



## Collaborative Piano Fellowship

### Overview

The Postgraduate Collaborative Piano Fellowship is an intensive two-year fellowship directed by pianist Erika Switzer. It is designed to give professional experience to pianists who have a strong interest in becoming collaborative artists, with the ultimate aim of easing the transition between academic and professional life. The fellowship comes with a generous stipend and is open both to students who have already completed a degree in collaborative piano, and also to those students who have completed a bachelor's degree in piano performance and have a strong interest in further study of collaborative piano.

The program allows students to expand their knowledge of the core collaborative piano repertoire; to increase experience in playing for high-level undergraduate and graduate students under the mentorship of master musicians; and to deepen their musical understanding through the guidance of the distinguished faculty of The Bard College Conservatory of Music.

### Faculty



#### Erika Switzer, Fellowship Director

Erika Switzer is an internationally active pianist, teacher, and arts administrator. Heard on the stages of New York's Weill Hall (Carnegie), Geffen Hall, Frick Collection, and Bargemusic, at the Kennedy Center, the Spoleto Festival, the Bard Music Festival, and Stanford Live, she has also appeared across Canada at festivals including Vancouver's Music on Main, Toronto's Canadian Voices, and Ottawa's ChamberFest. She received her doctorate from the Juilliard School. As cofounder of Sparks & Wiry Cries, she contributes to the future of art song performance through publication of the Art Song Magazine, presentation of the Casement Fund Song Series in NYC, and the commission of new works.



#### Frank Corliss

As one of the core collaborative piano faculty members, fellows work with Conservatory director Frank Corliss throughout their tenure at Bard.



#### Kayo Iwama

Piano fellows work closely with Kayo Iwama in weekly seminar classes and coachings through both the Collaborative Piano Fellowship and the Graduate Vocal Arts Program.

#### Select Faculty

Piano Fellows also have the opportunity to work with other faculty members in the Conservatory through their work with the graduate singers and undergraduate instrumentalists.

Bard Conservatory Faculty members include: Stephanie Blythe, Joan Tower, Tara O'Connor, Elaine Douvas, Daniel Phillips, and Peter Wiley

# Curriculum

## Playing and Performance

The Bard College Conservatory of Music piano fellows work with students in the Undergraduate Double Degree, Advanced Performance Studies, and Graduate Vocal Arts Programs. Fellows are responsible for playing for studio lessons, coachings, masterclasses, rehearsals, classes, auditions, and performances. In this capacity they play for and are coached by the faculty and guest artists of the Conservatory. Piano fellows have semester-long partnerships with Vocal Arts Program singers. Additionally, major works are prepared for the annual conservatory concerto competition and bi-annual main stage Vocal Arts Program operas.

## Evaluations

Fellows will be evaluated at the end of each year by the program director. A successful evaluation at the end of the first year is necessary to qualify for the second year of the fellowship.

## Collaborative Piano Seminar

This seminar, led by director Erika Switzer, meets weekly and has two main components:

- A survey of the basic collaborative piano repertoire, including instrumental duo repertoire, the concerto repertoire, and the basic aria and song vocal repertoires.
- A study of the skills necessary to work as a collaborative pianist. These include playing orchestral reductions, sight reading, score reading, and transposing.

The seminar also surveys the various challenges, both practical and musical, of being a professional collaborative pianist. The emphasis in the seminar is on the practical, rather than the theoretical, with the aim of both facilitating the fellows' work in the Conservatory and preparing them for the professional world.

## Teaching

Fellows may also teach, on a limited basis, some secondary piano lessons to undergraduate instrumentalists, under the supervision of the program director, Erika Switzer.

## Facilities

Fellows have full use of the László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, which contains teaching studios, classrooms, practice rooms, offices, and the Conservatory Performance Space, a 145-seat performance space that can be configured in several imaginative ways. Bard College is also home to the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by Frank Gehry, which houses two state of the art theaters, including the Sosnoff Theater where the Conservatory Orchestra rehearses and performs. During the summer the Fisher Center hosts the Bard Music Festival and the annual SummerScape series of opera, dance, theater, film, music, and cabaret.



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