manifestations of performance anxiety.

PI 540 Keyboard Skills 3 Credits

The course includes in-depth study of numerous aspects of musicianship skills essential for all pianists within the broader categories of technique and practice strategies; memorization and sight reading; improvisation and lead sheet realization. All aspects of piano musicianship skills will be addressed from practical, pedagogical, and collaborative points of view. Assignments will include examples of studies from a wide range of levels all within the current and developing skill level of each student enrolled in the class.

Prerequisite(s): UG - Eight credits of applied keyboard study or permission of keyboard instructor or course instructor. GR - Permission of course instructor.

PI 585 Piano Ensemble 1 Credits

Study and performance of piano duets, two-piano works, and works for combinations of three or more pianists. The emphasis is on ensemble techniques for rehearsal and performance.

PI 609 Graduate Piano Review 1 Credits

A functional course concentrating upon sight reading of simple piano accompaniments and open score reading. Required for graduate students with deficiencies in these skills.

PI 611 Piano Pedagogy Lab 0 Credits

This course provides a critical survey of piano teaching materials, including standard teaching literature, approaches to piano technique in writings and music exercises, and repertoire for the elementary, intermediate, and early advanced student. All music is analyzed from the perspectives of performance, technical demands, strategies for teacher presentation, and student practice. Applications and demonstrations of technology are included. Graduate students demonstrate teaching and performance strategies in class and carry an assigned teaching load at the Westminster Conservatory.

PI 633 Piano Literature Seminar 3 Credits

A major area of piano repertoire is selected for intensive study. The emphasis of the seminar changes from semester to semester. Possible topics include the development of the Mozart concerto, keyboard works of J.S. Bach, piano writing of Debussy, and 20th Century piano music.
PI 641A Piano Primary 2 Credits
PI 641B Piano Primary 1 Credits
PI 641C Piano Elective 2 Credits
PI 641D Piano Elective 1 Credits
PI 641E Piano Primary 2 Credits
PI 641F Piano Primary 1 Credits
PI 661 Graduate Piano Pedagogy 3 Credits
This course serves as an intensive study of theoretical and practical aspects of piano study, through examination of instruction materials and developing a well-defined philosophy and approach to piano teaching. Students are challenged to increase their ability in connecting advanced and intermediate music study to the foundation of what should take place in the first weeks of piano lessons. The focus of the course lies in developing one's own curriculum, on its own terms, or associated with instruction materials already in publication. Various methodologies and significant areas of thought in the field of piano pedagogy are explored and compared. The course involves private and group lesson observations at all levels of teaching. Practical application of education theory to music lessons at the piano is done through demonstration and practice teaching at the Westminster Conservatory or the College. Practical application of educational theory to music lessons at the piano is done through demonstration and practice teaching through the Westminster Conservatory or the College.

PI 690 Independent Research and Study 1-3 Credits
Students may pursue a special topic for which they have prepared through prior course work. Only one project may be scheduled in a semester. The project may involve 1-3 credit hours. Approval of the faculty sponsor, department chair, and dean required prior to the first day of the semester in which the project is to be completed. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 required.
Prerequisite(s): graduate standing.

PI 691A Piano Pedagogy Internship I 3 Credits
The two-semester internship includes weekly teaching each semester, faculty observation of this teaching, and private discussion with the faculty observer. In addition, students themselves observe group and private lessons and are given readings, written assignments, and/or projects associated with their own teaching. Internships may include intensive study of private and/or group instruction, reading for children, working with college, adults, piano minor, gifted students or traditional studio of all ages and levels.

PI 691B Piano Pedagogy Internship II 3 Credits
The two-semester internship includes weekly teaching each semester, faculty observation of this teaching, and private discussion with the faculty observer. In addition, students themselves observe group and private lessons and are given readings, written assignments, and/or projects associated with their own teaching. Internships may include intensive study of private and/or group instruction, reading for children, working with college, adults, piano minor, gifted students or traditional studio of all ages and levels.

PI 713 Accompanying Class 3 Credits
Students will investigate aspects of ensemble in vocal accompanying. Discussion topics will include rubato and its connection to language, stylistic concerns, musical preparation as well as practical issues such as recital programming and balance. Students will be expected to absorb extensive repertoire through attendance and performance. Class format will include both student presentations and lecture sessions.

PI 714 Techniques of Coaching I 2 Credits
A practical course designed to furnish information and experience in all aspects of vocal coaching, including diction coaching, ornamentation and realization, issues of drama and presentation, stylistic considerations, stage deportment and specialized accompanying skills. Students are observed in the process of coaching singers. Semantics and pedagogical techniques are stressed and polished. Factors involved in translations of Italian, French, German and other non-English texts are studied.

PI 715 Techniques of Coaching II 2 Credits
A practical course designed to furnish information and experience in all aspects of vocal coaching, including diction coaching, ornamentation and realization, issues of drama and presentation, stylistic considerations, stage deportment and specialized accompanying skills. Students are observed in the process of coaching singers. Semantics and pedagogical techniques are stressed and polished. Factors involved in translations of Italian, French, German and other non-English texts are studied.
Prerequisite(s): PI 714.