Why Chamber Music?

As personal assistant to Isaac Stern, I learned much about his world of music. Central to this was chamber music, a powerful influence throughout Mr. Stern’s life. During his teenage years, he delighted in playing string quartets with his friends. Through his love for chamber music as a young man, he played with one of his most cherished chamber music mentors, Pablo Casals. Although Mr. Stern was a famous soloist, he broke tradition by forming the legendary Stern/Rose/Istomin Trio, which toured the country for a decade. At the time of his death at 81, Mr. Stern was involved in teaching chamber music to students like you at Carnegie Hall, in Jerusalem, and in Japan.

This handbook will help you to understand how chamber music is organized at Manhattan School of Music, and it will give you hints on how to get the most out of it. We expect a full commitment from you as the professional musicians you are becoming. You will have responsibilities towards your colleagues to play your best. You’ll disagree. You’ll compromise. You’ll learn. Just like Mr. Stern.

Lynne Normandia
Manager of Chamber Music and Ensembles
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I. Introduction

Collaborative artistry is a vital part of study and performance at Manhattan School of Music. Almost every classical instrumentalist and vocalist is required to take part in Chamber Music and Small Ensembles at some point in their degree program. There is a fixed band of time reserved in the school's daily schedule for chamber music and ensembles, during which most classes cease and the whole school participates in instrumental and vocal ensembles.

Nearly 100 chamber ensembles ranging from duos to octets are coached every semester. Faculty comprises 50 of the school's most experienced chamber musicians including current and former members of the Juilliard, Guarneri, Tokyo, and Mendelssohn string quartets, the Meridian Brass Ensemble, Orfeus, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic and other acclaimed concert artists. Our prestigious resident ensembles, the world renowned American String Quartet and woodwind quintet Windscape coach and give frequent performances. In addition to studies with our expert chamber faculty, students are provided opportunities to play for and observe world-famous guest artists. Mr. Robert Mann, founder of the Juilliard String Quartet, gives a week-long workshop for promising young quartets from around the country every year.

For **instrumentalists**, in addition to traditional ensembles, we offer the Music of India ensemble and for Baroque performance practices we have the Baroque Aria Ensemble and a chamber orchestra for opera. For **singers** there are ensembles as well as performance classes which include Opera Studio, American Musical Theater, Baroque Aria Ensemble and workshops with Neil Rosenshein and Catherine Malfitano among many others. **Pianists** are able to earn chamber music credit through regular chamber groups (two-piano duos are popular), through instrumental studio accompanying or in vocal accompanying ensembles.

Students are placed into instrumental and vocal ensembles by their department chairpersons in collaboration with the manager of chamber music. They are encouraged to submit individual requests to participate in a specific type of ensemble, as well as request a particular chamber coach. Groups that are already in formation may also make a request to study together.

Performance is an important element of the chamber music program. A final performance of each chamber group and ensemble is required. Toward the end of each semester, we hold the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition. Coaches recommend groups who audition for the gala winners’ concert. Ensembles perform in school and off campus. Chamber Music Festivals – weekend-long celebrations featuring string, piano, woodwind, brass, guitar and vocal ensembles --- take place each winter and spring.
II. Who is Required to Take Chamber Music and Ensembles?

- All undergraduate and graduate classical instrumentalists: The number of semesters required varies with instrument (see chart in back of book).
- All undergraduate pianists beginning with their junior year
- All graduate pianists in their 2nd year only
- Instrumental accompanists in their 1st year only
- All graduate voice students
- Professional Studies students may elect chamber music.
- DMA students may elect chamber in their second year.

For further information, see the chart listing yearly requirements on page 21 of this handbook or consult the School catalogue.

Special note: Violists and cellists are always in demand; therefore, they may elect to take chamber music in their freshman year with their private teacher’s approval.

If you are NOT required to take chamber music this year but would like to participate, please see Lynne in Room 201. She will gladly put your name on the waiting list.

III. Procedures and Guidelines for Instrumentalists

Students enrolled in chamber music are placed into instrumental and vocal ensembles by their department chairs in collaboration with the manager of chamber music and ensembles. Group assignments are posted in the first two weeks of the semester. Chamber music coachings begin a few weeks into each semester to enable groups to get to know each other before their first coaching.

At the end of each semester students may submit their future ensemble preferences for consideration. Groups that are already in formation or students who wish to study together may request to do so by submitting a request form for the following semester. Individuals are encouraged to submit requests for their preferred type of ensemble. Students may also request a particular coach. We do consider your requests seriously and try to honor them whenever possible, however final decisions are made by the department chairs.
1. Guidelines for a Successful Chamber Music Experience

Any professional musician will tell you that success depends on a combination of talent, hard work, friends, and luck. Commitment to your chamber colleagues will help to establish many of the necessary work habits and strategies that will guide you in your future careers. The guidelines below will enable you to achieve that goal:

- **Read this Handbook.**

- **Check the bulletin board near Room 201 at the beginning of the semester for group assignments that list your colleagues, your coach, and the day and time assigned to your group. IMPORTANT: Be sure to write your phone number and e-mail address next to your name on the list. If you do not see your name listed, it is your responsibility to ask the chamber music manager about your status.**

- **Call the members** of your group immediately. Meet with them to discuss repertoire and the group’s rehearsal schedule. Prepare for your first coaching.

- **Call the coach** (contact information is available from Room 201) to introduce yourselves; they will appreciate it more than you can imagine.

- **Practice your individual part** first!

- **CANCELLATIONS** - Do not cancel a coaching due to lack of rehearsal time. If one member of the group is sick, *ask the coach if you should come without him/her.*

- **Coachings begin** the second or third full week of each semester and continue for 11 weeks. (11 hours are REQUIRED for accreditation.)

- **Time bands**—Chamber music takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00–7:00, and Fridays from 5:00–7:00. Students are required to keep these hours free until they are informed of their chamber music coaching times.

- **Practice rooms**—Chamber groups get VIP treatment. Once your assignment has been posted, you may book rehearsal space through the Scheduling Office (Room 110A):
  Book a weekly time for the semester or book individual rehearsals online up to 7 days in advance.

- **Rehearsals**—Set a regular weekly rehearsal time that works for all members. You are expected to rehearse at least 3 hours a week with your group. Learn your own part before you rehearse together. Be on time; this is a sign of respect.
for your colleagues. If you are delayed, you must phone them before you are late.

✓ **Lateness/attendance**—Your promptness and good attendance constitute a part of your grade. Remember: *you are already building your reputation.* Note: If your coaching session runs back-to-back with an orchestra rehearsal, you are permitted to arrive 5 minutes late to orchestra.

✓ **Attendance is REQUIRED** at all of the below:

- The fall General Meeting
- 11 regularly scheduled coachings
- A final performance

✓ **Absences**—An absence from a coaching is acceptable only in a personal emergency. If possible, give your coach at least 24 hours’ notice. Faculty are sometimes able to reschedule a canceled chamber coaching, although they are not required to do so. You may send a sub if you cannot make one coaching. See “Grading” for specific ramifications of unexcused absences.

✓ **Extended absence**—If a professional commitment will cause your absence for more than two weeks of classes, a leave of absence must be granted by the dean of students, and your coach and ensemble must be notified. It is YOUR responsibility to:

- Find a substitute or …
- Arrange make-up lessons with your coach or …
- With the permission of your coach, it is sometimes possible for the remainder of your group to study different repertoire while you are away. For example, if you are part of a piano trio, the other two colleagues might be able to play sonatas in your absence.

✓ **Necessary materials**—Bring a pencil and eraser. You must bring a score for your coach, and you should mark it with letters or bar numbers like your own parts. Get to your classroom early to help set up stands and chairs. It will be appreciated.

✓ **Grading**—Your coach will inform you of her or his grading policy. Preparedness from each individual and from the group is the most important element of a satisfying session for everyone. A lack of commitment to the coach and colleagues will most definitely be reflected in the grade. An unexcused absence will reduce your grade by one letter.

✓ **Behavior**—You are expected to act professionally, which means using common sense and common courtesy.
✓ **Personnel conflicts**—In life, no two people think or play alike. That’s what makes us all unique. Chamber music helps train you to understand your fellow musicians’ uniqueness. In any professional situation, you may not like everyone you play with but you will have to work with them. Learn how to deal by listening carefully to what they have to say. You are in school to learn ideas other than your own. If you really can’t handle a situation, end the rehearsal quietly and come talk to Lynne in Room 201.

✓ **E-mail news** updates – Lynne lets you know about upcoming events and performance opportunities electronically. Please let us know if your address changes!

✓ News from the **Bulletin Board** at Room 201—Not only does the chamber music bulletin board post your initial assignment for the semester, it also gives you updates on your personnel (there are always additions, deletions, schedule changes, etc.). Also posted are upcoming events and national chamber music competition announcements. One of our groups won the 92nd Street Y Chamber Music Outreach Competition. Another won 2nd prize in a Boston competition they found listed on our bulletin board! So check the board weekly.

✓ **General Meeting** —REQUIRED: At the beginning of the year, we hold a meeting for all instrumentalists enrolled in Chamber Music to discuss the information in this handbook. You’ll also hear about the latest programs and concert opportunities.

✓ **Final Performance** – REQUIRED. Every semester every chamber music participant must play a final performance. It is your group’s responsibility to schedule one. Possibilities to fulfill the requirement include: CM Festivals, student recitals, outside engagements or class concerts (some coaches hold their own). See Page 12 “Performance Opportunities” for other interesting ideas.

✓ **COME TO CONCERTS**—Remember to support your chamber music colleagues by attending concerts and master classes!

2. **How to Make Future Group Requests**

**Fill out a FORM** at the end of the semester - If you are required to take chamber music, in December and/or May pick up a Group Request or Individual Request Form:

GROUP Request Form (yellow) = If you have a group or a partial list of colleagues assembled, or
3. Rules of Group Formation

1) Check to make sure that each individual in your ensemble IS REQUIRED TO TAKE CHAMBER MUSIC (see page 17 for Required Credit Chart.)

2) Choose colleagues with LIKE LEVELS OF ABILITY. The group selection committee, comprising the chairs of each department, assesses every request for a balance in the level of playing ability. It is for your own benefit, experience, and enjoyment that you choose colleagues with skill levels compatible with your own.

3) For instrumentalists, your ensemble must be AT LEAST A TRIO in size. For pianists: two-piano or four-hands is acceptable

4) EACH STUDENT will be assigned ONE group.* Request forms listing identical names will be substituted or redistributed.

5) Groups that have played together in the PREVIOUS SEMESTER will be given special consideration if they wish to continue their collaboration.

6) Students can request up to three COACH choices (see pages 19-20 for complete list). The coaches you list must be on the chamber music faculty and not the private teacher of any in the group. One of your group’s instruments must be the same as your coach.

*Due to high demand for string quartets, violists and cellists may play in two groups with the approval of their private teacher.

Deadlines: Get your forms in on time or you might lose your group! Upcoming deadlines are posted on the bulletin board and e-mailed to participants in May and December. Request forms for the next semester must be submitted by the end of each present semester.
IV. The Possibilities

1. Coaches

Students may request their 3 top chamber music coaches from over 50 faculty members. The chamber music faculty at Manhattan School of Music are some of the most distinguished artists in their fields including players from the Juilliard, Emerson, Mendelssohn and Tokyo string quartets, the Meridian Brass Ensemble, Orfeus, Chamber Music at Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic and other acclaimed concert artists. The American String Quartet and Windscape, our prestigious artists in residence chamber groups, are available to coach students and hold popular concerts at school and in New York City venues. (See complete list of faculty on pages 19-20. Biographies are available on the school Web site.)

2. Repertoire

Before your first coaching, discuss with your group what pieces you’d like to study. Your coach will then help you to select the appropriate repertoire for the group’s playing level.

3. Types of Groups from Which to Choose

FOR INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Trios, (no duos), quartets, etc.

Baroque Aria Ensemble*

Chamber Opera Orchestra **

Music of India***

Trombone or Trumpet Choir

Percussion, Guitar, and Sax Ensembles

*Baroque Aria—The Baroque Aria Ensemble offers instrumentalists and vocalists a unique opportunity to work together, exploring the repertoire of 18th-century opera, cantata, oratorio, concerto, and chamber music. In addition to vocal and instrumental coaching, Dr. Kenneth Cooper provides instruction in performance practices of the Baroque and Classical styles and improvisation, ornamentation, and ensemble skills. Pianists have the opportunity to study harpsichord with this world-renowned musician.

** Chamber Opera Orchestra - Spring only. An exciting opportunity for a double quartet of top quality strings and woodwinds to fulfill their CM requirement in a condensed rehearsal time – only a few weeks of rehearsals and
a week of performances which are often reviewed in the NY Times. Students have raved about the experience.

***Music of India - NEW! A course to open your musical experience outside the European influence. You will learn to improvise to Eastern melodies and form cohesive textural pieces with others in the group. Only a few openings.

FOR PIANISTS:

4-hands or 2 pianos

Piano trios (any mix), quartets, quintets

Baroque Aria (harpsichord)

Instrumental Studio Accompanying

String Accompanying Program

Vocal Accompanying

Orchestra

♩ ♪ ♫

Instrumental Studio Accompanying (ISA)—skilled pianists are assigned to a private studio to accompany students during private lessons; generally 5–10 lessons on chamber music repertoire such as sonatas.

♫ String Accompanying Program (SAP) – Fall auditions select pianists to learn accompanying skills and repertoire for 2 semesters through seminars, private lessons, and experience. If they succeed, they receive hourly stipends accompanying string players in their private lessons.

♪♫ Vocal accompanying—All undergraduate pianists are required to take one semester of vocal accompanying. Possibilities include Vocal Accompanying (French, German or Russian art songs and lieder) and Baroque Aria (learn harpsichord!).

♫♪ The Orchestra Manager recruits one or more experienced pianists as orchestral players at the beginning of each semester. See posters on board or contact Nola Robertson, nrobertson@msmnyc.edu.

4. Performance Opportunities for All Instrumentalists

Pforzheimer @ Four — A student presented concert series every Tuesday 4-5:00. A great way to try out new repertoire or prepare for auditions. Free publicity and program. Groups can sign up on the CM board or at pforzatfour@gmail.com.
Outreach Programs can help you serve your community through performance opportunities in schools, nursing homes, and other venues. Contact Rebecca Charnow: rcharnow@msmny.edu.

Master Classes—ROBERT MANN (Juilliard SQ), MICHAEL TREE (Guarneri SQ), DAVID GEBER, ANTON NEL, PHILLIPPE ENTREMONT and KAZUHIDE ISOMURA (Tokyo SQ) will be holding master classes for strings and piano (see calendar for details.) Groups are chosen to participate through faculty recommendations. Woodwind and Brass departments hold separate classes.

Chamber Opera - For top students needing to condense their Spring semester obligations, rehearsals and performances for these critically acclaimed jewels take place in 4 weeks instead of the usual 11 weeks. Typically needed: 6 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, bass, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

**Winter and Spring Chamber Music Festivals**

To provide every worthy ensemble a performance opportunity and generate excitement for chamber music throughout the School and the community, each semester culminates in a marathon weekend of chamber music concerts. The four-day winter and spring festivals combine the chamber music of piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, guitar, harp, and voice plus a gala concert for Fuchs Competition winners.

**To participate, sign up at the end of each semester.**

Special Note: RECORDINGS - If you want recordings of your performances, most chamber music festival concerts and master classes are recorded by the Myers Recording Studio. Copies of the recordings are available in the library and may be ordered directly from the Studio at Room 234.

5. Competitions at School

The Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition takes place each semester (see this year’s dates on pages 17-19). Outstanding chamber groups are nominated to compete by their coaches. Members of the faculty judge the auditions and select the ensembles who will perform at the winners’ concert in Greenfield Hall. All groups that participate in the auditions may request judges’ comments after the competition date.

Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition auditions are held each February by the department chairs of strings, piano, woodwind and voice; brass auditions alternate years with harp/percussion/guitar. 2013-14 is a Brass year.
Participants must have their entire concerto prepared by memory and bring their own accompanist. Winners are assigned concert dates for the next school year, performing with one of the school orchestras. Applications, guidelines and a list of concerti NOT permitted are available at Room 201.

**Artur Balsam Competition** for Duos takes place on *alternate years* in the Spring and includes preliminary and final rounds. Repertoire encompasses three complete sonatas from varying periods including one specified sonata for each type of instrument. The winning duos perform a recital the next night in Greenfield Hall and receive prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The next competition will take place in 2015.

### 6. Highlights from Past Year

Last year, we were able to offer our chamber music students exciting opportunities:

- Masterclasses by Robert Mann, Michael Tree, Kazuhide Isomura, Clive Greensmith, Phillipe Entremont, Menahem Pressler
- *Orpheus in the Underworld* - Offenbach opera known for its Can-Can. Our chamber orchestra won rave reviews and enjoyed it!
- MSM groups were selected to perform at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harvard Club, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Montauk Music Festival, among other venues.
- Robert Mann String Quartet Institute - January - Up to six of America’s most promising young string quartets, personally chosen by Mr. Mann, took part in a series of master classes and performances streamed live worldwide.
- Amateur Chamber Musicians Festival - May - Upbeat and patient Grad students were recruited to play with older adults.
- Shattered Glass - a conductorless string ensemble formed at MSM debuted at Carnegie’s Zankel Hall after playing at the Montauk Festival.
V. Stage Etiquette

This is show business! How you look and act onstage is an important part of your performance. It is your job to create the right environment to enhance your audience’s appreciation.

- **Dress**—Coordinate your concert clothing with your group members. Casual attire is not appropriate.
- **Tuning**—Get your “A” before you walk onstage so that adjustments onstage are minimal.
- **Stage entry**—Enter with confidence. Your entry and exit line-up orders should be planned ahead of time.
- **Onstage**—Stand and sit proudly. Your stage persona should command an audience to listen. (This is advice from Isaac Stern.)
- **Stage bows**—Choreograph them beforehand; one musician leads with the others acting in unison.
- **SMILE!** Connect with your audience.
VI. Student Evaluations
Evaluation forms are distributed at the end of each semester so that you can speak frankly about your experiences. They are done anonymously so that you can be honest in your responses. Copies of these evaluations are given to the department chairpersons and the faculty involved. The originals are filed in the teachers’ permanent files. We take these evaluations and their suggestions seriously.

We also enjoy reading evaluations and wish we could respond to some in person. What follows are a few of your comments with responses from the CM manager:

REAL COMMENTS from Student Evaluation Forms

Question #1: Please add comments that might enhance the chamber music program.

Student Comment: “It would help to hear and see other groups.”

The CM Manager Responds:
Sure would! MASTER CLASSES and CONCERTS are about listening to other groups. We have plenty of both. Did I see you at any of them last semester?

Question #2: What was missing from your chamber music experience?

Student Comment: “More concerts with more people listening!”

The CM Manager Responds:
In response to this frequent demand, I founded the Chamber Music Festivals to give you more stage presence. MSM’s new Center for Entrepreneurship offers cutting edge ideas on how to exploit your audience.

Regarding our audiences: Advertising our chamber music concerts is a priority at Manhattan School of Music; we are featured in the performance calendar brochure which is mailed to a huge audience list. We are listed for concert attendance. We hope that the chamber music festivals will give even more visibility to our concerts.

But it’s also up to YOU: If you go to more people’s concerts, they will come to yours. If you tell more friends about yours (Facebook?), they will come. How many concerts did YOU attend last year?
VII. Chamber Music Calendar 2013-14

FALL 2013

Sept. 9  Posting of CM assignments at Room 201
Sept. 11 10:00am  REQUIRED CM General Meeting for all enrolled students, Borden Auditorium;
               (Orchestra Meeting follows.)
Sept. 16  Windscape concert
Sept. 23  CM coachings and ensembles begin this week
Sept. 29  American String Quartet (ASQ) concert
Oct. 20  ASQ concert with students
Oct. 23  4-7:00  ANTON NEL Masterclass, Miller
Oct. 30  4-7:00  PHILIPPE ENTREMONT Masterclass, Greenfield
Nov. 13  5–8:00  FUCHS CM Competition, Pforzheimer
Nov. 14  4-6:00  MICHAEL TREE Masterclass, Room 215
Nov. 20  4-7:00  DAVID GEBER Masterclass, Greenfield

Winter Chamber Music Festival

Dec. 5  7:30  Mixed-Up CM
Dec. 6  5:00  Piano CM
               7:30  Fuchs Winners’ concert
Dec. 7  7:00  Strings & Things CM
Dec. 8  2:00  Everything CM
               4:30  Vocal CM
Dec. 9  Request forms due for Spring 2014

SPRING 2014

Jan. 8-12  Robert Mann SQ Institute
Jan. 13  Posting of CM assignments at Room 201
Jan. 15  Windscape concert
Jan 26  ASQ
Jan. 27  CM coachings and ensembles begin this week
April 1  4-7:00  KAZUHIDE ISOMURA , Room 215
April 9  5–8:00  FUCHS CM Competition, Pforzheimer
April 15  4-6:00  ROBERT MANN Masterclass, Miller
April 23  Request forms due for Fall 2014

**Spring Chamber Music Festival**

April 24  7:30  Mixed-Up CM
April 25  5:00  Piano CM
7:30  Fuchs winners’ concert
April 26  7:00  Strings & Things CM
April 27  2:00  Everything CM
4:30  Vocal CM
VIII. Faculty List

Coaches

Accompanying
Raymond Beegle – Vocal/Piano
John Forconi – Instrumental/Piano
Heasook Rhee - Instrumental/Piano

American Musical Theater & Musical Theater Lab
Carolyn Marlow

Baroque Aria Ensemble
Kenneth Cooper

Brass
Alan Baer, tuba
David Finlayson, trombone
Mark Gould, trumpet (dept. chair)
David Jolley **, horn
Thomas Smith, trumpet
David Taylor, trombone

Guitar
Mark Delpriora (dept. co-chair)
Oren Fader
David Leisner (dept. co-chair)

Harp
Susan Jolles

Jazz Chamber Ensemble
Justin DiCioccio

Percussion Ensemble
Jeffrey Milarsky

Strings and Piano
Daniel Avshalomov*, viola
Laurie Carney*, violin
Jeffrey Cohen, piano
David Geber, cello
Kazuhide Isomura, viola
Jon Klibonoff, piano
Wolfram Koessel*, cello
Curtis Macomber, violin
Nicholas Mann, violin
(dept. chair)
Robert Mann, violin
Heasook Rhee, piano
Gerald Robbins, piano
Lucie Robert, violin
Sylvia Rosenberg, violin
André-Michel Schub, piano
Marc Silverman, piano
(dept. chair)
Laurie Smukler, violin
Michael Tree, viola
Peter Winograd*, violin

Vocal
Raymond Beegle
Miriam Charney
Mignon Dunn
Cynthia Hoffmann
Catherine Malfitano

Carolyn Marlow
Thomas Muraco
Gordon Ostrowski
Jorge Parodi
Maitland Peters (dept. chair)
Kent Tritle
Dona D. Vaughn

Woodwinds
Linda Chesis, flute (dept. chair)
Paul Cohen, saxophone
Alan Kay**, clarinet
David Krakauer, clarinet
Kim Laskowski, bassoon
Marya Martin, flute
Frank Morelli**, bassoon
Thomas Stacy, double reeds
Stephen Taylor, oboe

Artists in Residence:
*American String Quartet
**Windscape
***Meridian Arts Ensemble
<table>
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**Special notes:**
- **OP** - CM required both years except double bass & harp
- **PS** - Can elect CM with approval from manager
- **PS in OP** - CM required both semesters
- **DMA** - Can elect CM in 2nd year with approval from Dr. Langford
- **AD** - CM required 2 credits per semester

**Strings:**
- **Doublebass** - Undergrads only - 2 semesters of CM required
- **Viola & Cello** - Freshmen can elect CM with approval from teacher
Questions?

Contact: Lynne Normandia
Manager of Chamber Music and Ensembles
Lnormandia@msmny.edu
917-493-4433
Room 201

or

Paul Jarski
Doctoral Assistant
pjarски@notes.sfcm.edu
917-493-4591