

Point Loma Nazarene University
Department of Music
Progress Report to NASM Commission
May 1, 2011

The Music Department faculty wishes to thank the commission for their careful attention to each phase of this evaluation process, and in particular the attentive reading of the Optional response and subsequent Progress Report.

Current University Catalog is available online:

<http://www.pointloma.edu/UndergraduateCatalog.htm>

The Music section of the current catalog is available here:

<http://www.pointloma.edu/UndergraduateCatalog/Courses/Music.htm>

Music Course listings in the current catalog are available here:

<http://www.pointloma.edu/UndergraduateCatalog/Courses/Music/MusicCourses.htm>

Items for Response:

1. **It is not clear how all students enrolled in the degree Bachelor of Music in Composition acquire essential competencies, experiences, and opportunities with electronic media. The music unit is asked to continue in its examination of possible resolutions of this challenge, as suggested in the Optional Response and should submit appropriate curricular changes to the Commission that address this standard (see Self-Study, pages 48-49; Visitors' Report, page 16; Optional Response, page 2; NASM Handbook 2009-2010, item IX.C.3.a.).**

To incorporate experiences in composing with electronic media the catalog description for MUC 352 Private Composition has been amended to include the following language: ***includes introductory compositional experiences that utilize electronic media.*** This change in course description for the second year of composition study was proposed by the music department faculty and has been approved by the university's Academic Policy Committee and has been subsequently affirmed by a vote of the university faculty. The course description in the university catalog for 2011-12 will read as follows:

MUC 352 (1-2) PRIVATE COMPOSITION

Continued study of compositional processes through the exploration of nontraditional tonal materials **includes introductory compositional experiences that utilize electronic media.** May be repeated up to a total of 4 units. Offered every fall and spring semester.
Prerequisite: Music Composition 252.

In anticipation of this change the department has acquired two different software programs, Adobe Audition[®] and Cubase[®], for the department's technology lab and are available for use in completing these assignments. A copy of the proposed course syllabus that reflects the new requirement is included in the reference matter to this report along with a sample of student work using the newly adopted media.

2. It is not clear how all students in each professional music degree program acquire rudimentary capacities to create derivative or original music both extemporaneously and in written form. The music unit is asked to continue in its consideration of the most effective ways to address this standard through the development of competencies in music theory and piano as described in the Optional Response, as well as any other parts of the curriculum the department deems appropriate. The Commission requests documentation of any such actions including revised course syllabi and catalog copy (see Self-Study, page 32; Visitors' Report, pages 15-19; Optional Response, page 2; NASM Handbook 2009-2010, item VIII.B.3.).

The music faculty has determined that the contents of the Piano Proficiency Exam, required of all students completing PLNU music degrees, will be adjusted to a basic competence in rudimentary improvisation. To incorporate a requirement for extemporaneous music making the catalog description for MUA143 Piano Proficiency Skills has been amended to include the following language: ***Emphasizes harmonization, hymn and open score reading, solo and congregational style hymn playing and rudimentary melodic improvisation.*** This change in course description to the third course in the class piano sequence was proposed by the music department faculty, has been approved by the university's Academic Policy Committee, and has been subsequently affirmed by a vote of the university faculty. The course description in the university catalog for 2011-12 will read as follows:

MUA 143 (1) PIANO PROFICIENCY SKILLS

Class instruction in piano. Emphasizes harmonization, hymn and open score reading, solo and congregational style hymn playing and rudimentary melodic improvisation.

Appropriate for Music majors preparing for piano proficiency examination. May be repeated up to a total of 2 units. Offered every fall and spring semester.

Prerequisite: Applied Music 142 or consent of instructor

The revised proficiency exam contents will be introduced prior to the start of the fall 2011 semester, with the changes published in both the *Music Student Handbook* and the course syllabus for MUA143 Piano Proficiency Skills. The PLNU piano faculty have recommended that the current proficiency requirements be amended to include following change:

Existing Requirement:

Prepared open-score excerpts. The excerpts will be available to the student one week in advance.

New Requirement: *Play a melody with chordal accompaniment from lead sheet using pop chord notation of approximately 16 measures, then improvise an original melody over the same harmonic progression. The lead sheets will be distributed one week prior to the exam.*

A copy of the newly adopted Piano Proficiency Exam contents that will be published in the next edition of the *Music Student Handbook* and a copy of the revised course syllabus are included in the reference matter to this report.

3. It is not clear how students in this degree gain experiences in both large and small ensembles for vocal/choral and instrumental music education programs (see Visitors' Report, pages 15,

18, 19; Optional Response, page 3, item 14; NASM Handbook 2009-2010; items IX.L.3.c.(2)(c) and IX.L.3.c.(3)(c)). The Commission requests documentation including examples of course syllabi and proficiency examinations that demonstrate compliance with these standards.

To incorporate a requirement for small ensemble experience for all Music Education students the catalog description for MUA376 Junior recital has been amended to include the following language: ***includes a work for small ensemble***. This change in course description was proposed by the music department faculty and has been approved by the university's Academic Policy Committee and has been subsequently affirmed by a vote of the university faculty. The course description in the university catalog for 2011-12, currently in preparation, will read as follows:

MUA 376 (0) JUNIOR RECITAL

A public recital, approximately thirty minutes in length, given in the student's major performing area comprised predominantly of solo repertoire but also includes a work for small ensemble. Offered every fall and spring semester.

Prerequisite: 300 level in performing area.

The intent is that all recitals presented by music education students in fulfillment of the degree requirements would include music performed by a group of three or more performers without conductor. As this is a new requirement we do not yet have sample programs to document these recitals. However, a program from a recent small ensembles recital is included with the reference matter to this report to demonstrate the kinds of small ensemble performances current music education students are presenting.

- 4. It is unclear that the institution supports a regular process of appointment, evaluation, and development of adjunct faculty (see Self-Study, pages 14-15; Visitors' Report, page 5; Optional Response, page 1; NASM Handbook 2009-2010, items II.E.3.a.(1) and (2)). The music unit is asked to develop a plan for the regular evaluation of adjunct faculty and submit documentation of this evaluation process to the Commission.**

Starting in the 2010-11 academic year, PLNU adjunct faculty teaching music classes are now evaluated with the same student evaluation instruments as are used for full-time faculty members. PLNU music classes taught by adjunct faculty are evaluated using standardized instruments with the resultant data processed and reported via proprietary external agencies. All instructional staff may choose to use either the IDEA[®] or SIR[®] evaluation and also have the option of using either paper forms or on-line electronic versions of the forms. Upon processing, the summary report of student responses is distributed to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Music Department Chair and the individual faculty member as soon as it is made available from the instrument vendor. These reports are distributed as .pdf attachments to e-mails, with copies stored in the offices of both the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Music Department Chair.

At the close of each spring semester all music students enrolled in private lessons are required to complete an evaluation of their instructional experience. The same evaluation form is used for adjunct private lesson instructors as for full-time music faculty. The instrument used to evaluate private lessons was developed by the department faculty in 2002 as part and a longitudinal data set has been tracked to provide a reference point for evaluation. Results of student responses are compiled by a staff member in the music department office and recorded into an Excel[®] spreadsheet. This spreadsheet has been developed in collaboration with a

member of the PLNU Mathematics faculty who has specialized skills in statistical modeling of this type and provides data reporting similar to that provided by the IDEA[®] or SIR[®] reports. A summary of the private lesson response data is e-mailed to each adjunct lesson instructor as soon as the results are tabulated and compiled.

As evaluation data is reported to the Music Department Chair the findings are reviewed to assess the relative effectiveness of instruction and the overall experience of students enrolled in the department's curricular offerings. Areas of concern are then identified and communicated to the responsible faculty. If deemed necessary by the Department Chair recommendations for remediation are recommended and a timeline for improvement is established. If efforts to improve the identified shortcomings in instructional effectiveness do not result in satisfactory improvement after a cycle of two semesters, employment may be discontinued at the discretion of the Dean of Arts and Sciences in consultation with the Music Department Chair. In addition, all PLNU faculty, staff and students have committed to abide by and support a covenant of moral and ethical behavior consistent with the university's mission as a condition of employment. Substantial violations of the standards articulated in the covenant may result in immediate termination at the discretion of the university's upper administration.

In June of each year the Dean of Arts and Sciences sends letters of employment to all adjunct faculty scheduled to teach music courses or private lessons, outlining their expected teaching assignments and financial compensation for the coming academic year. A copy of the template used for these letters is included with the reference matter of this report. As studio teaching loads are highly dependent upon enrollment trends, some private lesson teachers may not have students assigned during some semesters. This possible volatility is clearly communicated when adjunct instructors are hired for private lesson teaching, particularly in some instrument areas such as bassoon or harp where enrollment has been less frequent.

5. **It is unclear that the institution meets NASM standards regarding published materials and Web sites as they relate to consistency, clarity, and accuracy. The music unit is asked to clarify programs, courses, services, and personnel available every academic year from those available on a less frequent basis (see Visitors' Report, page 9; Optional Response, page 3, item 11; HASM Handbook 2009-2010, item II.I.1.i.). The unit should clarify the degree title Bachelor of Arts in Music (Music and Ministry) through consistent presentation in all publications (see Self Study, pages 24-25; Visitors' Report, page 9; NASM Handbook 2009-2010, items IV.C.2.d. and e.). Published materials should indicate the total time requirements for each degree (see Visitors' Report, pages 9-12; NASM Handbook 2009-201, item III.A.1.e.). Additionally, the university catalog needs to clarify that the completion of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education does not satisfy the requirements for the California Teaching Credential. Requirements equal to an additional year of study are required to obtain this credential (see Visitors' Report, pages 24-25, item 15; Optional Response, page 3, item 15; NASM Handbook 2009-2010, item II.I.1.a.). Revised publications and Web site content should be submitted to the Commission as documentation of these changes/clarifications.**
- **The music unit is asked to clarify programs, courses, services, and personnel available every academic year from those available on a less frequent basis.**

The Music Department faculty has worked diligently to rectify the concerns for clarity, and consistency in published materials since the evaluation visit. For the 2010-11 academic year the

course listings in the university catalog now include annotations that indicate the frequency of offerings as part of each course description.

An example a course that is offered every semester is listed as:

MUC 452 (1-2) PRIVATE COMPOSITION

Development of compositional skills through handling extended forms and larger performance forces, such as choir, band or orchestra. May be repeated up to a total of 4 units. **Offered every fall and spring semester.**

Prerequisite: Music Composition 352.

An example a course that is offered only one semester is identified as:

MUA 212 (2) BEGINNING CONDUCTING

Introduction to basic conducting techniques, such as score reading, metric patterns, cues and cutoffs. **Offered every spring semester.**

An example of a course that is on a four-semester rotation is identified as:

MUA 250 (1) DICTION FOR SINGERS I

An intensive study of English, Italian, German, and French diction as it applies to singers, utilizing the International Phonetic Alphabet to transfer foreign texts to vocalized symbols. **Offered fall semester of even years.**

There are a small number of courses that are available on a more limited basis, depending upon student interest and enrollment. An example of a course of this type is identified as:

CMU 451 (2) INTERNSHIP IN CHURCH MUSIC

Supervised internship in a church situation. **Offered on demand.**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Copies of the catalog pages that contain course descriptions are included in the reference matter for this report.

- **Clarify the degree title Bachelor of Arts in Music (Music and Ministry)**
The department has worked diligently to communicate the importance of consistent use of the proper title for the Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Concentration in Music and Ministry to all of the communication outlets on campus. The university catalog, website and other publications have been corrected to use the appropriate degree title. Copies of relevant pages from both the catalog and the web page have been included in the reference matter for this report.
- **The completion of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education does not satisfy the requirements for the California Teaching Credential. Requirements equal to an additional year of study are required to obtain this credential**

The catalog description of the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education now includes the statement:
“Additional requirements for the California Teaching Credential are listed in the School of Education under the Single-Subject credential. The Teaching Credential requires an extra year after the B.A. degree is earned.”