University of Louisiana
at Lafayette

College of the Arts

STEP Grant Request

School of Music Resource Center Upgrade

Robert Willey

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Signature of Dean

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Signature of Department Chairman

Title: School of Music Resource Center Upgrade

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Contact Person: Dr. Robert Willey
Department: School of Music

phone: 482-5204
email: willey@louisiana.edu

Abstract

The School of Music's Resource Center is an open computing lab in Angelle Hall. Two of its computers are out of operation due to non-functioning system hard drives. Purchasing two new drives will allow them to be used for courses that are taught there, and for students doing their homework.

Half of the Resource Center is currently being remodeled and equipped under a LEQSF grant to serve as a new teaching lab for a number of music and education courses, and will be used during open hours for student projects and homework. The installation of the proposed program "Digital Performer" will make it possible to use the new lab to teach four additional courses, and offer a new facility for study and creative work.

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1.   **Hardware**   **$ 100**

   2 internal hard drives (restore two computers to operation)

2.   **Software**   **$ 5,955**

   17 copies of Digital Performer

3.   **Supplies**

   None.

4.   **Maintenance**

The Resource Center is maintained by Dr. Willey and Dr. Sam Hamm, with the assistance of the University Help Desk and Fletcher Hall technology personnel.

5.   **Personnel**

The School of Music's Resource Center is supervised by Dr. Willey and Dr. Sam Hamm. It is monitored by graduate assistants during business hours.

Total: **$ 6,055**

3.   Description of Proposal

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

The Resource Center is open to all students and frequently used by music majors, education students, and as support for general education elective courses. Several classes meet there, and many more have homework assigned that require the use of its facilities. The grant improves the functionality of the Center. Two existing computers will be restored to operation, improving the quality of instruction to classes taught there. These computers will also be available for students studying during regular open hours. This will capitalize on previous investments and make the Resource Center more useful for students.

In addition, the new facility (what was formerly an LP, score, and book storage area), is now being outfitted with 16 student workstations and a teacher station with projector. This will be the ideal facility in which to teach digital audio courses, along with the music education courses already planned. Equipment and software for the LEQSF education grant that funded the lab includes hardware and software to do audio recording, but the specialized program to teach MIDI sequencing was not included, since it was not required to meet the core goals of the grant. Installing 17 copies of Digital Performer in the lab would allow MUS276 (MIDI 1), MUS277 (MIDI 2), MUS438 (Film Scoring 1), and MUS439 (Film Scoring 2) to be taught in the classroom. Currently, the four courses are taught in the MIDI lab, with the teacher demonstrating the software. Students have a hard time seeing what is happening from their chairs, and are not able to try the techniques being described during class, instead having to wait until their individual lab time later in the week to learn the program on their own. The course would be greatly improved by teaching it in a lab, where lecture and exercises could be combined, with students working with the program under the teacher's supervision. All four courses are required for media majors, and several of them (for example, MIDI 1) are included in the degree plans of other concentrations (jazz studies, theory/composition, performance, piano pedagogy, and voice).

Having the software in the lab will greatly increase the access to production time and development of individual projects. Presently each student registered in the class gets 2 hours per week of lab time. This is barely enough time to do homework, and does not allow for the more frequent and in depth contact necessary to master the program and make creative use of it. The 16 student stations would give all students opportunities to work more often and in groups during the week when the lab is open. It will also make the lab more useful to other classes, since the sequencing capabilities can be integrated into recording and production classes that will be taught there.

b.   Lifetime of Enhancement

The upgrade will be an asset for at least five years.

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

Dr. Robert Willey (assistant professor teaching media courses).

d.   Details of Proposal's Budgeted Categories.

Two of the Center's ten iMacs need new hard drives in order to run.

17 copies of Digital Performer will be bought, 1 for the teacher projection station, and 16 for the student computers. The budget is broken down into two items (# 2 & 3) since a lab pack with 13 licenses can be used for most of the machines, with an additional 4 single copies to bring the total up to 17.

4.   Budget Proposal Form.

See attached spreadsheet.

5.   Timeline - Project Implementation Schedule

Spring 2006 – get funding, purchase hard drives as soon as possible. Begin to use the 2 disabled computers as soon as possible for courses currently under way. Purchase software for new computers as soon as versions for the new Intel chip-based iMacs are released.

Fall 2006 – begin to teach MUS276 (MIDI I) and MUS238 (Film Scoring I) in the new lab. The new sequencing capabilities of the lab will be integrated into notation and audio recording activities, in classes taught in the lab and during study time during open hours. Allow access to program during lab hours to students working on homework and creative projects

Spring 2007 – begin to teach MUS277 (MIDI II) and MUS239 (Film Scoring II) in the lab. Continue student access after class during open lab hours.

6. **Additional Information**

None.

7. **Previously funded STEP Projects**

Dr. Willey has received several STEP grants beginning in 2003 to upgrade the School of Music's Resource Center in order to add video editing capabilities, and to make upgrades to the server and client operating systems and applications.