

# Two Year Progress Report

## Music (BA)

### January 2016

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### A) Program Issues & Curriculum Recommendations:

**Recommendation 2. “If the Faculty of Arts reduces the number of required major courses from 20 to 16, that the Department of Music be exempt from this change.”**

Plan Standardization is now in place for all Arts undergraduate programs and Music was not exempted from these requirements. However, changes to the Standardization plan requirements made during the discussions at UGAG met most of the department’s concerns. While the requirements for the Honours BA have been reduced from 20 to 16, an Intensive Specialization for Honours students requires an additional four term courses in Music bringing the total number of courses back up to 20.

An important component of the Honours Music degree program is the Ensemble requirement of six terms of participation in music ensembles, each worth 0.25 credits. Under Plan Standardization, the Department continues to be able to count these quarter-credits as additional to the 16 or 20 term-course requirement for the degree. We consider continuing to be able to do this essential to the integrity of the degree.

**Recommendation 15. “As the Department members fully intend to do, revisit the mission and vision for the Department and ensure that the curriculum reflects both.”**

A comprehensive review of the curriculum was undertaken during the 2014-15 academic year. This review entailed reviewing all existing courses and making adjustments to some course titles and descriptions. More significantly, the review resulted in the creation of two new Specializations, seven new courses and the dropping of one existing course, and changes to the degree requirements.

These changes were focused around the following emphases: strengthening the interdisciplinary character of the program, in keeping the liberal arts context of our teaching; strengthening social-contextual approaches the study of music; giving global (i.e., non-western) music a larger place in the curriculum; and integrating the curriculum more with the other degree program taught exclusively at Conrad Grebel, Peace and Conflict Studies.

These new emphases also reflect the particular strengths of full-time music faculty who have been hired in the last several years.

### New Courses

- 1 MUSIC 110: Music in Cultural Contexts  
For many years the department has offered a single introductory course (MUSIC 100) which has served both as an elective and introductory course for future Music majors and minors. This course was offered five times per year.  
  
We now have two 100-level introductory courses, MUSIC 100, which continues as before, and the new MUSIC 110, which is intended for students planning to major or minor in Music and for those students with a stronger music background in place when they come to the university. MUSIC 100 will now be offered three times a year, and MUSIC 110 twice.
- 2 & 3 MUSIC 245: World Music has been dropped and two new 200-level courses in world music have been created. MUSIC 232: Music as a Global Phenomenon and MUSIC 233: Musical Rhythm in Global Perspective offer two differing and complementary approaches and perspectives on world music. Music majors are now required to take at least one of these two courses. MUSIC 245 had been offered as an elective.
- 4 MUSIC 262: Music for Vocal Ensemble is a further enrichment of the department's emphasis on vocal (as opposed to instrumental) music. It had previously been offered as a Special Topics course and student response has led us to make it a regular course offering.
- 5 MUSIC 333: Music and Landscape is another course that approaches music from a contextual perspective, in this case geographical rather than cultural. It too has previously been offered as a Special Topics course.
- 6 MUSIC 335: Perspectives in Music and Peace. This course is also cross-listed as a PACS course and is team-taught by one faculty member from each of the Music and Peace and Conflict Studies departments.
- 7 MUSIC 392: Special Topics in Global Music. This course allows enrichment of the global music course offerings that can change from year to year.

### New Specializations

The Department has created two new Specializations: 'Music in Global Context' and 'Music and Peace'.

Music in Global Context is a package of seven courses including the two new 200-level global music courses, the new 300-level special topics in global music course or other global music-related course offerings, and two terms of participation in a global music performing ensemble.

Music and Peace is a package of five courses that includes the new 300-level music and peace course, one introductory PACS course, and three other related Music courses (or two other Music courses and an additional PACS course).

### Program Changes

Program changes include:

- 1 making either MUSIC 100 or MUSIC 110 the prerequisite for upper-level music history and literature courses;
- 2 reducing the number of required courses in the history of western music by one and adding the requirement of taking one of the 200-level global music courses.

**Recommendation 3. "Change the name of 'Stage Band' to 'Jazz Band' and consider the possibility of another large ensemble for woodwind and brass players, i.e., a Wind Ensemble, if the number of performers warrants it."**

The name of the Stage Band has been changed to "Jazz Ensemble" ("ensemble" rather than "band" because it sometimes includes vocalists).

A Wind Ensemble is more appropriate for Music programs with much larger numbers of wind players than we have. Most of our students are pianists and singers, with about one third playing all other instruments combined. We are making greater efforts to include wind players within the existing Instrumental Chamber Ensembles program.

**Recommendation 5. "The Review Committee encourages the Department to continue its expansion of global/world music courses—in both the academic and performance streams."**

As mentioned in the response to Recommendation 15 above, three new courses in global music have been added to the curriculum, as well as a new Specialization, 'Music in Global Context'. In addition, we are in the preliminary planning stage of offering a new music and culture travel

course to Indonesia in the Spring of 2018. In the coming academic year (2016-17) we plan to offer a new global music ensemble in West African Drumming (in Winter 2017).

**Recommendation 6. “Explore the area of music technology, in consultation with interested Computer Science faculty members at UW to create an interdisciplinary program with the Music Department.”**

We think that it is inadvisable to develop such a program without a full-time faculty member within the Music Department to oversee and teach in it. It is possible that the person hired to fill the current vacancy in Music Theory will bring such expertise.

The course that we offer in this area (MUSIC 275) is taught by a part-time instructor and the students who enroll in it are mostly non-Music students who do not take any other Music courses. For an interdisciplinary program in music technology to be viable, we need to have a full-time Music faculty member who can help integrate this area of study with the larger Music program so that it serves Music students as well as non-music students.

**Recommendation 7. “After the appointment of a tenure-track theorist in July 2014, the content of the four Music Theory courses needs to be examined. Concerns over whether all the various skills required in these courses (ear-training, sight-singing, and keyboard harmony) are receiving adequate instruction needs to be addressed, in light of the fact that all written and analytical elements have to be incorporated as well.”**

A full-time music theorist joined the Music Department in July 2014, but resigned after one year, so we are again without a full-time music theorist. The search for a replacement has been deferred for one year because of the Chair of Music’s sabbatical during 2015-16. This recommendation can be addressed in 2016-17 once another music theorist has been hired.

## **B) Publicity and Recruitment:**

**Recommendation 1. “Create a joint strategy with the Faculty of Arts for the recruitment of students straight from high school into Music programs.”**

Conversations between the Chair of Music, Conrad Grebel University College’s Dean, Conrad Grebel’s Recruitment Office and the Arts Recruitment Office have produced some improvement to the state of recruitment of potential Music majors to UW’s Faculty of Arts. Successful recruitment to Music requires that the Department be able to contact applicants who express an interest in Music at as early a stage as possible, mirroring the kind of response they receive from other, direct-entry music programs at other Ontario universities.

Recommendation 1 implies that we develop a process for direct entry to the Music degree program at UW, a step that the Music Department fully endorses. Such a development would require changes to the admissions process that the Arts Undergraduate Office may be unwilling to embrace. The Music Department is exploring a variety of options of how such changes could be accomplished. One possibility is that the Faculty of Arts permits Music to offer direct admission to the Music major. This question is part of the larger issue of Arts Undergraduate recruitment and admission policy and procedures which are currently under review at the faculty level, and needs to await the results on that review. The total number of students from the last three graduating classes are as follows: Honours (12), 4 year general (4), Arts & Business (10), Joint Honours (8), Music Minor (31).

Another possibility is the creation of a Bachelor of Music degree (which would by its nature be a direct admission program) offered under Faculty of Arts auspices. A third possibility, less likely to be practicable, would be a B. Music degree offered under the auspices of another Faculty. Whether or not we need to pursue one of these two other options will not be clear until after the Arts recruitment and admission review is completed.

**Recommendation 4. “Based on the very positive outcomes listed for the program in Section 6 and Appendix D of the Self Study, UW should consider promoting the Honours Music (Arts and Business) more in its recruitment strategies.”**

Implementing this recommendation requires on-going conversation with the Arts Undergraduate Office, which is taking place.

**Recommendation 14. “Create a public event that highlights the liberal-arts framework at the core of the Department’s mission.”**

In March 2015 we held a three-day public Music Symposium which combined a keynote presentation by University of Toronto ethnomusicologist Joshua Pilzer on Music and Traumatic Experience, workshops on Indian Music by Trichy Sankaran of York University, and student performances and paper presentations. The Department plans a similar public event for the 2016-17 academic year. During the current academic year, Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan will present a public lecture on ‘The Spiritual in Music’ and conduct the UW Chamber Choir in performances of his music.

Arising out of our experience with the March 2015 Symposium, the Department is also pursuing the idea of an annual public forum for senior students to present their theses and term projects. We are hoping to hold the first of these in Winter 2017.

### **C) Faculty and Staff Resources:**

#### **Recommendation 8. “Maintain faculty complement of 5 and consider increasing to 6.”**

The unexpected resignation in July 2015 of the music theorist who was appointed as our fifth full-time faculty member, just one year after his appointment, has altered the context in which this recommendation was made. We expect to re-advertise this position in 2016-17 and make an appointment to begin July 2017, which will return us to a five-person complement of faculty. One of our faculty members will retire one year later, in June 2018, and our hope is to advertise for a replacement during 2017-18. The question of a sixth faculty member for Music is therefore a few years down the road.

#### **Recommendation 9. “Make the half-time Music Assistant staff position permanent.”**

This position was made permanent with the 2015-16 budget.

#### **Recommendation 10. “Create a new staff position dedicated to communications and marketing.”**

The administrative and staff structure at the College makes this recommendation unrealistic in its present form. Communication and marketing is handled through a central office at the College.

However since this recommendation was made, we have worked with the College’s Communications and Marketing office to produce newly designed full-colour poster templates, program covers, and bookmarks listing each term’s noon-hour and end-of-term concerts. We also now regularly advertise performances and new courses via the Info Screens on campus.

### **D) Space and Other Resources:**

#### **Recommendation 11. “Make sure the Department of Music retains all of the spaces they have been using even as they acquire new space through the current construction project.”**

Accomplished.

#### **Recommendation 12. “Develop a firm plan with Conrad Grebel and the University of Waterloo to provide a dedicated performance space for the Department of Music.”**

Building a dedicated performance space has been a long-standing but elusive goal for a couple of decades. We are encouraged that this goal remains alive as demonstrated by the College’s

recently adopted five-year Strategic Plan, which lists the completion of a feasibility study regarding building a performance hall as one of its goals.

**Recommendation 13. “Have the library purchase a subscription to RILM.”**

‘RILM’ is an on-going annotated bibliographic data base which indexes the scholarly secondary literature on music, primarily periodicals. (RILM stands for *Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale*.) The Conrad Grebel University College Library currently subscribes to a similar resource called *The Music Index*, whose coverage is broader, but is not annotated. Ideally we would subscribe to both of these resources, and this remains a longer-term goal. However because our current annual subscriptions to Music Index and other online resources already takes up a very significant portion of our annual acquisitions budget, and with the decline in the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar (these resources are all priced in US dollars), we will not be able to respond to this recommendation in the foreseeable future. We believe that The Music Index is adequate to meet our current teaching needs and is actually more appropriate to the breadth of courses that we teach than RILM, which is somewhat more conservative in its coverage.

**New Initiatives.**

- 1 An Artist-in-Residence program was initiated for the current academic year and this appointment will be renewed for a further three-year term beginning September 1, 2016. I Dewa Made Suparta is a Balinese musician who has been enriching our global music program through leading the gamelan ensemble and offering supplementary instruction to students outside of regular ensemble rehearsal times. This position has also made possible the establishment of a non-credit community gamelan which has attracted players not otherwise associated with the department or the university. We hope that through the outreach of the community gamelan we will broaden the base of support for the overall program.
- 2 During March 2016, Scottish composer and conductor Sir James MacMillan was the Sawatsky Visiting Scholar at Conrad Grebel. He presented a public evening lecture and a noon hour talk. He also rehearsed and conducted the UW Chamber Choir along with the Grand Philharmonic Chamber Choir in an afternoon concert of his and other composers’ music.
- 3 We have initiated conversation with the Arts Undergraduate Office about establishing a Music Co-op degree program to enhance the attractiveness of the program to prospective students.

- 4 We are very concerned about the creation of a new music degree program at WLU. It is a B.Mus. in Community Music. From what we have been able to learn about this program, it will compete directly for the pool of students we target for our program, with lower music performance standards than we have, but offering the more prestigious B. Mus degree. This makes conversations about the possibility of offering a B. Mus at UW more urgent.

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