

CHAMBER MUSIC AND ENSEMBLES

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Every semester, nearly 400 students at Manhattan School of Music are placed into Chamber Music and Ensembles, *if required by credit*, by their department chairs in collaboration with the manager of ensembles. Over ninety chamber groups are coached weekly by renowned faculty specializing in chamber music. Worthy chamber groups are given the opportunity to participate in master classes, compete in the Fuchs Chamber Music Competition and perform on our Winter and Spring Chamber Music Festivals.

Instrumental groups vary from the classic piano trio or string quartet to woodwind or brass quintets; from Baroque Aria Ensemble to the contemporary TACTUS ensemble. Adventurous instrumentalists and singers can join guitar or sax groups or form larger ensembles to perform such major works as Stravinsky's *L'histoire du soldat*. Pianists may also play in four-handed or two-piano teams or accompany vocal ensembles or even learn harpsichord. **Graduate singers** can audition for opera and musical theater or select from any number of ensembles ranging from Baroque to contemporary.

New students are assigned to groups before the semester begins. *At the end of each semester, returning students* may request the type of group into which they want to be placed. They fill out an Individual Request Form or, if they have formed their own group, they can submit a Group Request Form. Coach choices are also listed on the forms. We do everything possible to honor requests; however, due to availability we cannot always grant them.

For **vocal ensembles**, graduate singers may fill out a Vocal Request Form to study *without auditioning* in a variety of vocal classes and ensembles: French Vocal Chamber Music, Songs of the Romantic Period, Vocal Performance Class, Baroque Aria Ensemble, Russian Romance Songs and Voice and guitar. *Auditions* are held at the beginning of the fall semester for all Opera ensembles, American Musical Theater and Lab and *Catherine Malfitano's Revealing the Actor/Singer Within*. If students are selected to participate in these ensembles, they will not need to take additional ensembles. However, singers are encouraged to take a second vocal class which is included in the same credit.

Final performances are required for all Chamber Music and Ensembles students whether in school recital or outside engagement. Our Winter and Spring Chamber Music Festivals are popular ways of fulfilling the requirement and offer weekend-long celebrations for students and audiences alike.

***** Attention All Students Enrolled in Chamber Music and Ensembles *****

A general meeting will be held on September 10 at 6:00pm in Borden Auditorium to discuss procedures and goals, hints on how to make a successful chamber music experience and more!

Please visit the chamber music office in Room 201 to speak with Lynne Normandia, Manager of Chamber Music and Ensembles, email Lnormandia@msmnyc.edu, or call 212-749-2802, extension 4433 with any questions or concerns