



Chamber Music Program

Laura Giannini, Director

Tomoko Uchino, Piano Ensemble Coordinator

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Pre-College (K-12) Chamber Music Program

The Chamber Music Program offers small ensemble experience to intermediate and advanced instrumentalists/pianists. The K-12 program includes 12 sessions of coaching per ensemble per semester and a variety of performance opportunities. It is open to students who maintain the highest standard of dedication, commitment, and attendance. At the discretion of the coach, a student may be discharged from a group for poor attendance.

All students – continuing students and those new to the Chamber Music Program – are placed in ensembles according to age, ability, and availability following a placement meeting. Placement meetings will be held on September 4 and 5, between the hours of 3:00-9:00 pm. Students must register for a placement meeting by completing the [Chamber Music & Piano Ensemble Placement Meeting RSVP form](#).

Our chamber music ensemble placement process includes the following steps:

- Completion of this form.
- Make an appointment for an in-person placement meeting with members of the Hoff-Barthelson faculty representing strings, winds, and piano. Appointments are made using [Chamber Music & Piano Ensemble Placement Meeting RSVP form](#).
- Follow up communication as needed from the chamber music program director.
- Notification of ensemble placement by Thursday, September 26, 2024.
- A Student and Faculty Services team member will contact you to complete your registration.

The placement meeting itself includes:

- Conversation during which students will share information about their past experience
- A performance of up to 5 minutes of a solo piece that best demonstrates the student's level of ability
 - Placement meeting performances will be unaccompanied
 - Students must bring an extra copy of their solo selection to the placement meeting
 - No scales are required
- Pianists will be required to sightread

Following placement meetings, students are placed into the following ensemble levels, assigned a coach, and coaching/class time, and location:

- **Chamber Music I** – String, woodwind, and brass players with ability equivalent to NYSSMA Level 2-4. Pianists, guitarists, and harpists by teacher recommendation and placement audition. Coached sessions will be 45 minutes in length.
- **Chamber Music II** – String, woodwind, and brass players with ability equivalent to NYSSMA Level 4-6. Pianists, guitarists, and harpists by teacher recommendation and placement audition. Coached sessions will be 60 minutes in length.

- **Piano Ensemble** – Intermediate pianists **NEW** to chamber music; also available to intermediate and advanced students who prefer to play in a piano ensemble. Coached sessions will be 60 minutes in length.

Piano Ensemble Division of the HB Chamber Music Program

The Piano Ensemble Program, a component of the Chamber Music Program is available for intermediate to advanced piano students who would like to develop ensemble and sight-reading skills while enjoying the social and emotional benefits of music-making with others. The curriculum is focused on developing sightreading and ensemble skills necessary for playing in a mixed (piano/winds/strings) chamber music ensemble. Ensembles meet in our state-of-the-art piano lab and in facilities using acoustic pianos as appropriate.

Pianists new to chamber music will be placed in the Piano Ensemble Program. Exceptions will be made for pianists with excellent playing ability who are comfortable learning challenging music quickly. Returning piano chamber music students may opt for this program as well.

Adult Chamber Music

Adults playing at intermediate and advanced levels make music together in a duo, trio, quartet, or larger chamber ensemble. Ensembles rehearse for 20 weeks, October through May, and enjoy multiple performance opportunities. Chamber groups are formed based on student playing levels by a faculty coordinator. Students are welcome to suggest ensemble partners or, if they already perform in an ensemble, to register as a pre-formed group. Coaching sessions for trios and larger ensembles are 60-minutes in duration. Coaching sessions for duos are 45-minutes in duration. Day and time are custom scheduled for each ensemble.

Questions?

- Precollege chamber music questions: Please contact Laura Giannini at chambermusic@hbms.org.
- Piano ensemble questions: please contact Tomoko Uchino at pianoensembles@hbms.org.
- Adult chamber music questions: please contact Rie Matsumoto at 26riematsumoto@gmail.com.