CLASS SPECIFICATION
Performance Accompanist

FLSA Status: Nonexempt
EEOC Job Category: Service worker
Union Representation: Represented

GENERAL PURPOSE
Under general supervision, accompanies District choral groups, ensembles, voice/music class students and instrumentalists during rehearsals, classes and District and tour performances; transposes, arranges and transcribes music; and performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS
Performance Accompanists play an acoustic piano or other keyboard instrument to accompany assigned District musical choirs, groups, ensembles, classes and individual student performers. An incumbent in this position must be able to play, from score, sight or memory, a wide range of music proficiently, some of which is highly complex and difficult to play and may require improvisation or other specialized techniques. Additionally, a Performance Accompanist must be able to transpose, arrange and transcribe music for the purpose of providing appropriate accompaniment to District performers.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to this class.

1. In rehearsals, classes and District and tour performances, plays acoustic piano or electric keyboard from score, by sight or from memory to accompany assigned choral groups, ensembles, designated vocal or music classes and assigned solo musicians; plays and improvises as required to perform a wide variety of musical styles, including jazz, classical, pop and rock; responds to musical director/instructors’ comments and critiques with necessary adaptations to accompaniment; may serve as District accompanist for special events and auditions.

2. With direction from Musical Director or solo performer, transposes and arranges songs; produces chord charts and lead sheets; transcribes music; produces CD and tape recordings of piano accompaniments.

3. As assigned, leads instrumental rehearsals and provides direction to instrumentalists accompanying choral groups or ensembles; schedules and provides rehearsal times for voice class solo performers; provides general coaching, guidance and suggestions to soloists in areas related to accompaniment, including key and arrangement, during rehearsal time.

OTHER DUTIES
1. May play other instruments to accompany groups or vocalists.
QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:
1. Advanced techniques and styles used to play an acoustic piano and other keyboard instruments.
2. Music composition, theory, literature, history and styles.
3. Choral, vocal and instrumental techniques.

Ability to:
1. Read from a score, sight read or play from memory a wide variety of music on an acoustic piano or other keyboard instrument.
2. Accompany performing groups and chorus at rehearsals and concerts.
3. Play a variety of musical styles, including classical, jazz, pop and rock.
5. Improvise, especially in jazz style.
6. Follow and satisfy musical direction of instructors, conductors or soloists.
7. Understand and follow oral and written directions.
8. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with musical instructors, conductors, performers, the public and others encountered in the course of work.
9. Communicate clearly and effectively.

Education, Training and Experience:
A typical way of obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities outlined above is graduation from high school or G.E.D. equivalent; and four years of increasingly responsible experience playing an acoustic piano or other keyboard instrument in an organized educational or similar setting and transposing, transcribing and arranging a wide variety of music; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. College-level coursework in music theory, literature, history, composition or performance is desirable.

Licenses; Certificates; Special Requirements:
A valid California driver’s license and the ability to maintain insurability under the District’s vehicle insurance policy.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEMANDS
The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this class. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
Physical Demands
While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands and wrists repetitively to finger, handle, or feel piano keyboards and other acoustic instruments; talk, hear conversations and vocal and instrumental performances; and reach with hands and arms. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision and the ability to adjust focus.

Mental Demands
While performing the duties of this class, the incumbent is regularly required to use oral and written communication skills; read and interpret scored music; analyze and solve problems; learn and apply new information or skills; observe and interpret people and situations; and interact with District faculty, staff, students, musicians, the public and others encountered in the course of work.

WORK ENVIRONMENT
The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this class. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The employee works in a classroom or performance setting and the noise level may vary from quiet to moderately loud.