Dear Music Director,

I hope this semester has been productive and enriching for you, while dealing with the current public health crisis that has affected our lives. I however, am optimistic that planning for a music career can help our students survive the continuing situation we have been experiencing for the last eight months.

I am writing you today to see if you may have students who are thinking about continuing their studies at the graduate level. I am pleased to inform you that the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) offers a few assistantships for students who may be interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Piano Performance or Collaborative Piano. We are a rapidly growing program that offers big opportunities and a lot of personal attention to cater to the professional aspirations of each student! If you have any student that plans to continue to the graduate level, please let them know about the [opportunities we offer here at UMD](https://z.umn.edu/gradadmitinfo).

For your convenience, I have attached our graduate brochure with the general information about the Master of Music programs we offer here at UMD. I would also like to offer to the interested students an opportunity to have a [complimentary piano lesson](https://z.umn.edu/pianolessons) with me, in which we can work on their selected repertoire and talk about the program in greater details. Given the current situation, I can offer the lesson in two convenient formats – in-person at our beautiful UMD campus or on-line via Zoom.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, and I hope that you are able to pass this information on to the members of your studio!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Diana Shapiro*

Assistant Professor of Piano

Piano Area Chair

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