

## Music Department

### Action Update 2008

#### 1. Consider adding an emphasis in music business.

This has been addressed extensively in the past several years. Potential majors in Music Business have been designed on at least two different occasions, but it is apparent that launching such a program will have to be in close cooperation with the School of Business and with additional staffing. Thus far, students, while showing an interest in courses in Music Business during conversation, have not enrolled when the classes have been offered.

#### 2. Consider adding an emphasis in music theatre.

It is clear that an additional full-time faculty position will have to be created, either in the music department or as a position shared by both theater and music for this to be an excellent emphasis. The demands on faculty, staff, students, and budget are extensive for such a program. It will, without a doubt in faculty minds, “grow” both departments rapidly and substantially.

#### 3. Work more closely with CAPA to develop a strategy for recruiting more “adult” students.

Conversations are on going. This is a matter of being included in the advertisements that list potential majors through CAPA as well as a change of thinking that only business and administrative-oriented emphasis can successfully draw students.

#### 4. Rethink the Concert Series

The Music Department has recently offered a two-year position to Dr. T.J.Harper as Director of Choral and Vocal Music. He brings a personality, experience, and musicianship to the department that at this time, we believe, will bring a positive energy and direction to the program. Dr. Harper comes at the highly regarded recommendation of Dr. Stephen Gothold, who retires next week. We are excited about the possibilities. Dr. Harper will be closely involved in rethinking the Concert Series.

#### 5. Brainstorm with University Development and the Administration regarding a campaign for funding a performance center.

A performing center is considered a long-term project. In the meantime, the renovation of the Auditorium is being discussed and planned. The committee includes the Music Department – a fact that in the current modus operandi – needs to be noted. We have continually pressed for an excellent acoustician to be completely involved, and thus far, are being listened to. If any cynicism is detected in this statement, it is in fact, from many years of experiencing a situation at this University where advice has not been sought from the faculty “who use the facility.” While the renovation answers a major obstacle for the department, it will not solve all of the problems with our facilities, but it is most definitely our biggest challenge.

6. Continue to add recording equipment and program to the recording studio.

Only modest gains have been made in this regard due to budget constraints.

7. Work stations (for music study and composition) should be added to the keyboard lab.

No progress has been made in this regard due to budget constraints.

Additional Notes

- The Department was promoted in the last issue of the Campus Times (the ULV student newspaper) featuring recent performances, one of our outstanding students, and an upcoming performance. The students deserve this sort of coverage. In the past week the choirs performed the Schubert Mass in G, some Ned Rorem pieces; followed by two performances of *Pirates of Penzance* under the direction of Dr. Gothold. They collaborated with the Rio Hondo choir on the first piece. The West African Drum Ensemble performed (featuring the La Verne Elementary Schools Honor Choir) a well-attended and successful concert.

- Difficulties and inefficiency dominate any work with HR regarding adjunct professors, guest musicians, and staff. The duplication of forms, seemingly needless paperwork and redundancy, is overwhelming. This is costing the University a fortune through mismanagement in the name of “protecting” ourselves. It is my hope that we can find a more efficient, less demoralizing way in which to carry on the business of educating our students.

- Prof. Lamkin continues her duties as National President of the College Music Society. Prof. Gratz will be on sabbatical during the Spring semester, 2009.