

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Music in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** When the MFA in Music was created decades ago, it was considered the terminal degree in music performance nationally. Since then, the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree has supplanted the MFA as the terminal degree in the field and has proliferated nationally. Furthermore, with just 12 additional semester hours on top of the MFA in Music requirements, students can earn a DMA degree, which is more highly valued on the job market. The MFA in Music is exceedingly rare nationally, and there are currently no students seeking this degree at the University of Iowa. The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed at their June 2017 meeting and recommends approval.

**Background:**

- **Description of program.** The MFA in Music is offered in applied areas (e.g. brass, percussion, piano, strings, voice, and woodwinds). It requires 60 semester hours of course work, including 2 semester hours of an MFA thesis.
- **Reason for proposed termination.** The DMA is now the standard terminal degree in the field and the preferred credential by employers. Currently, no students are seeking the MFA in Music at the University of Iowa.
- **Five-year trend in enrollments and graduations.** Between 2011 and 2015, there was one student who completed an MFA in Music and no new enrollees.

	Applications	Admitted	Total Enrollment	Graduations
2011	0	0	1	1
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0

- **Effect on current students.** There are no students enrolled in MFA in Music at this time, and applicants are all directed to the DMA program.
- **Impact on resources.** The proposed termination will have no effect on costs because faculty will continue to teach in the DMA program.
- **Impact on workforce.** No impact on the workforce is expected.
- **Alternative programs.** There are no other MFA in Music programs in the state. Nationally, Notre Dame de Namur University (CA) and University of California-Irvine offer this program. Bennington College in Vermont offers the MFA in Voice. There are a few other MFA programs in music fields such as composition and folk/world music, but not performance. No peer institutions appear to offer the MFA in Music.

- Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the program will become effective immediately.



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May 25, 2017

John C. Keller, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education  
Dean, the Graduate College  
201 Gilmore Hall

Dear Dean Keller,

I wholeheartedly support your request to close the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Music in favor of a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree. Your rationale for doing so is certainly sound.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Curry, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost

cc: Chaden Djalali, Ph.D., Dean, CLAS  
Christine Getz, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate Education & the Arts  
David Gier, Ph.D., Director, School of Music  
David Puderbaugh, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Studies, School of Music  
Sarah Larsen, Ph.D., Associate Dean, the Graduate College  
Heidi Arbisi-Kelm, M.S., M.Ed., Assistant Dean, the Graduate College