The Young Americans College of the Performing Arts

Annual Academic Department Report

Department: Music | Academic Year: 2014-2015
Written By: Jessica Caravella, Music Department Chair

1. ***Please provide a narrative overview of the activities within your department. Outline key strategies and approaches implemented in your curriculum, learning resources and assessments. Please also comment on goals from previous year end report. (Space down as needed).***

One major thing that we have been trying to work on is cross curriculum between departments. We are trying to achieve this by being aware of what we are doing in each other's classes, so we can utilize the skills that the students are learning in various classes. For example:

- ***In piano, the students are learning piano scales. We discussed what vocal exercises could be used for both voice and also still be used for teaching piano scales. (5 finger scales, Do-Me-So arpeggios, etc.). Then when the students were feeling proficient in those scales in piano, the vocal instructors would begin having them do the vocal warm-ups in Vocal Techniques Classes or Semi-Private Classes. And the students were actually volunteering and wanting to practice these skills in classes.***
- ***This had a double benefit of not only preparing them for both classes, but also setting them up for success for what they had to do out on tour or being able to take over in rehearsals. It was really exciting for us to see!***

As far as assessments go, we have fine-tuned our vocal assessments so we have a clearer picture of exactly what we are assessing for, both technically and from a performance standpoint. We do have a quicker assessment sheet that makes for a faster assessment, but a longer more detailed assessment sheet as well better defines exactly what goes into exactly what we are looking into in depth.

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We are losing David Anthony and also Michael Cartwright at the end of this year, so this is going to change up what some of these goals and assessments may be, as I am sure the new instructors may bring in new ideas and new curriculum goals with them. So I may have to adjust in these upcoming months to them

2. ***Describe any activities in other departments that have had an impact on your department.***

A first for us this year was putting on our first full musical. We did this within the Musical Theatre Class. The sophomore students took on the responsibility of all aspects behind the scenes and performing roles in the production of Bare the Musical. This did show how much our students are capable of. I would say that in the future, we should have a bit more collaboration or monitoring of the instructor, just so one person doesn't have too much of the fate of all of the students in the palm of their hand, but other than that I think all of the students would say they were happy with the outcome of the musical. They were pushed in every capacity…emotionally, technically and I would say even politically, but they all learned a lot and came through it all together.

In the Audition Prep Class, we were able to try and combine some songs the students were preparing for that class with songs they were preparing for recitals, so they were not having to purchase extra music.

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3. Provide an overview of student achievement within your department. Please reference summary of final grades for department courses.

Course Code and Name	Number of Sections	Average Final Grade Awarded	Mode of Instruction
MU 101: Chorale I	7	95%	2 on campus, 5 practicum studies
MU 102: Chorale II	2	92%	On campus
MU 111: Semi-Private Voice	19	93%	On campus
MU 112: Private Vocal Instruction	142	91%	On campus
MU 120: History of Music	2	87%	On campus
MU 121: Piano I	7	88%	On campus
MU 128: Vocal Techniques I	6	89%	On campus
MU 129: Vocal Techniques II	6	92%	On campus
MU 130: Music Theory I	4	91%	On campus
MU 131: Music Theory II	4	90%	On campus
MU 205: Vocal Techniques III	3	85%	On campus
MU 221: Piano II	1	93%	On campus
MU 290: Performance Teaching Practicum	6	93%	Practicum studies

4. Define the annual goals for your department for the upcoming academic year.

Goal	Activities Linked to Goal	Relationship to College mission and strategic vision
1. Improve Individual Student vocal/piano/musical Confidence	1. Continuously have them sing/play piano/harmonize, etc. in front of peers. Have them refer back to feedback from beginning of year/when they started so they can see progress	1. Demonstrates improvement and achievement in the arts. Demonstrates the progress we want them to be making throughout their journey.
2. Continue to find opportunities to implement more cross-curriculum between our department classes.	1. Discuss class format and/or curriculum ideas with each other so that we can collaborate on these ideas and even develop new cross-curriculum ideas.	1. Exemplifies the leadership skills that we want our students to have.
3. We want to be better at inter-departmental communication.	1. Have monthly departmental meetings, even	

	if not everyone can be there, than they can be informed of what was discussed at the meeting so they feel included.	

Goals that require support from other departments or administration can request support later in the report.

5. List requests for new or replacement staff, faculty or support staff, needed. List in order of importance, explain reason for needing the position, and provide brief description of role and responsibilities.

Position Title	Reason	Description of role and responsibilities
1. Intern or Teacher's Asst.	There is a need for an extra set of hands. For music that needs to be scanned. We are trying to keep an online library and lack the time to keep this updated. We would like to get the books in the office to digital format.	• Scanning • Filing • Possibly Binding or Unbinding books for Scanning • Grading
2. Vocal Teacher	We need one more Vocal Teacher	Teach Semi-Private and/or Private Voice

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6. List, in order of importance, requests for equipment and technology not supported by current budget.

Item Description	Why It is Needed	Cost Per Item	Number Requested	Total Cost
Pharynx Wall Chart	Visual Aid (Vocal Tech)	23.95	2	47.90
ENT Wall Chart	Visual Aid (Vocal Tech)	23.95	2	47.90
Medical Anatomical Human Larynx with Tongue and Teeth Model	Visual Aid Model (Vocal Tech)	150.00	1	150.00
Anatomical Model Mouth, Nose, Pharynx and Larynx with Vessels and Nerves	Visual Aid Model (Vocal Tech)	67.20	1	67.20
Larynx Functional Teaching Anatomical Model LFA	Visual Aid Model (Vocal Tech)	499.95	1	499.95

7. List, in order of importance, requests for professional development not supported by current budget, whether or not they incur a direct cost.

Development Need	Why It is Needed	Cost Per Item	Number Requested	Total Cost
VASTA Workshop: Intro to Lessac Kinesensic Training Workshop	Training in Resonant Voice Therapy (Cynthia and I are both certified in this. This is the best and healthiest approach I know to vocal health and healing.)	$1200.00	1-2	1200-2400
One Voice Certificate Course in Integrative Studies – 1st Intensive	This is a new and exciting theory and direction that voice therapy is going The idea behind it is: to combine singers and dancers and how to teach both to sing healthy since the	$1150	1-4 I think some dance teachers might like to take this course as well!	$1150-4600

	approach is SO different. You have to take this course A YEAR apart!!!! So it is TWO intensives, taken a year apart.			

8. *List, in order of importance, requests for learning support and/or library resources needed in addition to student services and library resources currently available. These may include resources such as books, dvds, periodicals etc. must include title, author, and editions as applicable.*

Student Support Need	Why It is Needed

9. *List, in order of importance, requests for other needs or support services that did not fit into prior categories.*

Need	Why It is Needed	Any Estimated Costs
To really define how to have a digital library and what the rules are. We do get conflicting reports and I don't want to break any rules.	We do need to have music accessible to students. At a normal college you could check out a score or book from the library. Here, we don't have a way to monitor the books closely enough to check out the books like that to make it practical.	

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