

Title: Server For School of Music Date: Jan. 12, 2010  
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Department/College/Org: School of Music / College of the Arts

## **ABSTRACT**

The School of Music requests a server and two camcorders to create file storage and serving opportunities in order to help students use existing computing facilities more efficiently. In addition, the server will also be used to present recordings of concerts and other original multimedia content developed by students in classes and as special interest projects.

Two camcorders will be used to record concerts and classes, and to provide material for student music video projects. Models have been selected to streamline the process of transferring recordings to the Internet, in order to make it possible to put more material online to view.

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **a. Purpose of the grant and impact to student body as a whole**

The School of Music is fortunate to have three music production studios (Recording Studio, Postproduction Studio, and Film Scoring Studio), a Resource Center for study and homework, and a computer classroom.

A new server will provide space for students to save their work in one centralized location, and to transfer it between facilities. This will allow students in music courses taught in the School of Music's computer facilities (MUS238, 276, 277, 365, 376, 377, 422, 438, 439, 445, 562) a common file space on which to save their projects, so that work begun during class could more easily continued in the Resource Center or one of the other studios, finished, and brought back to the next class.

Students using the Recording Studio, Film Scoring Lab, and Postproduction Studio for class and independent projects, will be able to access work begun in one room in another, in order to take advantage of the unique capabilities of each facility. For example, tracks recorded in the Recording Studio could be mixed using the Postproduction Studio's surround sound

setup, and then be opened in the Film Scoring Lab to use its synthesizers and video equipment.

The 50Mb that students are allowed on their campus Webdisks is not enough for large music and video media files. This server will allow students at least 20GB each, giving students the convenience and capacity to move work from one room to another, to take advantage of the schedule and unique capabilities of each. Memory sticks, which work well in classes using text files do not have sufficient capacity to store the larger audio and video files used in music and multimedia. Currently only those students who can afford to buy their own external hard drive can do this, but this adds an added expense to taking classes, and the drives can be bulky, delicate, be forgotten or lost, and are susceptible to environmental threats. The server will be available from any point on campus and from home.

The server will also give students space to develop media rich websites to turn in assignments and to showcase their work, which cannot be accommodated on their Webdisk public\_html folders, which share the 50 Mb limit of campus email accounts. Presently only those students who can afford to register their own domain and pay for a commercial service can do this, so the full capabilities of the Internet are not being used in classes. The server will provide a common platform that all students can use, giving them opportunities to get feedback from their peers and teachers, as well as the general public. Public display of work challenges students to do better work and is expected to increase performance and satisfaction.

The two camcorders in this proposal will be used by students to create videos for the music they compose and to record performances in the School of Music, both for class assignments and for individual projects. The coursework in the Music Media concentration has so far been focused on audio production. We hope with this proposal to increase the opportunities for those students to get experience with video, which many will need to be able to use in the future. Where Music Media students are now recording concerts for their colleagues, this video equipment will allow them to make video recordings as well. Posting videos of concerts of students will give them valuable feedback into how they appear as well as how they sound, both of which is important for those intending careers as performers.

In addition to recording concerts and developing multimedia projects, the camcorders will be used by students and faculty for lectures and workshops. A few teachers in the School of Music already use YouTube, but most do not have their own camcorders, and those that do use DV tapes. These have to be transferred to the computer, edited to 10-minute segments, compressed, and uploaded. The amount of time necessary to process a recording becomes prohibitive, and many events that could be recorded do not get posted because of the time required. When viewed on YouTube they do not sound or look good, and lectures and longer pieces are interrupted. The camcorders proposed here were chosen for their simplicity of operation and native ability to output formats that do not have to be converted before uploading. The amount of server space will allow unbroken videos of entire classes and concerts to be posted online, allowing teachers to create demos of software applications that students can study when working on their homework assignments, and to help students who are absent due to illness and other emergencies keep up with what is going on in class. This will be of benefit to all music students.

The video cameras will also support the School of Music's plans to develop content for iTunes U, where selected classes will be available to students online, as well as to anyone else in the world. This will increase the University's exposure and recognition, adding to the value of students' degrees after graduation.

**b. Projected lifetime of enhancement**

3 years

**c. Person(s) responsible**

**i. Implementation** - Robert Willey

**ii. Installation** - Robert Willey

**iii. Maintenance** - Robert Willey

**iv. Operation**

Server - Robert Willey; Camcorders – Music students and faculty

## v. Training

Robert Willey will train students in music media classes and orient faculty during a workshop. He is Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Music Media division, and has extensive experience with Internet applications and media content development.

## Budget Proposal

Length of Implementation (in years)	1	2	3
1. Equipment			
[ The server ]	\$2,598		
(1) Apple Mac Pro computer with second hard drive			
[ The camcorders ]	\$ 250		
(2) Sony Wbbie HD MHS-PM1			
2. Software	\$ 0		
3. Supplies	\$ 0		
4. Maintenance			
Applecure (3 yr)	\$ 199		
5. Personnel	\$ 0		
TOTAL:	\$ 3,047		

## PREVIOUSLY FUNDED STEP GRANTS

Previously funded grants described at <http://willshare.com/willeyrk/grants>

"Performing and Live Recording System" (1/09), \$5,185.

"Recording Studio Upgrade: Developing System Input and Output" (7/08), \$11,881.80.

"CD Recording System for Angelle Hall", (1/08) \$1,350

"School of Music Resource Center Upgrade" (7/07), \$21,638.

"School of Music Pro Tools Recording System" (7/06), \$41,338.

"School of Music Resource Center Upgrade" (7/06), \$4,657.

"School of Music Resource Center Upgrade" (7/05), \$4,055.

"Resource Center Upgrade" (1/04), \$4,902.