

PIANO USAGE POLICY

Revised – September 2024

Preamble

Brandon University, through its School of Music and Echardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music, provides high quality pianos for its faculty and students. The maintenance and eventual replacement of these instruments is an ongoing priority that constitutes a significant investment of our School's resources. Instruments have been carefully selected and matched to their assigned spaces where they are to remain. Usage of these instruments is governed by this policy.

All pianos in the School of Music, including those available for use in the LWRH, are regularly maintained by School of Music approved piano technicians (Piano Technician). Pianos are kept at a standard pitch, determined by the Piano Technician, which will not be altered under any circumstances for internal or external users. Voicing and regulation of these instruments are determined by the Piano Technician. Only School of Music approved piano technicians work on School of Music pianos.

Lorne Watson Recital Hall

The Lorne Watson Recital Hall (LWRH) is equipped with two (2) Steinway D concert grand pianos and one 9-foot concert grand Baldwin piano. The default setting is as follows: Baldwin piano and adjustable stool on stage; one Steinway D piano stored in the vault; one Steinway D piano stored in the designated backstage area.

Lorne Watson Piano Usage

Pianos, within the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, are to be moved only by those staff members and contracted piano technicians who are trained and authorized to move pianos.

The following extended techniques are permitted on LWRH pianos: pizzicato (with fingertip or fingernail only), muting, harmonics, silent depressed keys, and glissando.

Use of stickers must be approved prior to performance and must be removed following the performance.

Removal of the Baldwin piano lid must receive prior approval and confirmation. Steinway piano lids **are not** to be removed.

No food or drink is ever to be placed on a piano. Only safely stored bottled water is permitted on stage, unless special permission has been granted or an accommodation has been granted.

The 9-foot Baldwin is designated for general and routine use. This includes: all non-dress rehearsals taking place in the LWRH (recital rehearsals, ensemble rehearsals); non-credit recitals; School of Music ensemble performances; entrance auditions; non-School of Music performances, and Conservatory recitals. The Baldwin is also reserved for repertoire that requires prepared piano. In these cases, the piano's preparation must be done in the presence of the Piano Technician.

The Steinway D pianos, with permission from the Dean of Music (or designate), are to be used as follows:

- Dress rehearsals, performances, and recordings of School of Music piano faculty (including sessional Members) and contracted Professional Collaborative Pianists;
- Professional pianists performing as guests of the School of Music/ Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music;
- Professional collaborative pianists performing with School of Music faculty members;
- Dress rehearsals and credit recitals by Graduate students in the Performance and Literature program (piano and collaborative piano majors);
- Credit recitals involving Undergraduate pianists (including dress rehearsals);
- These pianos may not have any preparation of their action, strings, interior, or exterior.

Piano use must be booked through the Music Office at bumusicoffice@brandonu.ca. A minimum of **two weeks' notice** is required to provide the Piano Technician appropriate time to schedule a tuning and any required maintenance.

General Piano Usage

Any technical issues with a piano are to be reported to pianotech@brandonu.ca

No food or drink is ever to be placed on a piano. Only safely bottled water is permitted on stage, unless special permission has been granted or an accommodation has been granted.

Any case not covered by this paragraph must be referred to the Dean of Music, who will consult the Piano Faculty and Piano Technician, prior to booking the LWRH and piano.

Notes:

Any departures from this policy must be approved in advance by the Dean, who will consult with Piano Faculty and the Piano Technician prior to making a decision.

Any unapproved departures from this policy will be managed by the Dean of Music or appropriate designate. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, restrictions on future piano use, removal of access to the LWRH, removal of access to the School of Music and/ or University campus, or action through applicable Brandon University policy or policies.