Tips for Aspiring Collaborative Pianists
A selected list, compiled by the Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center Sept. 2016

SKILL BUILDING
Sight-Reading
- Improve your Sight-Reading by Dr. Chris Foley
- Improving your Sight Reading by Bill Plake
- Sight Reading Resources by Belmont University
- Practice Sight Reading: Sight-reading exercises

General Resources
Online:
- The Collaborative Piano Blog by Dr. Chris Foley
- Good Company Blog by Billie Whittaker

Print:
- The Complete Collaborator by Martin Katz
- The Art of Accompanying by Robert Spillman

CAREER BUILDING
Professionalism
- Professional Skills by Dr. Chris Foley
- Collaborative Piano Handbook via the University of North Texas (see “Professionalism,” p. 2)
- Creating Professional Materials by MECC
- Build a Website by MECC
- Sample websites: L. Stepanova, A. Johnston

Setting Fees
Take into account: Difficulty, rehearsal time, travel, prevailing rates, your other commitments
- Recital Fee Question by Dr. Chris Foley
- Accompanist Fees and Policies by Eileen Huang
- Handling Requests to Perform for Free by Gerald Klickstein

Creating Opportunities
Tips:
- Network with other collaborative pianists
- Contact employers: churches, schools, private studios, plus opera, dance and theater groups
- Diversify your skills and repertoire

LITERATURE RESOURCES

Vocal literature
Online:
- Ideas on Learning a Song or Aria
- Wolftrap Audition Aria Frequency List
- Repertoire/Role Study Resources
- Top 10 Song Cycles
- Diction and Translation Resources by the MECC

Print:
- G. Schirmer Opera Anthologies
- 24 Italian Songs and Arias
- Hal Leonard Song Anthologies
- Hal Leonard Musical Theatre Anthologies

Instrumental literature
Online:
- ABRSM Repertoire Lists
  (rep for exams and recitals; all instruments)
- The Core Repertoire: Sonatas for Violin

Print:
- Concertos for Violin and Viola
- Brass Bibliography
- Solo Wind Instrument Bibliography

WORKING WITH LARGER GROUPS
Playing for choir or opera rehearsals
- Vocal Open-Score Reading by Billie Whittaker
- Tips for a Choir Rehearsal by Neil Hawes
- Opera Guidelines - A Few Tips by Kevin Class

Playing in a pit or orchestra
- Be a Musical Theatre Pianist by Peter Hilliard
- Be an Orchestral Pianist by Suzy S.
- Sound Advice: Protecting your hearing in the pit

Playing for dance classes
- Accompanying Ballet Classes by Yee Sik Wong
- The Art of the Dance Accompanist by Eric Burgett
- A Course in Dance Accompanying by Neil Dunn
- Music at the Royal Academy of Dance
  (etiquette and repertoire of RAD classes)