Facilities and Equipment

Practice Rooms

A School of Music major is given authorization to use his/her CMU ID card in the card locks for the practice room hallways, and other practice room keys, if applicable, at the beginning of his/her first semester in residence in the School of Music. The keys will not need to be returned until graduation or withdrawal from the School. There is a charge of $20.00 if a key is lost or not returned. In order to receive authorization to use the practice rooms and any practice room keys, you must sign a practice room contract. The contract specifies policies for use of the practice rooms for which you are held responsible. (Contract available in CFA 108)

The practice rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The College of Fine Arts building and practice rooms are open twenty-four hours a day to CFA students. For the protection of everyone in the college, contact security at once if you see unauthorized persons in the building. <call Security, 412-268-2323> From 12 midnight until 6am each night the outside doors of the CFA building are card swipe access only; your CMU ID card will allow you access to the building during that time, but non-Carnegie Mellon students will not be able to access the facilities.

Pianos

The pianos in the School of Music are Steinway instruments of high quality and should serve students well both now and for some time into the future, with proper care. Each student is expected to cooperate by doing his/her part in providing reasonable care. Every practice room had a new Steinway piano placed in it in the early 1990's. These are expensive musical instruments and should not be used as tables or shelves. Nothing should be left on them when you leave the room. Absolutely NO food or drink of any kind (except a water bottle) is allowed in any practice room. NO food or drink should be near any piano in any location.

There is a piano technician on staff. Any problems, such as sticking keys, broken strings etc., should be brought to his attention as soon as possible (Peter Stumpf, pstumpf@andrew.cmu.edu). The pianos are tuned on a rotation basis in consideration of certain priorities. A student may request tuning for a specific piano at any time and no reasonable request for service will be refused.

Building heat in the winter is the enemy of the piano's tuning. When the humidity changes the tuning changes. If the heat can be controlled and the humidity can be kept up, the tuning will be more stable. Understanding this concept will help explain why tuning is so difficult to maintain in certain circumstances, especially when the air is dry in a building.