

## PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT SUMMARY FORM

1. **Reporting Institution:** Eastern Illinois University
2. **Program Reviewed:** BA in Music
3. **Date:** January 11, 2024
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### 5. Overview of the Degree Program

**Department of Music Mission Statement:** The Department of Music provides leadership within the University and the region in all matters pertaining to musical art and to music through its accredited undergraduate and graduate programs. Faculty instruct and inspire those whose professional goals include the creation, performance, critical assessment, and teaching of music. In addition, courses are offered to the general student body to enhance appreciation and understanding of all musics. The Department makes available ongoing music learning and performance experiences to the university community and area residents of all ages. Faculty provide service as adjudicators, clinicians, guest conductors, and consultants and through outreach programs to area schools and to other educational and professional organizations. The Department and its faculty contribute to the cultural life of the university and community through the performance and sponsorship of frequent and various concerts and recitals of live music.

**Diversity Statement:** The EIU Department of Music is committed to championing diversity, welcoming all people, and advancing inclusivity and equity for all. Faculty and students assert that music belongs to everyone and affirm that music is a fundamental aspect of shared human experiences. As such, we pledge to promote active music making merged with intentionally respectful practices as the basis of comprehensive music education. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, religions, creeds, national origins, gender identities, sexual identity, physical abilities, ages, and social, economic, and educational backgrounds. We celebrate our differences because they allow us to grow and create in a vibrant, inclusive community. (adopted fall 2023)

**Land Acknowledgement:** Eastern Illinois University is located on the ancestral homelands of many tribes that resided on or migrated through this land for generations. We recognize and honor the land upon which we gather to engage in music learning, teaching, performing, and creating as part of the traditional territory of Native American peoples: the Peewaareews (Peoria), Kaahkaahkia (Kaskaskia), Peeyankihšiaki (Piankashaw), Waayaahtanwa (Wea), Myaamiaki (Miami), Mascoutin, Odawa (Ottawa), Sauk (Othâkîwa), Meshkwahkihaki (Mesquaki), Kiwikapawa (Kickapoo), Bodéwadmi (Potawatomi), Anishinaabe (Ojibwa), Mamaceqtaw (Menomonee), and Hoocąk-waaziija-hači (Winnebago) peoples. We take this opportunity to thank the people upon whose ancestral lands the EIU Department of Music is currently located. (adopted fall 2023).

### Brief Overview of the Bachelor of Arts Program

EIU began offering the BA in Music degree in Fall 2015. At that time EIU offered two concentrations: Open Studies and Music Theory and Composition. The Open Studies program allows students to study music within the framework of a liberal arts program, and the program offers a considerable number of elective credits and allows students the flexibility to choose courses of interest

throughout the university. The program is also an attractive option for those wishing to double major. We have also found that the program has increased retention in the department by providing an alternative to the B.Mus Music Education and Performance programs. In this respect, the BA in Music – Open Studies program offers a degree-completion program. The Music Theory and Composition program offers students an alternative to the intensive B.Mus, Music Composition program, and we often find students in that program who change their major to the BA program to facilitate graduation. In 2020 the department began offering a third concentration in Audio Recording Technology. This new concentration is now the most popular concentration in the BA in Music program.

There are a number of BA programs throughout the state. A search of the public institutions in Illinois shows a variety of concentrations.

- BA in Music – Liberal Arts (SIUC, UIUC, NIU, UIC, NEIU, ISU) – similar to EIU’s Open Studies Concentration
- BA in Music – Music Business (SIUC)
- BA in Music – Music Technology Option (UIUC)
- Music Composition Option (UIUC)
- Musicology Option (UIUC)
- BA in Music – Music Theory and Literature (SIUE)

The Department of Music updated student learning outcomes in fall 2022. The following core outcomes apply to students in all undergraduate programs.

- **Written Music Theory:** Read music at an advanced level, analyze scores from various stylistic periods, and compose works representing various style periods, as relevant to their degree program.
- **Aural Skills:** Accurately sight-sing and take aural dictation as appropriate to their degree program.
- **Applied Instruction:** Perform effectively and musically on their primary performance area demonstrating an understanding of relevant repertoire, as appropriate to their degree program.
- **Music History:** Through score analysis and listening, effectively describe musical elements and expressive devices using advanced technical vocabulary. Identify historical periods, genres, and interdisciplinary connections within a historical context.
- **Piano:** Prepare works, as relevant to their degree program
- **Technology:** perform basic digital audio recording and editing; synthesis sampling and sequencing.
- **Ensemble:** Develop skills of collaborative musicianship through participation in ensemble contexts.

In addition, the music faculty developed additional learning outcomes for students who declare either the concentrations in Music Theory and Composition or Audio Recording Technology.

BA, Music Theory and Composition Learning Outcomes

- **Composition:** Demonstrate the use of basic concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures to develop a composition from concept to finished product.
- **Analysis:** Prove an academic understanding of the theory and formal structure of a post-tonal composition.

## BA, Audio and Recording Technology Learning Outcomes

- **Electronic Music:** Demonstrate the use of basic concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures to develop an electronic music composition from concept to finished product.
- **Recording:** Demonstrate the skills necessary to record, mix, and master a performance.
- **Music Business:** Prove skills and knowledge in music business, preparing them for professional careers.
- **Live Sound Reinforcement:** Set-up and run sound for a live acoustic event.
- **Professional Readiness:** Demonstrate the ability to successfully work in a professional setting.

Achievements by students and faculty continue to be impressive in the areas of performance and research/creative activity, including greater visibility of faculty and students at the local, state, and national levels. Since the last program review, highlights of accomplishments by faculty and students include:

### Faculty:

- Dr. Larson is currently working on a co-authored book contract with Lexington Education Book on the history of normal school music programs in the US which is due in March 2024. WORKING TITLE: *A History of Music Teaching and Learning in America's Public Normal Schools*.
- Dr. Neal is also authoring a chapter in the upcoming book *The Horizon Leans Forward: Stories of Courage, Triumph, and Success from the LGBTQ+ Community in the Wind Band Field*, vol. 2.
- Dr. Rebecca Johnson is in her final year of a two-year term as president of the National Flute Association, the largest flute organization in the world, with roughly 5,000 members in more than 50 countries.

### Students:

- Alison Stangle, BA in Music, BA in Foreign Languages (Spanish), minor in French, 2017. Fulbright grant recipient to teach Spanish in Argentina.
- Aspen-Johanna Murgas, 2018. Accepted for graduate study in Vocal Performance
- Ciera Terra, BA in Music, B.S. in Biology, 2022. Currently studying for the MCAT exam.

## 6. Major Findings and Recommendations

- a. Description and assessment of any major changes in the program [e.g., (1) changes in the overall discipline or field; (2) student demand; (3) societal needs; (4) institutional context for offering the degree; and (e) other elements appropriate to the discipline in question.**

A review of overall enrollment in the Department of Music during the review period illustrates two external threats to enrollment: the budget impasse and Covid-19. In Fall 2015 we welcomed a large and talented incoming class, but rumors abounded regarding EIU's instability and the possibility of closure. For that reason, it was very difficult to recruit incoming classes of a similar size and caliber in the following years. The recruitment season during the 2019-2020 year was excellent, and despite the challenges of Covid-19 the entering class in the B.Mus program was still strong. It was

not until Fall 2021 that we witnessed the dramatic effect that Covid-19 had for music enrollment. As many high schools completely shuttered their music programs as part of their Covid-19 mitigation plan, high school students did not receive the training or encouragement needed to complete a music audition, and enrollment sank in fall 2021. We are thrilled with recovery made in fall 2022 and 2023. Ideally, we would like to welcome an incoming class of approximately 40-50 students in all undergraduate programs annually and believe we can accomplish this goal in the absence of such severe external threats that we witnessed in the past eight years. Overall, interest in the BA in Music programs has risen over the past 8 years. One reason for this can be attributed to the new concentration in Audio Recording Technology that opened in fall 2020.

	FA 23	FA 22	FA 21	FA 20	FA 19	FA 18	FA 17	FA 16	FA 15
B.Mus. Teacher Licensure Students	64	71	58	67	60	63	62	65	69
B.Mus. Performance Students	23	18	21	35	32	26	26	28	31
<b>BA in Music</b>	23	19	19	10	13	16	17	14	3
Total Undergraduate <sup>1</sup> Enrollment	109	108	98	122	105	105	105	107	117

Due to effective recruitment most instrumental studios are healthy in size. The department now has a Recruitment Committee represented by a cross-section of department faculty. Department recruitment has improved through a commitment to effective communication with prospective students, recruitment trips, on-campus festivals targeted to high school students, and individualized student shadow days. The Recruitment Committee organized a calling campaign to prospective students during the past two years, which will become an annual event. The department chair also organizes an annual Spend-a-Day for prospective students which has seen yield rates from 75-80%. We believe that this emphasis on departmental recruitment activities has helped enrollment in the Department of Music remain more stable despite recent challenges. In addition to these endeavors, we need to considering offering a music technology recruitment day.

Since AY16 a review of total departmental credit production has decreased, from a high of 5579 in AY16 to a low of 3,897 in AY22. It's nice to see the increase in credit hour production since AY22. To help stay current with general education offerings the department has developed a new music general education course, Film Music, which was offered for the first time in fall 2015.

	FA 23	AY23	AY22	AY21	AY20	AY19	AY18	AY17	AY16
Undergraduate Credit Hour Production; All UG MUS Courses	2059	3944	3897	4630	4134	3887	4212	4462	5579

During the review period there have not been any major changes in the discipline or field, with the exception of increased interest in programs that focus on music technology and commercial music. To meet this demand, the department adopted a new concentration in Audio Recording Technology in 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes B.Mus and BA in Music enrollment

Program costs for per credit hour of instruction for the Department of Music are below the state average for all levels of instruction. During the review period, the department has received approval for several modest course fees for applied study and technology. These course fees are managed by the Music Office and allow faculty to purchase items of need for classes. The course fees for the technology classes will allow the department to reserve funds for the next round of computer upgrades in the Music Computer Lab as this is no longer supported by ITS. Faculty in the technology area have also been the recipient of several Redden Grants. A representative sample of these projects are as follows. These grants have been essential for the studios to remain current. Without this support, it would be been impossible to develop the Audio Recording Technology concentration.

- AY17 – Electronic Music Studio Computer Upgrade
- AY18 – Electronic Music Studio Audio Interface Upgrade
- AY19 – Composition Studio Computer and Software Upgrade
- AY20 – Electronic Music Studio Software Update
- AY21 – Electronic Music Studio Audio/Visual Upgrade
- AY22 – Music Computer Lab Midi Controllers
- AY23 – Electronic Music Studio Upgrades

**b. Description of major findings and recommendations, including evidence of learning outcomes and identification of opportunities for program improvement;**

Over the past three years the Assessment Committee reviewed all Department of Music Student Learning Outcomes. We now have a core set of SLOs and specific SLOs for all concentrations in the B.Mus and BA programs, with the exception of the Open Studies program<sup>2</sup> (See Section #5). Prior to this revision, the department did not have specific SLOs relevant to the specialized coursework for most concentrations. This work constitutes a significant improvement to the department's assessment plan, and we look forward to reviewing this data as additional years of portfolios are available for review.

The primary assessment tool for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Music program is a portfolio required of all majors submitted prior to graduation with artifacts documenting accomplishment of all learning objectives. Portfolio requirements are listed on the department's portfolio website and include a personal philosophy statement, representative papers, projects and examinations from all coursework. All artifacts are evaluated with the assistance of rubrics.

The results of the exit survey have helped shed light on areas that students feel are weak in the curriculum. Now that we are beginning to have a larger pool of graduates in the BA programs, we anticipate using this information to make improvements in the future.

**c. Description of actions taken since the last review, including instructional resources and practices, and curricular changes; and**

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<sup>2</sup> Specialized SLOs were not needed for the Open Studies Concentration as the core SLOs cover all required coursework.

Over the review period the Department of Music has seen dramatic changes in faculty staffing. Of the twelve Unit A faculty present in AY15, only 7 are still at EIU. Two departures were due to retirement, the other three Unit A faculty departures resulted from concerns regarding EIU's viability due to the budget impasse. Of the 12 Unit B faculty from AY15, only 2 are still at EIU; both of whom were the successful candidate in a Unit A search. The remaining 10 have left EIU generally through retirement or by securing a tenure-track position at another university. With the adjunct faculty, the story is more dramatic as every adjunct faculty member in AY15 has now left EIU. In the years since the last year, the department has hired approximately 50 faculty through either national searches or local "informal" searches. The loss of institutional memory due to the high number of faculty changes has created challenges for the department. In the choral area, the department went through a six-year period where there was a new faculty member in the Director of Choral Activities position annually. We have a new Unit A faculty member in this position this year, and anticipate several years of continuity.

Despite these challenges there are some bright spots in terms of faculty staffing. The department was granted a Unit A search for Fall 2023, which will bring the number of Unit A faculty to 13, a net gain of one Unit A faculty member since 2015.

Unfortunately, the number of adjunct faculty has grown from 6 in AY15 to 9 in AY23 and the Unit B faculty have shrunk from 12 to 8. Despite the increased reliance on part-time faculty, the department has been able to hire a specialist in the areas such as music history and music technology. With the current faculty there is a strong sense of collegiality within the department and a high level of commitment to building the program. Overall, staffing needs are currently being met, but as is probably true with most departments, we would appreciate a higher percentage of Unit A faculty in order to provide leadership to the department.

#### **Curricular Changes:**

Since beginning to offer the BA in Music program in fall 2015 the department has made several curricular changes described below to address an accreditation issue and to strengthen the curriculum.

During the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accreditation visit in Spring 2016, one member of the site visitation team expressed concern that students in the BA in Music programs could use the elective courses built into the program to take additional music courses, violating the NASM standard that BA programs must comprise a minimum of 55% of credits outside of music. We were surprised at this concern as the program plan approval was reviewed by NASM approximately one year prior and approved on the first submission. Regardless, the department placed a restriction that at least 66 credits must be non-music to ensure that the liberal arts nature of the program be preserved.

In response to the change described above, the department removed two credits of music ensembles for the Open Studies and Music Theory and Composition Concentration and remove MUS 4541/4542 (Counterpoint) from the Music Theory and Composition concentration. These reductions allow students in these concentrations more flexibility to meet the non-music credit requirement.

In some situations the “66 non-music credits rule” has presented a challenge to students. While a number of student in the Open Student program are completing double majors in a field outside of music, others come to program as a way to complete a music degree after finding the B.Mus programs were no longer of interest or viable. While the information is clearly marked on the advising sheets, students wishing to change their major to the BA in Music programs are often surprised by the number of credits outside of music needed. To help focus students in this situation the department submitted a catalog change for the Open Studies Concentration so that students must complete a minor or second major outside of music (instead of the “66 credits music be non-music”). This requirement will not only help students focus their non-music classes towards a course of study that can prepare them for their future career goals but will help students meet the upper division credit requirement for graduation.

In AY 17, the Department of Music consolidated the three-semester music history survey (MUS 3584/85/86) for all undergraduate degree programs into two semesters, preceded by MUS 3553G Survey of Musical Masterworks. MUS 3553G provides students with a large-scale overview of historical/musical concepts and an introduction to studying music history. This course is followed up with a one-year, in depth, study of music history. It has been six years since this change to the curriculum was made, and the transition has been very smooth. Furthermore, the Music History subarea score on the Illinois Licensure Testing Service Music exam, has continued to be strong, and shows that students are learning the material. This change has made it easier for our transfer students, who often have taken an equivalent course to MUS 3553G at their first institution. In addition, we are pleased to offer an additional upper-division General Education course to serve university needs.

Beginning with Fall 2022, the Department of Music adopted a new course, MUS 1102 – Navigating the Music Major, for all entering undergraduate students. This course introduces music majors to the necessary skills for success in their degree program. Topics include resources on campus, practice skills, time management, performance anxiety, and professional expectations.

Finally, in Fall 2020, the department began offering a new concentration in Audio Recording Technology. Prior to adding this concentration, the department already offered several courses in recording and electronic, so in order to develop this program, the following new courses were developed:

- MUS 3070 – Electronic Music
- MUS 3071 – Audio and Recording Techniques II
- MUS 3072 – Live Sound Reinforcement
- MUS 3571 – Music Business
- MUS 4275 – Internship in Music Technology

**d. Description of actions to be taken as a result of this review, including instructional resources and practices, and curricular changes.**

**Primary plans for the future include the following:**

Item 2.23 in *EIU's Strategic Plan: Plan 2018* indicates that EIU will “Create programs to meet the needs of the region & state,” and includes the request for deans and department chairs to explore new programs through collaborative assessment with industry and academic partners. . .” With this charge, we plan to explore collaborative programs that could be developed at EIU by using course

currently in place. Ideas could include a program in Music Business, similar to that offered at SIUC, or a pre-music therapy program that would prepare for graduate work in this field.

In the area of Music Technology we plan reach out to businesses to expand internship opportunities and to make connections with industry leaders to host guests lectures for students in the program.

The timing of this current IBHE review serves as a starting point for preparations for our National Association of Schools of Music reaccreditation review, which will occur in spring 2026. We hope that as we complete the NASM self-study process it will serve as a means for thorough self-reflection throughout the department.

## **7. Responses to Institution-Assigned Issues**

- a. Describe the ways in which your program(s) have incorporated programmatic, curricular, and teaching/learning strategies to support the Integrative Learning Experience at EIU. What plans does the department have for increasing its support of ILE?**

Long before Integrative Learning was defined as a learning goal, music departments have been engaged in these types of endeavors through our close work with students helping them develop the tools of self-reflection to work effectively as a professional musician.

Ensemble participation is one way in which integrative learning is infused into the music curriculum. Every undergraduate music student participates in a large ensemble each semester of residency. Through this experience ensemble directors and students draw upon music theory and history course content to help contextualize the works studied during the semester.

An important part of the Audio Recording Technology program is the required internship course, MUS 4275. The program requires 6 credits of internship, which can be taken in one semester, or divided up over two or more semesters. Internships have been completed with the following organizations:

- Brian Graden Media in Los Angeles, CA
- Tone Good Studio in Urbana, IL
- WEIU, on the EIU campus
- Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston, IL

- b. What one unique, noteworthy activity is the department involved in that will enable the IBHE to distinguish it from other similar programs in the state?**

Faculty commitment to individualized attention and to the development of the student as a unique individual sets the EIU Department of Music apart of other departments in the state. Prospective and current students routinely report that they chose EIU because of a connection their made with a department faculty member, which went above and beyond any other school.



## COMMENTS FROM THE COLLEGE DEAN:

Launched in 2015, the B.A. is proving to be a wise and productive addition to the Music Department's curricular offerings, and has demonstrated growth despite the two chief threats to enrollment—the Illinois budget crisis and the COVID-19 epidemic. It offers a worthy alternative to the more conservatory-style B.Mus. degree, allowing transfers, students seeking double majors, and (more recently) students wishing to concentrate in Audio Recording Technology, a solid pathway to degree. In the most recent semester reported (Fall 2023), the B.A. comprises 21% of overall undergraduate major enrollment, continuing an upward trend post-COVID.

As it does for the B.Mus., the Department continues its demonstration of commitment to student learning outcomes that reflect best practices. It also has been responsive to curricular suggestions made by its accrediting body, NASM. Furthermore, its recruitment strategy is continually refined, including exercises like "Spend-a-Day" that engender high yield rates. Faculty across the board are highly-accomplished, collegial professionals who are committed to student success.

We recommend a decision of **Program in Good Standing**.

### VPAA Decision:

- Program in good standing
  - Program flagged for priority review
  - Program enrollment suspended

### VPAA Explanation:

#### **50.0901 B.A. in Music**

The summary above describes the impressively comprehensive nature of the B.A. in Music program's responses to challenges during the review period. Through the design and successful operation of the B.A. in Music Open Studies option, the department has organized its collective efforts to address recruitment, marketing, and efficiency challenges. The result is not only rebounding enrollment, but also an enhanced ability to allow students to complete degrees in reduced time, earn a double major, secure an internship, and, hopefully, land a job. Faculty participation in all aspects of engaging with music majors (in everything from assessment measures, of detailed portfolios and performance, to targeted recruitment drives) demonstrates a strong level of dedication to student success.