

Annual Assessment Report Template

Department: Music

Date: September 2016

Department Chair: Dr. Michael Shasberger

1. Program Learning Outcome (PLO) Assessment

Program Learning Outcome	Musical and Technical Expertise of Ensembles
Who Is In Charge?	Ensemble and performance conductors
Direct Assessment Methods	Three external evaluators were asked to report their reviews of the annual Christmas Festival using a 4 point Likert scale and optional narrative comments
Indirect Assessment Methods	Music faculty discussions of the performances and the Festival CD, along with feedback received from audience members.
Major Findings	The performances at the Festival demonstrated a high degree of musical and technical expertise appropriate to the level of the ensembles. The evaluators, however, largely abandoned the numerical evaluation criteria requested of them and chose to respond in narrative forms that included a lyric poem. The one respondent who used the form provided scored the ensembles consistently in the upper range of "Developed" to "Highly Developed" with some notations of "Emerging" for the first-year choral ensembles, which is an expected level for them at this point in their trajectory. The highest artistic and technical achievement ratings were noted in the orchestral area, with the strength of the combined choral and orchestral forces being close to those.
Closing the Loop Activities	The department reviewed the evaluators findings along with the recordings used to produce the Festival CD and affirmed the findings of the evaluators.
Discussion	The department appreciated the input of the external evaluators but recognized that they were not comfortable with the process asked of them. It is not surprising that those not familiar with the desire for quantifiable results would feel more at ease with providing narrative and reflective discussions. The faculty in the end derived

	more from those insights than perhaps would have been derived from the purely numeric results, but having both would have been helpful as well. In future iterations of this methodology more time should be given to orient the evaluators to the process requested and the importance of following the procedures outlined
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II. Follow-Ups

Program Learning Outcome	Work on the planning of the 2016 Christmas Festival flowed out of this year's review. Some additional emphasis on orchestral participation will be implemented along with using the first-year choral ensemble in collaborative efforts more often than in a solo capacity.
Who is in charge?	All ensemble faculty
Major Findings	
Closing the Loop Activities	Rehearsals began on combined choral literature in the 2 nd week of school for the choirs, and sectionals on orchestral repertoire were implemented for the brass at the Orchestra retreat.
Discussion	

III. Other Assessment or Key Question-related projects

Project	Implementing Lessons Learned In Other Performance Settings
Who's in charge?	All ensemble faculty
Major Findings	
Action	Plans for including first-year singers in collaborative performances including the Choral Masterworks program are planned for the 2016-2017 season. The orchestra submitted a performance recording for consideration for a national orchestral festival and was accepted as one of 4 collegiate level orchestras to perform at the Kennedy Center in 2017. Other orchestras so recognized include Ivy league schools such the Brown University Orchestra, affirming the advanced stature of the orchestra's technical and musical development.
Discussion	

IV. Adjustments to Multi-Year Assessment Plan

Proposed Adjustment	The Six-Year report coincides with our NASM review year in 2018-2019. We propose using the NASM Self-Study, external accreditation process and Institutional Response as substitutes for the less comprehensive Six-Year report.
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V. Appendices

[Festival CD Link](#)

[Festival Video Link](#)

Evaluators responses (attached)