

University of Louisiana
at Lafayette

College of the Arts

STEP Grant Request

Angelle Hall Recording Equipment Upgrade

Robert Willey
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Signature of Dean

Title: Angelle Hall Recording Equipment Upgrade

Date: September 15, 2004

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Abstract

Angelle Hall is used extensively for concerts and other university and community events. A proposal is made to add video recording and to improve the audio recording capabilities there in order to document performances, and to provide students and faculty with feedback.

New microphones will replace the unused pair that is presently hanging above the stage, microphones that are not used because they are not right for the application and do not record well. Six microphones will be permanently mounted, making it easy to record all events live in either stereo or surround sound formats. A hard disk recorder will capture the individual inputs from the mixing board in the booth, which can later be mixed in postproduction to make DVDs of special events.

The VHS video camera that was in the control booth is broken and beyond repair since last year. A new digital video camera will provide improved images and serve as input for a DVD recorder. This will create a high quality teaching and documentation environment capable of producing professional results.

The recording system will be very high fidelity. In addition to recording standard video DVDs, a new authoring system is included that can master the material as DVD-Audio disks, greatly surpassing the audio quality of regular DVD video. This will complement the entire media program in the School of Music, and interface with its newly created Postproduction Studio. A combination lock will give students round-the-clock access to the facility, greatly increasing access and opportunities for multimedia production.

Budget Proposal
(see attached spreadsheet)

Length of Implementation (in years)	[1]	2	3
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1. Equipment

(5) microphones - Oktava MK012	\$875 total
Microphone splitter – Pro Co MS42A	\$226
Video camera – Sony DCR-HC1000	\$1,700
Hard disk audio recorder - Alesis ADAT-HD24XR – 96 kHz	\$2,000
cables and mounts	\$500
DVD recorder – Sony RDR-GX7	\$380
TV monitor – Casio EV 1000 LCD TV	\$270
PC – Sony PCV-RS310	\$754
PC monitor – HS-model 15” LCD	\$250
Combination door lock (installed)	\$795

2. Software

DVD-Audio authoring software (only runs on PC)	\$372
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3. Supplies

(2) drives for hard disk recorder (100 Gb each)	(\$140 total)
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Video tapes and DVDs will be bought by the performers or department

4. Maintenance

The microphones will be permanently suspended and should not require maintenance

The video camera and hard disk recorder are expected to function for at least five without repair.

5. Personnel

Dr. Robert Willey is teaches the recording and live sound classes in the School of Music. He and Ivan Klisanin (graduate assistant) will install the equipment and supervise its use by students, in conjunction with the Angelle Hall manager.

Total:	\$8,262
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3. Description of Proposal

a. Purpose of Grant and the Impact to Student Body as a Whole

The grant improves the audio and video recording capabilities of Angelle Hall, where the majority of events from the School of Music are held. In a typical semester there can be from 30-50 official student and faculty evening recitals in the hall, along with many other university, student, and community events. A video camera is urgently needed to record events, which can be used to give performers feedback on their work, for portfolios and publishing, department recruitment, faculty promotion, and to generally contribute to a positive environment in which accomplishments can be celebrated.

b. Lifetime of Enhancement

The equipment will be an asset for at least ten years.

c. Person(s) Responsible for implementation, installation, maintenance, operation, and training

Dr. Robert Willey (assistant professor teaching media courses) and Ivan Klisanin (music media graduate assistant).

d. Details of Proposal's Budgeted Categories.

A camcorder will allow for the video recording of events. This is vital to the documenting and analyzing of student and faculty presentations. Recording to digital video tape will provide a master that can be edited later, should postproduction be desired.

A permanent microphone cluster will make it easy to setup and make high quality audio recordings, both on the present CD system, and simultaneously (thanks to a microphone splitter) on the proposed DVD recorder. DVD has become the standard for home and professional presentations. A compact video monitor will be needed to allow the technician in the booth to verify that recordings and dubs are functioning properly. Having live DVD recording capability will allow performers to leave the facility with a copy of a DVD in hand, without having to wait for someone to make a copy. This will let ensemble teachers come to the next class, for example, and critique a performance, and will not require staff time to produce a copy.

A multi-track audio recording system, working in conjunction with the new microphone array (and up to 19 other isolated solo inputs from instruments or media on stage) will allow for the tracking of concerts, which can later be mixed down to CD and/or combined

with event's video recording in order to produce DVDs with high quality stereo and surround sound audio tracks. This will require additional production time but will become good raw material for production classes in the Music Media program to work with. The mixing will be done in the School of Music's new Postproduction Studio, where multi-camera video recordings can be edited and combined with the multi-track audio recordings mixed in the Pro Tools software environment.

A PC is proposed in order to run DVD-Audio authoring software (which does not run on any of the School of Music's Macintosh computers). DVD-Audio disks greatly exceed the audio capabilities of CD or DVD video recordings, and will make it possible to create state of the art surround sound recordings of events from Angelle Hall, or from other concerts recorded in other locations in Angelle Hall or in the field regularly made in cooperation with KRVS Radio. A number of DVDs have been authored in the Postproduction Studio during its first semester of operation. These include a DVD of the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band (used for recruitment of band members and to give band members a souvenir of their work), a DVD for an audition of the jazz program's Combo I Band (used as an audition for New Orleans Jazz Fest, and for student portfolios), and a DVD contributed to by advanced students of accordion music from Louisiana (under a grant from the Acadiana Arts Council, 500 copies of which will be donated to libraries and eventually distributed commercially). Being able to record events in Angelle Hall will fill in a missing part of the program, since so many key student concerts are presented there. These projects increase student satisfaction, are needed for performance and ensemble students to review and share their work, raise the technological level of media classes taught, stimulate the creativity of students doing independent projects, and bring notoriety to the University through publications and the School of Music's website. We would like to showcase the results of our program but do not presently have a way to prepare the finished materials.

A keyless entry combination lock is requested for the Postproduction Studio to use the studio to its maximum potential, by adding evening and weekend access. Security is also enhanced since a record is made of who has entered at what hour.

4. Budget Proposal Form.

See attached spreadsheet.

5. Timeline - Project Implementation Schedule

Fall 2004 – get funding, purchase equipment

Spring 2005 – install equipment, use for Department Events

Fall 2005 – use Department recordings for postproduction projects in Music 422, put results on website

6. Additional Information

None.

7. Previously funded STEP Projects

Dr. Willey received a STEP grant in 2003-4 to upgrade the School of Music resource center. Half of that project was to create a video editing station that students and faculty can use to author DVDs. The current proposal will create a wealth of new material that can be edited and polished in that facility.