



**Merit School of Music  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Part-time Position Announcement:**

**Piano Instructor- Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory**

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**Description**

Merit School of Music is seeking a piano instructor to join the Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-free Conservatory conducted at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood. Classes in this program are comprised of advanced-level students paired in duets that represent the top 10% of all pianists throughout Merit's continuum of programming. Conservatory classes meet Saturdays from late September through early May with intermittent activities throughout the summer. Qualified candidates may be considered for additional teaching in Merit's Private Lesson Program and/or Instrumental & Vocal Music Program.

**Organization Overview**

Since its founding in 1979, Merit School of Music has successfully motivated and inspired over 50,000 young people with high-quality music instruction. The School's broad-ranging comprehensive curriculum, extensive level of financial aid, sense of community and the standard of excellence set forth by the faculty and students are major components of its success.

Merit offers a multi-leveled, structured curriculum in a college preparatory environment. Programs take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center in Chicago's West Loop and at nearly 30 locations in neighborhoods across the City. Instruction is offered to approximately 5,000 students of all ages, from infants to adults, and from beginners to the Juilliard-bound by over 150 accomplished faculty members. Merit has an annual operating budget of \$6 million, of which nearly half is supported by contributed revenue.

Mission

Merit School of Music transforms the lives of Chicago-area youth through removing barriers to high-quality music education.

**Reporting Relationship**

The **Conservatory Piano Instructor** reports to the **Piano Program Director**.

**Job Responsibilities**

Responsibilities of a **Conservatory Piano Instructor** include, but are not limited to:

- Deliver high-quality instruction to Conservatory piano duet classes
- Prepare piano duets for winter, spring, and Performathon concerts and additional performances as required
- Lead classes during the summer Conservatory Piano Camp (held in August)
- Participation in Merit faculty meetings and/or department meetings
- Timely correspondence with Merit staff and students/families
- Other projects as assigned

## Personal Skills/Attributes/Qualifications

The ideal candidate would possess the following qualifications:

- Proven success teaching working with high caliber piano students in a duet setting
- Abundant knowledge of piano repertoire and ability to select appropriate repertoire for individual student groups
- The ability to work in a team-driven and collegial environment with faculty and staff
- The ability to envision the future success of a program and work with staff to make that vision a reality
- A well-rounded knowledge of and ability to provide students with college/career information and counseling when requested
- Punctual, professional, and collegial nature
- Fantastic communication skills
- Flexible and adaptive disposition
- A high level of personal musicianship

## Educational Requirements

Bachelor's degree in music education or music performance required; advanced degree preferred

## Schedule

All classes take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center (38 S. Peoria St., Chicago). Conservatory piano department activities are listed below:

- Conservatory entry auditions: May 4<sup>th</sup> & May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Conservatory Summer Piano Camp: August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- Conservatory Academic Year Classes:
  - 26 Saturdays starting late September and running through late April
  - Piano instructors meet with up to 4 duet classes per day for 45 or 60-minute classes scheduled between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm

## Compensation

Compensation is \$49/hour.

## Interested candidates should send résumé to:

[hr@meritmusic.org](mailto:hr@meritmusic.org)

Résumés will be accepted through March 15, 2019. **No phone calls or faxes please.**

For more information about Merit School of Music, please visit [www.meritmusic.org](http://www.meritmusic.org).

*Merit School of Music does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, physical or mental disability or any other protected status in admission or access to, or employment in its programs and activities.*