New Staff Accompanying Policy (Effective Winter 2015)

Charge from the Chair:
To create an accompanying system that serves our students well, first and foremost.

Rachel Roulet and Michael Refvem have been hired as our two new Staff Accompanists, with Ms. Roulet serving as Head.

Activities Eligible for Coverage by the Music Department: lessons; juries; concerto competition; master/studio classes; required degree recital approval hearings; Virginia Glover/Bellingham Music Club competition; accompaniment for auditioning finalists of national searches in applied area.

Priority for assignments and schedule will be determined by the staff accompanists according to the following guidelines:

1. Faculty set the policies for their own studios. If they require that pianists come on a particular schedule, for example to all lessons, or on specific dates, they must understand that our total number of staff accompanying hours does not support such a structure. Teachers are welcome to ask students to continue to make their own arrangements as they have been doing, according to their preference.

2. If students would like to be accompanied by staff pianists, students must submit the staff accompanying form and required scores by the fourth week of the quarter. Students will be assigned a pianist for their lessons on a first-come, first-served basis. The staff accompanists will create a schedule of dates on which they will be at students’ lessons; most likely this will be three lessons (in alternating weeks 5-7-9 and 6-8-10) and juries.

3. Remaining students will be responsible for finding their own pianist as needed.

The current estimate is 3-4 staff accompanying hours per quarter for each student. Larger instrumental works and those students working towards a degree recital will likely need more than 3-4 hours. These allocations will be determined at the discretion of Ms. Roulet and Mr. Revfem.

Degree Recitals:
The rate for a staff accompanist is $300 for a Master’s or Senior Recital, and $175 for a Junior Recital, and is to be paid directly to the staff accompanist. If the recital is split between a staff accompanist and a student pianist, the staff accompanying rate will be 50%, even if the staff accompanist only plays one work. It is assumed that sufficient rehearsal will occur as part of the lessons, studio classes, and juries normally played for by the staff pianist over the course of the time the student is preparing the recital material, as well as the hearing (all of these activities are covered by the department.) Any additional requested rehearsals must be negotiated and paid for directly to the staff accompanist.

All other recital pianists must be paid at their professional hourly rate and either chosen from the WWU Music Department List of Approved Pianists, or approved by the student’s applied teacher. It is conceivable that an enrolled WWU Music Department piano student could be on the Music Department List. If the student pianist is working towards the recital for accompanying credit however, then the student pianist would not be paid for playing that recital.

1 Note: this is in accordance with the policy for student pianists: all rep is due by the fourth week.