PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINOR IN MUSIC HISTORY

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1. Program Overview, Rationale, and Expectations

Music History is one of the four primary components of music programs in universities and colleges throughout the United States, the four being: Music Performance, Music Education, Music Theory/Composition, and Music History. The objective of the Music History minor is to train the music major or non-major interested in the scholastic aspects of music, which include the ability to research, analyze, and write about music within historical, social, and cultural contexts. Students analyze music in two semesters of music theory classes, scrutinize music scores within the aforementioned contexts in two semesters of music history classes, broaden their perspective beyond the Western music paradigm in Music as Cultural Dialogue, and finish with one semester in music research methods and writing about music. As the music program has been growing over the past five years, it is now ready to accommodate this minor within the music program.

2. Internal and External Market Assessment

There is a demand for students who possess conceptual and critical thinking skills as well as deductive thought processes, and Music History is one field that stresses these proficiencies. The expected graduation rate would be five students per year, based on the 1) Current number of music performance majors and their possibility of their interest in this minor; and 2) the interest of students at the university who are inclined to music academics rather than music performance.

3. Internal Impact

The courses within the Music History Minor will not duplicate any other courses, but will include two Music Theory courses already being taught (Music Theory I, II), as music is often analyzed within historical context and therefore requires Music Theory skills. Most of the courses will be offered every other year, save the music theory courses, which are offered annually.

Required courses:

MUTH 1112/Theory of Music I/ 4 credits
MUTH 2112/ Theory of Music II/ 4 credits
MUHI 1201/ History of Western Musical Styles I/ 3 credits
MUHI 1202/ History of Western Musical Styles II/ 3 credits
MUHI 2010/ Music as Cultural Dialogue (formerly Topics in World Music)/ 3 credits
MUHI TBA/ Research Methods and Writing about Music/ 3 credits
4. Program Needs

The concentration will require consulting many materials from the Walsh Library as well as student help from Beth Bloom, the music librarian. No additional services beyond the excellent support already offered within the library will be necessary.

5. Program Evaluation

The National Association of Schools of Music is the accrediting body for music programs. As the Music Program as a whole is not accredited, there are not plans to apply for accreditation for this minor which will exist within the program. Students will be assessed largely based on papers that they write from original research of primary (and secondary) sources. This will show evidence of the students’ improvement in researching techniques, including various bibliographic resources in music, music encyclopedias, domestic and foreign historical journals and newspapers, important manuscripts, and other sources. This will enable students to research these sources, write about music, analyze music within historical context, undertake anthropologically-based field research (Music as Cultural Dialogue class), give presentations about research, as well as learn journalistic writing skills, all proficiencies that can be used professionally following graduation.

Course Descriptions

*MUTH 1112 Theory of Music I*

Comprehensive study of musical notation: sight singing, melodic and rhythmic dictation, basic analysis of triads, inversions, phrase structure and the technique employed in harmonization. 4 credits

*MUTH 2112 Theory of Music II*

Comprehensive study of harmony including harmonic and rhythmic dictation, advanced sight-singing, study of seventh chords, secondary dominants, modulation to closely related and foreign keys plus advanced four-part analysis. Prerequisite: MUTH 1112. 4 credits

*MUHI 1201 History of Western Musical Styles I*

Students will trace the course of Western art music from its origins in plainchant c. 700 A.D. up until 1750. They will study the history, culture, and music repertoire of various time periods and identify composers and their works within a historical context. Students will also analyze scores within this historical context. Prerequisite: Theory of Music I and II or comparable knowledge. 3 credits

*MUHI 1202 History of Western Musical Styles II*

Students will trace the course of Western art music from 1750 up to the present day. They will study the history, culture, and music repertoire of various time periods and identify composers and their works within a historical context. Students will also analyze scores within this historical context. Prerequisite: Theory of Music I and II or comparable knowledge. 3 credits
MUHI 2010 Music as Cultural Dialogue (formerly Topics in World Music)

The student will learn about music within various cultures as well as social and religious traditions from these cultures that are reflected in the music. Cultures that could be discussed include North India, West Africa, Indonesia, Japan, and Navajo music from the American Southwest. Students will go out into the community and undertake “field research” based on a topic of their choice and then give a class presentation based on their research. No music prerequisites are required. Live performance within the classroom will be part of the experience. 3 credits

MUHI TBA Research Methods and Writing about Music

Students will learn how to discover various bibliographic resources in music, including important music encyclopedias, domestic and foreign historical journals and newspapers, important manuscripts, and other sources. Students will learn how to write a paper about a specific topic based on this research, which will involve conceptual and critical thinking skills as well as deductive thought processes in order to come up with a sophisticated thesis statement. The student will then learn how to write a paper based on this process. In writing the paper, the student will include organizational skills, correct methods in citing sources, proper grammar and syntax, as well as an effective style. These writing issues will be geared specifically towards writing about music. Prerequisite: Theory of Music 1, II; History of Western Musical Styles, I, II. 3 credits

6. Statements of Support

Please see the following, which are attached: approved EPC proposal for the minor; minutes from the November 30th College of Arts and Sciences meeting in which the minor program was approved; signature page for this application.