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MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Williamson'.

Date: August 25, 2012

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2012-03(B) – Establish a Master Degree Program in Music in Sound Recording, Frost School of Music

At its August 22, 2012 meeting, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the proposal to establish a Master degree program in Music in Sound Recording in the Frost School of Music. This new program does not replace the Master in Music Engineering, but offers additional training for those in this field. The curriculum is designed for students with an undergraduate degree that wish to pursue careers in sound recording, sound design, media composition, game audio, sound reinforcement, education, and related fields. This program is distinguished from other such programs in its simultaneous focus on creativity, experimentation, and tradition.

The supporting materials are enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

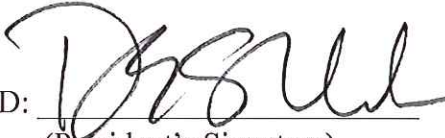
RW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Shelton Berg, Dean, Frost School of Music
Shannon de l'Etoile, Interim Associate Dean, Frost School of Music
Colby Leider, Associate Professor, Frost School of Music

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2012-03(B) – Establish a Master Degree Program in Music in Sound Recording, Frost School of Music

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: Sept 13, 2012
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN BERG

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____



Music Engineering
University of Miami

The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts: A Proposal



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Introduction

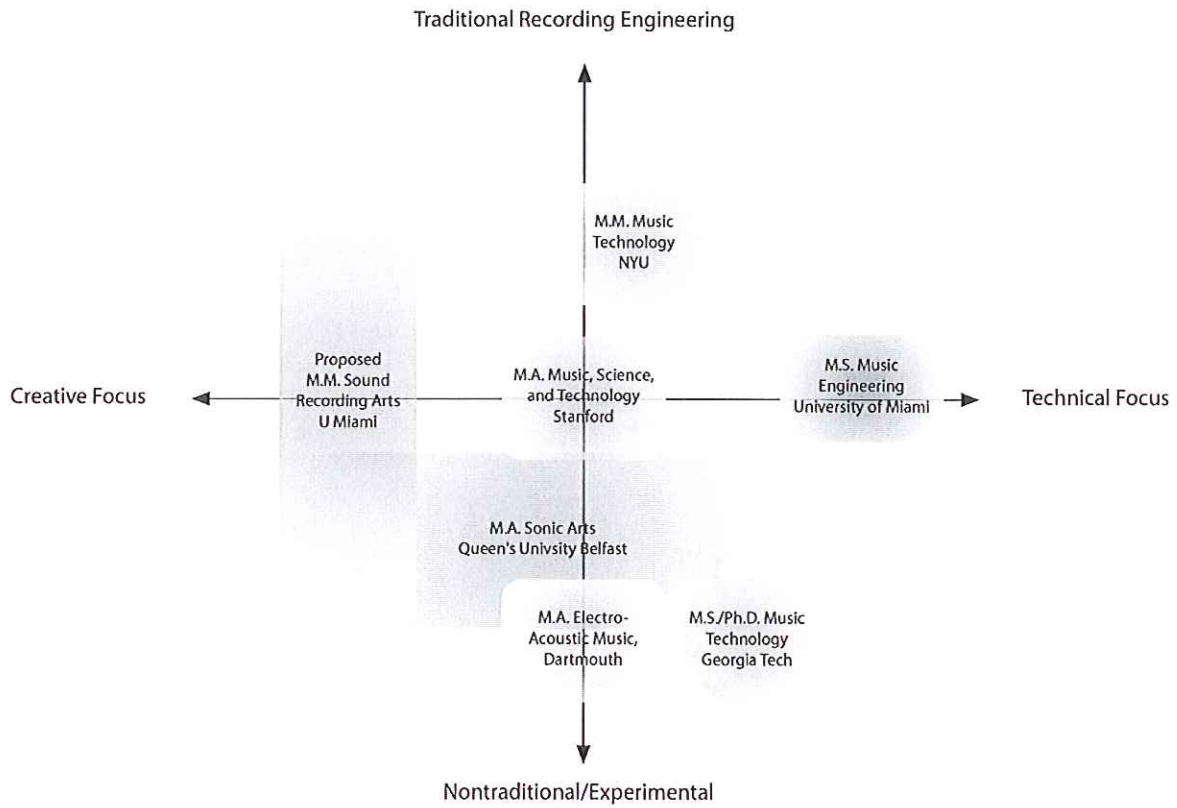
The Master of Science in Music Engineering (MS MuE), founded by Ken Pohlmann in 1986, was the first graduate degree in music technology in the United States. It has been enormously successful, and in fact graduates of the program are routinely placed in top audio companies working in the fields of digital signal processing, transducer/loudspeaker engineering, audio education, and audio programming. This is possible because the program requires that applicants possess an undergraduate degree in a technical field (typically electrical engineering or computer science).

We have fielded an increasing number of questions over the years on whether our current M.S. in MuE is appropriate for applicants from non-technical undergraduate degrees. Because it is not, and yet we have interest in broadening our scope of graduate education to include such a program, we are proposing a Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts that would address current practical and aesthetic issues surrounding music and technology, including sound recording, mastering, mixing, human-computer interaction, computer music, acoustic ecology, and sound reinforcement. Like the MuE program, the Sound Recording Arts graduate program must be robust in its commitment to education and research, continually guided by a spirit of innovation.

Overview

The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts (MM_SRA), a graduate program administered under the auspices of the Frost Music Engineering Technology program, and it engages students in the art and creativity afforded by music technology. Three complementary goals lie at the core of the MM_SRA degree program: (1) to provide the highest quality education in the field of music technology and related artistic sub-disciplines; (2) to offer an environment in which questions about the application of technology to music recording, production, and reproduction are asked and answered through research and experimentation; (3) to foster a community of scholars and practitioners passionate about the nexus of music and technology.

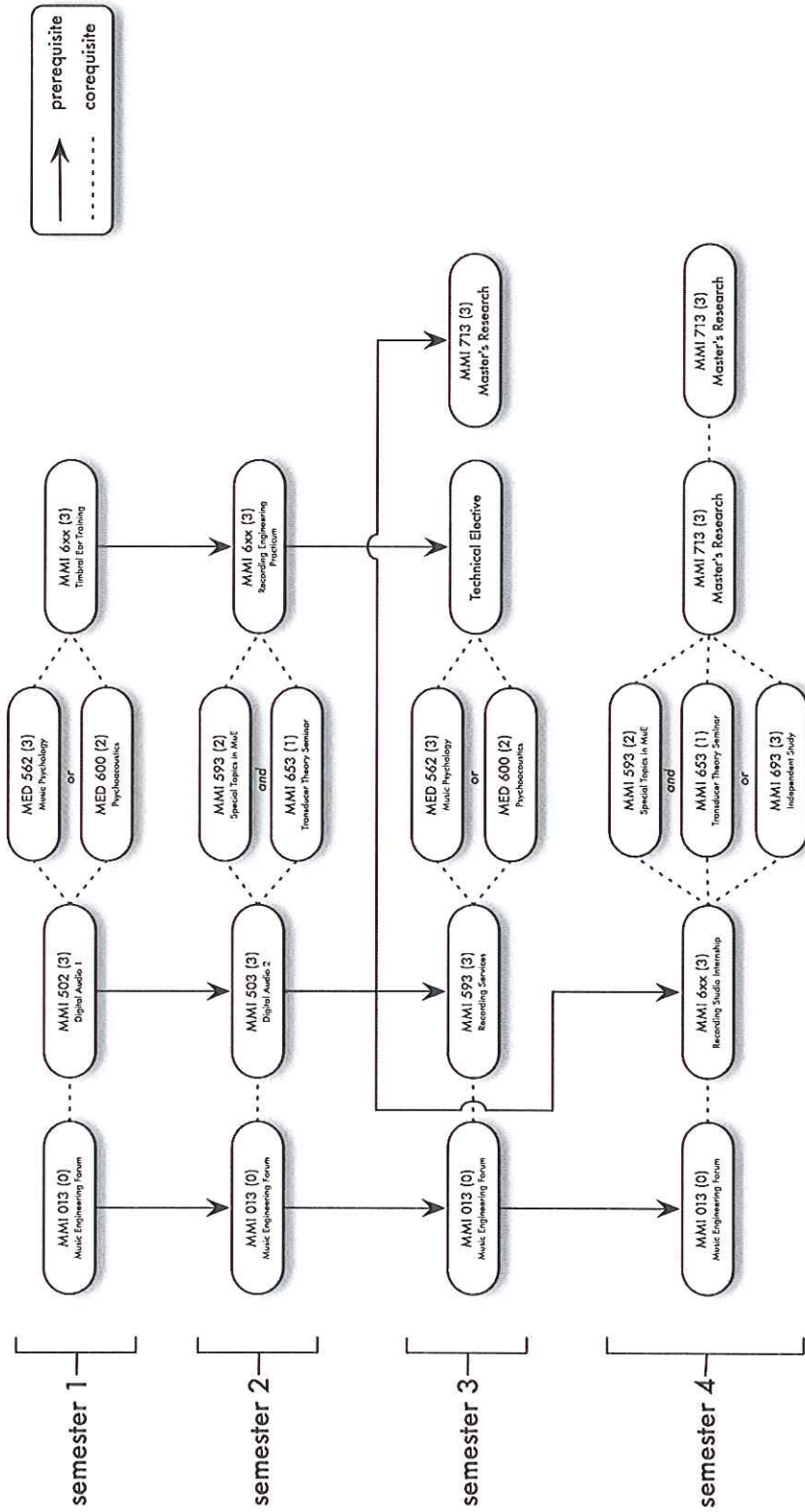
The MM_SRA curriculum is designed for students with an undergraduate degree that wish to pursue careers in sound recording, sound design, media composition, game audio, sound reinforcement, education, and related fields. The program is interdisciplinary in nature; it includes courses in music, music engineering, computer programming, music history, and education. It is distinguished from other such programs in its simultaneous focus on creativity, experimentation, and tradition.



Curriculum

The proposed 30-credit M.M. in Sound Recording Arts curriculum is illustrated on the next page.

M.M. Sound Recording Arts Graduate Curriculum



Personnel

- Colby Leider, Associate Professor of Music Engineering
- Charles Norman Mason, Associate Professor of Music Composition
- Mitsu Ogihara, Associate Professor of Computer Science
- Will Pirkle, Assistant Professor of Music Engineering
- Christopher Bennett, Research Assistant Professor of Music Engineering
- Joe Abbati, Lecturer, Music Engineering
- Michael Scordillis, Research Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering

Bulletin Copy

The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts is designed to enhance and further the skills of audio professionals by incorporating coursework involving recent trends in the recording industry and late-breaking audio technologies with independent study and research into sound recording techniques, methods, and goals. Admission requires an undergraduate degree from an accredited university and demonstrated professional experience in the recording industry. At the discretion of the instructor of record for a course, students with significant professional experience in the recording industry are eligible to take a placement exam for one or more courses offered by that instructor. The program culminates in a research project and accompanying comprehensive audio project that illustrates independent research, novel sound-engineering methodologies, and listener assessment.

Admission Requirements

- Undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- Transcripts from undergraduate institution
- Demonstrated professional experience in the audio industry
- Acceptable performance on the Graduate Record Examination
- Statement of educational and career objectives
- Audio recording portfolio
- Admission interview

NASM Curricular Table

Degree Title: Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts Number of years to complete degree: 2

| MAJOR AREA | OTHER STUDIES IN MUSIC | ELECTIVES | TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS | CURRENT SEMESTER'S ENROLLMENT | NAME OF PROGRAM SUPERVISOR |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 | 5 | 6 | 30 | 0 | Colby Leider |

Major Area

| | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| 3 credits | MMI 6xx | Timbral Ear Training and Critical Listening |
| 3 credits | MMI 6xx | Recording Engineering Seminar |
| 1 credit | MMI 653 | Transducer Theory Seminar |
| 3-9 credits | MMI 713 | Master's Research |
| 3 credits | MMI 6xx | Sound Recording Internship |
| 3 credits | MMI 502 | Digital Audio 1 |
| 3 credits | MMI 6xx | Recording Services |
| 0 credits | MMI 013 | Music Engineering forum (each semester) |

Other Studies in Music

| | | |
|-----------|---------|------------------|
| 3 credits | MED 562 | Music Psychology |
| 2 credits | MED 600 | Psychoacoustics |

Electives

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| 3 credits | MMI xxx | Approved Music Engineering elective |
| 3 credits | MTC xxx | Approved Digital Arts and Sound Design elective |

SACS Objectives and Assessments

Learning Outcome 1

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Mission Statement: | <p>The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts (MM_SRA), a graduate program administered under the auspices of the Frost Music Engineering Technology program, and it engages students in the art and creativity afforded by music technology. Three complementary missions lie at the core of the MM_SRA degree program: (1) to provide the highest quality education in the field of music technology and related artistic sub-disciplines; (2) to offer an environment in which questions about the application of technology to music recording, production, and reproduction are asked and answered through research and experimentation; (3) to foster a community of scholars and practitioners passionate about the nexus of music and technology.</p> <p>The goals of the program are (1) to create the means by which incoming students, faculty, and visiting researchers interact and teach each other about current trends and new advances in sound recording arts; (2) train students in the mechanisms of academic inquiry, research, and documentation; (3) assist students in the development and exploration of new creative and technological ideas involving sound recording and listener assessment.</p> |
| Learning Outcome 1: | Students will display a comprehensive understanding of both theoretical and practical techniques in modern sound recording technology. |
| Assessment 1: | Students must demonstrate proficiency in a number of increasingly difficult and complex sound recording assignments. |
| Assessment 2: | Students must submit a final comprehensive audio portfolio that demonstrates proficiency in sound recording. |
| Administration: | Examinations and assignments are regularly administered through coursework, especially during the core classes. In addition, hands-on demonstrations and personal contact with faculty mentors is required. |
| Results: | A comprehensive view of theoretical understanding and application will be achieved. |
| Use: | The most important use of the assessments is to evaluate students' progress, both through the course of the degree and its end. Course instructors will also use their assessments of students to revise course material, to reorganize topic ordering in a course, and to try to improve the guidance of students in the final project stage of the program. |

Learning Outcome 2

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Mission Statement: | <p>The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts (MM_SRA), a graduate program administered under the auspices of the Frost Music Engineering Technology program, and it engages students in the art and creativity afforded by music technology. Three complementary missions lie at the core of the MM_SRA degree program: (1) to provide the highest quality education in the field of music technology and related artistic sub-disciplines; (2) to offer an environment in which questions about the application of technology to music recording, production, and reproduction are asked and answered through research and experimentation; (3) to foster a community of scholars and practitioners passionate about the nexus of music and technology.</p> <p>The goals of the program are (1) to create the means by which incoming students, faculty, and visiting researchers interact and teach each other about current trends and new advances in sound recording arts; (2) train students in the mechanisms of academic inquiry, research, and documentation; (3) assist students in the development and exploration of new creative and technological ideas involving sound recording and listener assessment.</p> |
| Learning Outcome 1: | Students will display a comprehensive understanding of the standard means by which audio quality is evaluated and by which recordings can be compared. |
| Assessment 1: | Students must demonstrate proficiency in a number of increasingly difficult and complex timbral ear training assignments. |
| Assessment 2: | Students must conduct independent research in sound recording arts involving subjective listener audio evaluation. |
| Administration: | Examinations and assignments are regularly administered through coursework, especially during the core classes. In addition, hands-on demonstrations and personal contact with faculty mentors is required. |
| Results: | A comprehensive view of theoretical understanding and application will be achieved. |
| Use: | The most important use of the assessments is to evaluate students' progress, both through the course of the degree and its end. Course instructors will also use their assessments of students to revise course material, to reorganize topic ordering in a course, and to try to improve the guidance of students in the final project stage of the program. |

Learning Outcome 3

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Mission Statement: | <p>The Master of Music in Sound Recording Arts (MM_SRA), a graduate program administered under the auspices of the Frost Music Engineering Technology program, and it engages students in the art and creativity afforded by music technology. Three complementary missions lie at the core of the MM_SRA degree program: (1) to provide the highest quality education in the field of music technology and related artistic sub-disciplines; (2) to offer an environment in which questions about the application of technology to music recording, production, and reproduction are asked and answered through research and experimentation; (3) to foster a community of scholars and practitioners passionate about the nexus of music and technology.</p> <p>The goals of the program are (1) to create the means by which incoming students, faculty, and visiting researchers interact and teach each other about current trends and new advances in sound recording arts; (2) train students in the mechanisms of academic inquiry, research, and documentation; (3) assist students in the development and exploration of new creative and technological ideas involving sound recording and listener assessment.</p> |
| Learning Outcome 1: | <p>Students will demonstrate technical proficiency in a variety of sound-editing and processing tasks, including sound quality enhancement, forensic audio, speech intelligibility enhancement, and audio source separation.</p> |
| Assessment 1: | <p>Students must demonstrate proficiency in a number of increasingly difficult and complex audio processing assignments.</p> |
| Assessment 2: | <p>Students must complete coursework in digital audio signal processing technology, including a number of projects and examinations.</p> |
| Administration: | <p>Examinations and assignments are regularly administered through coursework, especially during the core classes. In addition, hands-on demonstrations and personal contact with faculty mentors is required.</p> |
| Results: | <p>A comprehensive view of theoretical understanding and application will be achieved.</p> |
| Use: | <p>The most important use of the assessments is to evaluate students' progress, both through the course of the degree and its end. Course instructors will also use their assessments of students to revise course material, to reorganize topic ordering in a course, and to try to improve the guidance of students in the final project stage of the program.</p> |

Logistics and Benefits to the Frost School

- MuE/Sound Recording Arts would be happy to propose and teach the sophomore-level music-technology sequence pending additional resources
- Sound Recording Arts will provide teaching assistants for said sequence
- Facilities
 - Our studio is still in good shape, although recent new studios at NYU, Ball State, and other colleges have eclipsed ours in size and number. This is not necessarily a bad thing, though, as the studio model is rapidly changing in the industry; many large studios around the world are being replaced by laptops in residences. We have already adapted to this change in our instruction.
 - The recent growth of our research profile has led to a lack of requisite square footage. We were able to move our newly constructed multi-touch surface into the old Electronic Music Studio (thanks Raul!), which greatly helped, although additional space would be helpful.
- University-wide goal of increased interdisciplinarity is addressed

Summary

We are moving forward in finding innovative ways to combine music, audio, and technology. With the increased number of programs like ours, it is imperative that we continue to recruit the strongest students we can through new courses relevant to the industry, coupled with a strong research program that provides funding, publications, and prestige.