

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AT LAFAYETTE**

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**Equipment and Software Upgrades for the
Film Scoring Classroom in the School of
Music**

Title

Chris Munson

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

School of Music / College of Arts

Organization

Title: Equipment and Software Upgrades for the Film Scoring Classroom in the School of Music Date: 1/09/2020
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Department/College/Org: Music / College of the Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The film scoring classroom is located in Angelle Hall room 226. The classroom is currently used for MUS 438 (Film Scoring I), MUS 439 (Film Scoring II), and as a supplemental lab space for MUS 277 (Advanced Synthesis), MUS 422 (Live Sound and Post-Production), and MUS 490 (Senior Recital / Capstone Project). It is also used by the student organization, Ragin' Records, for editing and uploading video content of performances at the School of Music. Beginning spring 2020 an additional course in Advanced Music Media will be offered in the room as well. Growth in the Music Media and Music Business programs, along with increased collaboration with Moving Image Arts and Animation classes, has revealed a need for updated hardware and software to insure advancement in our students' artistic projects and collaborations, as well as preparation to be competitive and successful in the film scoring industry upon graduation.

With the exception of a new iMac computer, the equipment and software in the Film Scoring classroom has not been updated or replaced in over 6 years. We are currently lacking several essential tools that are representative of what our students will encounter upon entering the workforce. These upgrades would allow students to get the necessary experience they need for their careers, have a more diverse and reliable creative environment, and collaborate on projects with peers, Moving Image Arts and Animation students, and various University projects requiring musical scores and sound effects.

The purpose of this grant proposal is to replace and upgrade equipment and software in the film scoring classroom that is either outdated or not currently available to our students. The film scoring classroom (ANG 226), recording studio (ANG 158), and post-production studio (ANG 222) were established approximately 30 years ago through donations to the School of Music. These classrooms house audio production and computer based composition equipment designed to blend lecture, demonstration, guided and intensive listening, and hands-on experience in audio recording, film scoring, and computer based music composition.

The film scoring classroom is used to teach courses in film scoring and as a supplemental space for students completing project in audio production and music synthesis. Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year it will also be used to support a course in advanced music media concepts and senior capstone projects. The demands for this space have blossomed in recent years due to growth in the Music Media and Music Business programs as well as an increasing number of collaborations with students in Moving Image Arts and Animation classes. However, the equipment in this classroom is fairly limited, has not been replaced in approximately 6 years, and is not reflective of modern instrumentation, software, and hardware used to create scores for film, television, and animation.

In recent years our students have used the existing equipment and software in the film scoring classroom to create music for UL Lafayette social media campaigns, commercials for the Athletics programs, recruiting videos for the College of the Arts, student films, student animations, and a variety of collaborative projects. Our graduates have gone on to professionally score music for video games, national ad campaigns, television mini-series, and full-length feature films.

Communication with our past graduates, growth of our current programs, and expansion of our collaborative efforts has all highlighted the following issues that indicate a need to modernize our facility:

- 1) We currently lack a hardware synthesizer. The **Kronos 88** would allow us to have a physical synthesizer that features all 9 generations of Korg synthesizer sounds. It would also act as a MIDI control keyboard and allow students to control computer based recording software and virtual synthesizers directly from the keyboard. This is a very powerful and commonly used synthesizer in the music industry.
- 2) Our current audio / MIDI recording software and sample libraries are out of date. An upgrade to **Digital Performer 10** would give us access to the most recent version of the industry standard film scoring software. **Kontakt** is a software based instrument library that provides an array of virtual instruments that include strings, brass, winds, percussion, keyboards, and more. Our current version has not been updated in over 6 years. Finally, the addition of **Abelton** to the classroom would allow students to learn more about real time sampling and looping. This program is commonly used by countless mainstream artists and composers and is an essential tool in computer based music composition. Many of our students and graduates currently use this software and have expressed a desire for a more in-depth understanding of it.
- 3) The classroom requires a pair of powered speakers to monitor and reproduce sound. The current speakers have been used rigorously in all of our facilities and are approaching the end of their lifespan. The **Genelec 8020 LSE** speakers were chosen because we currently own the SAM audio calibration system used to configure Genelec speakers for optimal listening in

any environment. It is critical that sound reproduction is accurate in order to insure the best sonic results. These speakers produce audiophile quality sound yet are affordable and durable. They are ideal to withstand the demands of an academic classroom / lab environment.

- 4) The **UAD Apollo 8** is used to control monitoring levels of the speakers, facilitate the recording of live instrumentation, and run audio plug ins. This is an industry standard audio converter / monitor control / effects unit that students will encounter in virtually any film scoring studio they enter. We currently utilize this device in our post-production studio and have licenses for over 60 of the plug-ins that would be used with it.
- 5) The **Stealth Studio** engineer's chair is ergonomically designed to provide a comfortable and safe experience for individuals engaged in computer based music production. It will provide support of the neck, spine, and wrists to help prevent any degenerative issues associated with prolonged computer usage.

This grant would initially impact students in a multitude of classes including:

- MUS 276 – Intro to Music Technology
- MUS 277 – Advanced Music Synthesis
- MUS 422 – Live Sound and Post-Production
- MUS 438 – Film Scoring I
- MUS 439 – Film Scoring II
- MUS 440 – Advanced Topics in Music Media

However, the impact from these improvements would reach students beyond these courses. Students in Moving Image Arts and Animations courses would benefit from enhanced film scores and sound tracks on their collaborative projects. Students would now be able to provide higher quality scores for University video projects (social media, recruiting, promotion, and entertainment) with a faster turn around time and with the potential to take on a greater number of these types of projects. Ragin' Records would be able to expand its concert recording endeavors which would aid in producing recruitment videos to attract incoming students. Additionally, as the film and entertainment industry continues to grow in the state of Louisiana, these upgrades would make our students much more competitive and marketable as they look for employment opportunities within our state.

It is projected that this enhancement will have a lifetime of five (5) years.

Person(s) responsible for

Implementation – Chris Munson

Installation – Chris Munson

Maintenance – Chris Munson

Operation – Chris Munson

Training (with qualifications) – Chris Munson, Music Media Coordinator, Supervisor of Music Technology Labs and Classrooms

Previously funded STEP projects include the **Update for the Music Technology / Education Laboratory in the School of Music** and **Computer Replacement for Music Media / Business Audio Production Classrooms** in the School of Music. These project was funded during the Spring 2018 and Fall 2018 cycle and were be used to upgrade our Music Media and Music Business. Continuing to

upgrade these facilities will help create continuity between all of our classrooms / laboratories and provide students with a reliable, uniform experience that resembles what they can expect to encounter in the work place upon graduation.

Budget Proposal

1. Equipment	\$	
(1) Kronos 88		\$ 3,800.00
(1) UAD Apollo 8		\$ 2,798.00
(1) Genelec 8020 LSE Speakers		\$ 1,865.00
(1) Stay Tower Keyboard Stand		\$ 299.00
(1) Stealth Studio Chair		\$ 499.00
2. Software	\$	
(1) Digital Performer v10 (upgrade)		\$ 195.00
(1) Abelton Push with Live 10		\$ 1,398.00
(1) Kontakt Complete 12 (upgrade)		\$ 599.00
3. Supplies	\$	
(2) Mogami Pure Patch ¼" cables 20'		\$ 96.00
(4) Mogami XLR cables 15'		\$ 240.00
TOTAL:		\$ 11,789.00