

M Manhattan
School of Music

INSTRUMENTAL
CHAMBER MUSIC
HANDBOOK
2017–18

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Who is required to take chamber music?	4
Semester overview	5
Chamber music class policies	6
Beginning-of-semester checklist	8
End-of-semester checklist	9
How to make future group requests	10
Chamber music competitions at MSM	11
Chamber music calendar for 2017-18	12
Chamber music faculty	14
Table of chamber music credit requirements	15

Office Staff

David Geber, Director of Chamber Music
dgeber@msmnyc.edu
917-493-4516

Rosalind Zhang, Chamber Music Assistant
rzhang@msmnyc.edu
917-493-4547

General email: chambermusic@msmnyc.edu
Chamber Music Office: Room 211

INTRODUCTION

Chamber music is a vital part of study and performance at Manhattan School of Music. Almost every classical instrumentalist is required to take part in chamber music at some point in each degree program.

Over 100 chamber ensembles ranging from duos to octets are formed each semester. The chamber music faculty includes many of the School's most experienced chamber musicians, including current or former members of the American, Brentano, Juilliard, Mendelssohn, Orion and Tokyo string quartets, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, among others. Our resident ensembles, American String Quartet and Windscape, also coach and give seasonal performances. Master classes given by distinguished artists are available to chamber groups by audition or nomination from the chamber music faculty.

In addition to more traditional ensembles, Baroque Aria Ensemble is offered in fulfillment of one semester of instrumental chamber music. Pianists may earn chamber music credit from participation in standard chamber groups, two-piano teams, instrumental accompanying class, or vocal accompanying.

Students are assigned to ensembles by their department chair in collaboration with the director of chamber music. Students are encouraged to submit individual or group requests to participate in a specific type of ensemble, as well as to request specific chamber coaches.

Performance is a key element of the chamber music program. The Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition takes place each semester; groups are invited to audition based on faculty nominations and the winning ensembles perform in a special public concert held in Greenfield Hall. Most other groups perform in the Chamber Music Festival, which takes place towards the end of each semester.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO TAKE CHAMBER MUSIC?

- All undergraduate and graduate classical instrumentalists. The number of semesters required varies by department and instrument (see chart on the last page of handbook).
- All undergraduate pianists beginning in the junior year of study.
- All graduate pianists in the second year of study.
- Instrumental accompanists in the first year of graduate study.
- Professional Studies students may request to participate in chamber music, with approval from the chamber music director.
- DMA students may request to participate in chamber music in their second year, with approval from the chamber music director.

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

Special note: violists and cellists are often in high demand and therefore may elect to take chamber music in the freshman year with the approval of the major teacher and chamber music director.

If you are not required to take chamber music this year but would like to participate, please contact the chamber music office at **chambermusic@msmny.edu** and you will be placed on a waiting list.

SEMESTER OVERVIEW

Placement

Students enrolled in chamber music are placed in groups by their department chair and the chamber music director. Group assignments are provided electronically in the second week of each semester.

Coachings

Chamber music coachings begin the week of September 18 (fall) and January 22 (spring). 8 contact hours with the coach are required in order to receive academic credit. Coachings take place Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00–7:00 PM, and Fridays 5:00–7:00 PM. Students are required to keep these hours free until informed of their chamber music coaching time.

Performance

Winter and Spring Chamber Music Festivals conclude each semester. Performance at these festivals is at the recommendation of the coach. See page 12 & 13 for performance dates for this academic year. See also “Chamber Competitions at MSM” on page 11.

Additional opportunities for performance include:

- Master classes and off-campus performances— Piano/strings, strings, woodwind and brass groups are chosen to participate by faculty recommendations.
- Outreach performances— Chamber groups engage with the greater community through the Outreach Program’s performance opportunities in schools, community centers, and other venues. There are many opportunities for chamber groups who would like to participate in outreach performances. For more information contact Rebecca Charnow, director of community partnerships, at rcharnow@msmnyc.edu

Evaluations and requests for subsequent semesters

At the end of each semester, you will be asked to evaluate your chamber music experience and given the opportunity to request chamber music placements for the following semester (for more on this subject, see page 10 & 11).

CLASS POLICIES

Coachings

In the fall semester coachings begin the week of September 18; in the spring semester they begin the week of January 22. 8 contact hours with your coach are required for academic credit. 1, 2 or 3 additional coachings per semester are available upon request at the mid-point of each semester. The request form and instructions for submitting it are available in the chamber music office, Room 211.

Lateness/Attendance

Promptness and regular attendance at coachings are an essential part of your grade. Note: if, on occasion your coaching runs back-to-back with an orchestra rehearsal, you are permitted to arrive 5 minutes late to orchestra. If this is the case, please email the orchestra office at orchestra@msmny.edu to ensure they are aware of potential excused lateness.

Cancellations/Absences

Coachings may not be cancelled due to lack of rehearsal time without approval of the coach. If a member of the group is sick, notify the coach immediately so they can make a decision regarding the scheduled coaching. Absence from a coaching is acceptable only in the case of a documented personal emergency or illness. Whenever possible, give your coach at least 24 hours notice. Faculty are sometimes able to reschedule a canceled coaching, although they are not required to do so. If you cannot attend a coaching, you may send a substitute player with the prior approval of the coach.

Extended Absence

If a professional commitment will necessitate 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
- Reschedule lessons with your coach, or
- With the permission of your coach, it may be possible for the remainder of your group to continue weekly coachings in your absence. For example, if you are part of a piano trio, the other two players might be able to study sonatas in your absence.

Grading

Preparedness by the individual student and by the group is the most important element of a productive semester. A sincere commitment to your coach, colleagues and the music will be positively reflected in your grade. Chronic lateness, absence and group cancellations are also factors in your end-of-semester grade. Your coach will advise you of their specific grading policy.

Rehearsals

You are expected to set a regular weekly rehearsal schedule that works for all members; campus rehearsal space can be reserved with the scheduling office. Be on time to rehearsals; this is a sign of respect for your colleagues and the work itself. If you are delayed, let your colleagues know right away.

BEGINNING-OF-SEMESTER CHECKLIST

- Consult the table on the last page of this handbook to determine if you are required to take chamber music and make any appropriate enrollment adjustments with the registrar's office. Those who are not required to enroll in chamber music but who wish to participate should email **chambermusic@msmny.edu** to be placed on the wait list. You can also visit the chamber music office in Room 211 to make this request.
- Group assignments will be sent by email during the second week of each semester, providing personnel, coach, contact and day/time/location information. If you do not see your name listed, it is your responsibility to ask the chamber music director or assistant about your status.
- Contact the members of your group right away. Get to know each other and discuss repertoire.
- Designate one person to contact your coach and to introduce your group. Discuss repertoire selection with your coach.
- Decide on a regular rehearsal schedule, and visit the scheduling office to reserve a weekly rehearsal time and location.
- Confirm your coaching time and location with your group members and coach, and check orchestra rosters to see if any coachings runs back-to-back with an orchestra rehearsal.
- Acquire a part and a score for your group's repertoire; ensure that score and part have corresponding measure numbers and/or rehearsal letters/numbers.
- Practice your individual part before you begin rehearsing.

END-OF-SEMESTER CHECKLIST

- Consult your coach about a performance in the winter/spring festivals.
- Attend end-of-semester concerts. Remember to support your chamber music colleagues by coming to concerts and master classes, some of which are concert attendance eligible.
- Submit a request for next semester's chamber placement if you anticipate registering for chamber music. See below for instructions on how to complete a group request for future semesters.
- When asked, submit an evaluation form regarding your chamber music experience. Evaluation forms are distributed electronically near the end of each semester so that you can speak frankly and anonymously about your experiences. Thoughtful evaluations and related suggestions are both appreciated and taken seriously.

HOW TO MAKE FUTURE GROUP REQUESTS

Fill out a chamber music request form before the end-of-semester deadline if you anticipate registering for chamber music in the next semester. Please provide as much information as possible, including type of ensemble, names of other players (even if not complete), and coach requests. Please note:

- For instrumentalists, the smallest group request permitted is a trio. For pianists, two-piano or four-hands are permitted.
- Groups that have played together in the previous semester will be given priority if they wish to continue their chamber music studies together.
- Students may request up to three chamber coaches in order of preference. The complete list of chamber music faculty can be found on page 14.

OPTIONS FOR FULFILLING CHAMBER MUSIC CREDIT

Strings only

String trio, quartet, quintet, or sextet

Piano and strings

Sonata duo with violin, viola, or cello, piano trio, quartet, and quintet

Piano duo

Two pianos or piano four-hands

Other piano chamber music opportunities:

- Instrumental Accompanying Class: piano majors are assigned by audition to this year-long class studying sonata and other literature with instrumental students. Contact Dr. Heasook Rhee for more information at rheeprice@gmail.com
- 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 (learning harpsichord).
- The dean of performance operations recruits a few experienced pianists as orchestral players each semester. For more information, please contact Nolan Robertson, dean of performance operations, at nrobertson@msmny.edu

Winds

Quintets and other ensembles including strings and/or piano.

Brass

Trio, quintet and sextet.

Harp, Percussion, Guitar, and Saxophone Ensembles

Baroque Aria Ensemble

The BAE offers instrumentalists and singers the opportunity to work together exploring the repertoire of 18th-century opera, cantata and oratorio. In addition to vocal and instrumental coaching, students receive instruction in performance practices of the Baroque and Classical styles as well as in improvisation, ornamentation and ensemble skills.

CHAMBER COMPETITIONS AT MSM

The Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition takes place in the later part of both fall and spring semesters. Chamber groups may audition by nomination of the faculty coach. The winning groups perform in a special concert at the end of each semester.

The Ruth Widder String Quartet Competition takes place each spring. This competition is open to string quartets that have been together for two semesters. Following auditions on April 9, two quartets may be selected to perform in a winner's concert on April 27. There is a cash award for the winning quartets.

The Artur Balsam Competition for Duos takes place in alternate years. The next competition will be in *March, 2019*. Required repertoire includes three complete sonatas and this competition is open only to duos who work together on a regular basis. There is a cash award for the winning duos.

CHAMBER MUSIC CALENDAR 2017–18

Fall 2017

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11
Chamber music assignments
distributed by email

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18
Chamber music coachings begin

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20
American String Quartet
7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Windscape
7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Fuchs Competition
6 PM Greenfield Hall

NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 3
WINTER CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Chamber Music Concert I
4 PM Miller Recital Hall

Chamber Music Concert II
7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Chamber Music Concert III
4 PM Greenfield Hall

Chamber Music Concert IV
(Vocal Chamber Music)
7:30 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
Chamber Music Concert V
7:30 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
Chamber Music Concert VI
(Brass Chamber Music)
2:30 PM Studio 707

Chamber Music Concert VII
5 PM Mikowsky Recital Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
Fuchs Competition Winners' Concert
4 PM Greenfield Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
Koichiro Harada, String Quartet
Master Class
4 PM Miller Recital Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Anton Nel, Piano/Strings
Chamber Music Master Class
5 PM Greenfield Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
Group request forms due for
Spring 2018 semester

Spring 2018

JANUARY 3–7

Robert Mann String Quartet Institute

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

American String Quartet

7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

WEEK OF JANUARY 15

Chamber music assignments
distributed by email

WEEK OF JANUARY 22

Chamber music coachings begin

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

**Kazuhide Isomura, String Quartet
Master Class**

4 PM Rahm Hall

MONDAY, APRIL 9

Ruth Widder String Quartet Competition

5 PM Mikowsky Recital Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

**Anton Nel, Piano/Strings Chamber
Music Master Class**

4 PM Mikowsky Recital Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

American String Quartet

7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Fuchs Competition

6 PM Greenfield Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

Windscape

7:30 PM Greenfield Hall

APRIL 17 – 24

SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

Chamber Music Concert I

4 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

Chamber Music Concert II

7:30 PM Mikowsky Recital Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Chamber Music Concert III

4 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Chamber Music Concert IV

4 PM Rahm Hall

Chamber Music Concert V

7:30 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Chamber Music Concert VI

7 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Fuchs Competition Winners Concert

3:30 PM Greenfield Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

Chamber Music Concert VII

7 PM Pforzheimer Recital Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Ruth Widder String Quartet

Award Winners Concert

5 PM Greenfield Hall

CHAMBER MUSIC FACULTY

Baroque Aria Ensemble

Kenneth Cooper

Brass

Michelle Baker, *horn*

Ethan Bensdorf, *trumpet*

David Finlayson, *trombone*

David Jolley,** *horn* (Chair)

Thomas Smith, *trumpet*

David Taylor, *trombone*

Kyle Turner, *tuba*

Collaborative Piano

Raymond Beegle, *Related Vocal Studies*

John Forconi, *Instrumental/Vocal* (Chair)

Heasook Rhee, *Instrumental*

Guitar

Mark Delpriora (Chair)

Oren Fader

David Leisner

David Starobin

Percussion Ensemble

Faculty TBA

Piano

Jeffrey Cohen

Jon Klibonoff

Heasook Rhee

Gerald Robbins

André-Michel Schub

Marc Silverman (Chair)

Strings/Harp

Daniel Avshalomov,* *viola*

Laurie Carney,* *violin*

David Geber, *cello*

Koichiro Harada, *violin*

Kazuhide Isomura, *viola*

Susan Jolles, *harp*

Wolfram Koessel,* *cello*

Julia Lichten, *cello*

Curtis Macomber, *violin*

Nicholas Mann, *violin/viola* (Chair)

Orin O'Brien, *bass*

Todd Phillips, *violin*

Samuel Rhodes, *viola*

Lucie Robert, *violin*

Sylvia Rosenberg, *violin*

Mark Steinberg, *violin*

Peter Winograd,* *violin*

Woodwinds

Linda Chesis, *flute* (Chair)

Paul Cohen, *saxophone*

Alan Kay,** *clarinet*

David Krakauer, *clarinet*

Kim Laskowski, *bassoon*

Marya Martin, *flute*

Pascual Martinez-Forteza, *clarinet*

Frank Morelli,** *bassoon*

James Austin Smith, *oboe*

Stephen Taylor, *oboe*

Liang Wang, *oboe*

Artists in Residence

*American String Quartet

**Windscape

Instrumental Chamber Music Requirements by Instrument and Semester

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Grad 1	Grad 2
Accompanists <i>(instrumental only)</i>					1 1	
Piano			1 1	1 1		1 1
Brass			1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Woodwinds			1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Strings*		1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Guitar	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Harp	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1
Percussion	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1

Special Notes:

- OP** Chamber music required both years except for bass and harp
- PS** Can elect chamber music with approval from director
- PS in OP** Chamber music required both semesters
- DMA** Can elect chamber music in second year
with approval from assistant dean for doctoral studies
- AD** Chamber music required 1 credit per semester

***Strings:**

Bass – Undergraduate only – 2 semesters of chamber music required

Viola and Cello – Freshmen can elect chamber music with approval of major teacher

