

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

SCHOOL OF MUSIC ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the School of Music in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The School of Music includes the following programs:

- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Bachelor of Music in Composition
- Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
- Bachelor of Music in Performance
- Bachelor of Music in Performance with Teacher Licensure
- Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Composition
- Master of Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (band, orchestral, choral)
- Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education
- Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Theory
- Master of Arts in Music Therapy
- Master of Arts in Musicology
- Master of Arts in Performance
- Master of Fine Arts in Music
- Doctor of Philosophy in Music Literature
- Doctor of Philosophy in Musicology
- Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Pedagogy
- Certificate in Sacred Music
- Master of Arts in Jazz Studies

The programs (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The programs received accreditation for the maximum ten-year period through the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

- ◆ **Description of Programs.** Undergraduate programs offered by the School of Music include a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Arts. The Bachelor of Music offers concentration in composition, music therapy, and performance; a second emphasis in jazz studies may be added to a performance concentration. Professional certifications in music education and music therapy are available only through the Bachelor of Music. Graduate programs include a Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Musical Arts. The School also offers a certificate in sacred music.
- ◆ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation.
- ◆ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).
- ◆ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the School of Music contained the responses to the standards required by the accrediting body, including purposes of the institution and music unit (mission, goals, and objectives); size and scope; finances; governance and administration; faculty and staff; facilities, equipment, health, and safety; library and learning resources; recruitment, admission-retention, record-keeping, and advisement; published materials and web sites; community involvement; evaluation, planning and projections; music program components; and programs, degrees, and curricula.

- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In February 2008, the visiting team determined that the School of Music had met the standards for *Curricular Programs* with two exceptions. (University responses are in italics.)

- ☑ “The visitors were unable to determine that faculty members (including graduate teaching assistants) shall be qualified by earned degrees and/or professional experience and/or demonstrated teaching competence for the subjects and levels they are teaching.” “It was not apparent to the visitors that the standard ‘the music unit must carefully select, train, supervise, and evaluate graduate teaching assistants’ was met fully.”

The concern was based on the observation of “two theory classes led by graduate students where the visitors observed ineffective teaching due to lack of keyboard skills. The School of Music responded thoroughly in the Optional Response (October 2008) reviewing the selection, training, supervision, and evaluation of teaching assistants in the School of Music. The following changes were implemented in regard to keyboard skills for theory teaching assistants.

New theory teaching assistants are being tested on their functional keyboard skills before classes begin in the fall, beginning Fall 2009. If their keyboard skills are deemed insufficient, the teaching assistants will be required to register for the course ‘Keyboard Harmony’ (which is also applicable to their degree requirements). The teaching assistants will then be tested by the theory faculty again near the end of the first semester, and will be removed from aural skills teaching responsibilities if keyboard skills remain insufficient.

- ◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.

- ☑ “Outstanding faculty and staff.”
- ☑ “Good balance in all curricula between performance and scholarship.”
- ☑ “Many curricular options to enhance graduate degree programs with other emphases.”
- ☑ “Excellent library resources and a cooperative relationship with the librarian.”
- ☑ “Effective leadership from the dean is appreciated and valued.”
- ☑ “The College of Music should be applauded for its continuing efforts to maintain a comprehensive program of musical and intellectual study quite suitably positioned within a comprehensive research institution of higher education.”

- ◇ Recommendations for short-term improvement. (University responses are in italics.)

- ☑ “Pursue development of a collaborative piano program to enhance chamber music options.”

The School of Music is very interested in this recommendation but adding faculty during this time of budget cuts appears to be very unlikely.

- “Seek space for faculty and students to gather.”

This recommendation is being addressed in the planning for the new School of Music building.

- “Review policies for undergraduate ensemble participation.” “Review policies for requiring students to be in multiple ensembles.”

This issue particularly pertained to string majors, who were required to participate in both symphony orchestra and chamber orchestra every semester. The issue has been studied thoroughly, and the faculty recently voted to reduce the chamber orchestra requirement to four semesters for undergraduates and two semesters for graduate students.

- “Review scheduling of required courses against ensembles.”

This issue is under constant review and the School of Music tries very hard not to schedule required courses or popular electives against ensembles. Having more rehearsal space in the new building would help a great deal in solving scheduling problems.

- “Review opportunities for DMA students to hear realizations of larger works.”

Composition students have good opportunities to hear their works performed through Composition Seminar, Center for New Music performances, etc., but the composition area is trying to find additional opportunities.

- “Clarification is needed regarding apparently interchangeable use of the terms Ph.D. thesis and dissertation.”

At the University of Iowa, Ph.D. students submit theses.

◇ Primary future issues identified by the Visiting Team. (University responses are in italics.)

- “Develop a stronger and more competitive program for scholarship/assistantship support.”

The School of Music entirely agrees with this recommendation, but during this time of budget cuts, support is more likely to decline than become more competitive. The Director of the School of Music works with a development officer from the University of Iowa Foundation to raise private funds.

- “Plan for an appropriate opera performance facility.”

This recommendation is being addressed in the planning for the new School of Music building.

- “Engage in long-term vision planning.”

The most pressing issue for the School of Music is planning for a new building and the facilities that are needed to improve student learning and musicianship.

◇ Constructive suggestions for long-term development identified by the Visiting Team. (University responses are in italics.)

- “Develop summer program in graduate music education.”

Summer programs have been cut a great deal in the past two decades. The School would like to have a robust summer program, but it does not seem feasible during this time of budget cuts.

- ☑ “Investigate ways to establish interdisciplinary programs within the fine arts division.”
One of the important missions of the Division of Performing Arts is to foster interdisciplinary work among faculty and students. Progress has been made and faculty and student ideas are welcomed and supported.
- ☑ “Consider development of a curriculum involving digital arts.”
The School of Music is very interested in this recommendation, but adding faculty during this time of budget cuts appears to be very unlikely.

◇ Interim reports. In December 2008, the National Association of Schools of Music deferred action on the accreditation renewal and asked for responses to the following items. (University responses are in italics.)

- ☑ “Provide evidence as to how pedagogy fundamentals are presented in lessons and seminars and demonstrate how this standard is met.”
All students in the Bachelor of Music program attend a weekly performance/pedagogy seminar. Students in any music teacher licensure track are also Bachelor of Music students and they too attend a weekly performance/pedagogy seminar. All applied courses that are part of the Bachelor of Music curriculum must offer the performance/pedagogy seminar as a supplement to weekly lessons.
- ☑ “Provide documentation regarding sufficient instruction in the use of voice for students seeking the degree of Bachelor of Music in Performance (Teacher Certification).”
In ‘General Music Methods and Materials,’ students learn about vocal health and vocal anatomy, practice efficient singing skills, and demonstrate functional vocal performance. Regarding vocal health, students learn about the need for hydration and what life style behaviors help and hinder appropriate hydration. Regarding vocal anatomy, students learn the basic anatomical elements that work together for singing. Students have numerous opportunities to practice effective alignment and singing during class.
- ☑ “Provide a status report regarding the impact of the flood on music facilities and equipment, and the ability of the institution to carry out its programs in the School of Music.”
Due to the complexity of the flood recovery and interim and permanent facilities for the School of Music, the director was reassigned to a position titled “Director of Planning for the School of Music” and a new director of the School of Music was selected for a three-year term.
In January 2009, FEMA determined that the Hancher/Voxman/Clapp complex was more than 50% damaged by the flood of June 2008 and eligible for either restoration or replacement on a new site. After discussing both options with the Board of Regents, the University requested approval to pursue the replacement option and approval was received in April 2009. A site selection study is currently underway. A new building will provide an opportunity to expand space for technology and new programs (music therapy, percussion, jazz, chamber music) and improved and modernized performance venues.

After the flood, the School of Music was moved to 17 on- and off-campus locations. As reported in the University's Optional Response to the NASM Commission in October 2008, a number of improvements and consolidated facilities became available to the School of Music in January 2009. The music library was moved in its entirety to the University's Main Library. Several facilities were vacated due to the recovery of a portion of the Museum of Art for band and orchestra rehearsals, the percussion area, and faculty offices. Twelve mobile trailers were set up in a parking lot near the Museum of Art for woodwind and brass faculty studios, one composition professor, and the Maia Quartet. However, these trailers cannot stay at this location because it is in the flood plain.

The following interim facilities became available in August 2009 and will remain until the permanent music building is completed. While not ideal due to the multiple locations and need for students and faculty to travel between buildings, the University has been aware of the special needs for sound isolation and appropriate acoustics in the interim locations.

- *Clinton Street Music (Two buildings~16,000 sq.ft.). This facility was built for the School of Music during July and August 2008; subsequent acoustical improvements were made during December 2008 and January 2009 and further remodeling will occur during Summer 2009.*
- *Trinity Episcopal Church. The church offered space to the jazz area beginning in August 2008. The space has worked so well that the jazz area requested and the church agreed to continue this relationship throughout the interim period.*
- *University Capitol Center (two spaces). It is anticipated that the construction work on the two spaces will be completed by August 2009, as required by FEMA. The former Campus 3 Theatres provide approximately 16,000 sq.ft. A separate location within the Center provides approximately 3,000 sq.ft.*
- *Communications Center (3rd floor offices and three rooms on the 2nd floor). These offices have been utilized by part of the School of Art for the past two years, but they will be relocating during the summer.*
- *Part of former University Museum of Arts (~17,000 sq.ft.). This portion of the Museum, also flooded, was recovered for the School of Music and occupied in January 2009. It has worked extremely well, and its uses will remain the same, except that three string faculty will move to the new University Capital Complex.*
- *University Main Library (~10,000 sq.ft.). The library now houses the entire School of Music library and staff.*
- *St. Thomas More Church. The University anticipates purchasing the church in January 2010 and is currently negotiating use beginning in August 2009.*
- *Other School of Music spaces include the Becker Communications Building; refurbished fraternity house; University Athletic Club; Studio Arts building (a former Menards store); Iowa Memorial Union; and the Englert Theatre in downtown Iowa City.*

While the situation is not ideal, in Fall 2009, there will be appropriate offices and studios for all faculty, teaching assistants, and staff members; appropriate classrooms and rehearsal spaces; and reasonable spaces for student recitals. All classes continue to be offered on schedule. When the School of Music occupies St. Thomas More Church, there will be a suitable performance venue for faculty recitals. Band and orchestra concerts will continue to be held at the Iowa Memorial Union, as they have in Spring 2009.

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In December 2009, the National Association of Schools of Music determined that all issues related to standards had been addressed by the School of Music and awarded accreditation to the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Music at the University of Iowa for the maximum ten-year period through the 2017-2018 academic year.