

School of Music

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3 March 2007

Dr. Cleophus Price, Assistant Dean The Graduate School Gillis Building Campus 0033

Dear Dr. Price:

Attached is my review document and a copy of a recent certificate for the Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy, which is offered through the Theory Division of the School of Music. Regarding your list of awardees, I would add two names: Mira Kruja (certificate awarded in May 2000) and Rob Parks (certificate awarded in May 2005). I have been unable to check their transcripts in SIS and IRIS, and cannot confirm whether their transcripts do or do not list the Certificate.

Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Kate Covington

Director, Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy

Faculty, School of Music

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Review of the Music Theory Pedagogy Certificate

Kate Covington, Director of the Certificate

Introduction

The Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy is intended primarily for non-theory, music graduate students who wish to gain experience and expertise in theory pedagogy in order to strengthen their vitae for increased marketability in higher education. Students whose major is a performing area, such as piano or percussion, find that many of the job openings in higher education require experience and training in a second area, such as music theory or music history. Music theory is often cited as a desired second area, and pedagogical training and experience are highly advantageous when students search for teaching positions.

Faculty Associated with the Certificate

Kate Covington
Dick Domek
Kevin Holm-Hudson
Chuck Lord

All four people teach music theory at the graduate and undergraduate levels and all four are Full members of the Graduate Faculty.

Admission Criteria

Admission criteria for the certificate are the same as those for graduate study in music, with one additional requirement. All graduate applicants in music are required to submit the Graduate School application form, transcripts from all higher education institutions attended, and GRE scores. Applicants for the School of Music are also required to submit at least three letters of recommendation and an essay of personal goals and objectives, and to take the School of Music's Entrance Exams. Applicants for the Certificate are required to submit a letter stating their desire to work on the certificate. All application materials are reviewed by the theory faculty.

Requirements for Completing the Certificate

The Certificate requires 15 hours, distributed as follows.

12 credit hours in theory coursework; these hours must include MUS 674 and at least one of MUS 670-671-672-676

3 hours of internship (MUS 675 – 1 credit for each internship)

Students Who Have Completed the Certificate

DISCIPLINE	AWARD DATE
Piano Performance	May 7, 2000
Musicology	May 6, 2001
Oboe Performance	May 5, 2002
Composition	May 5, 2002
Composition	Nov 1, 2003
Choral Conducting	Dec 19, 2003
Theory	Dec 19, 2003
Percussion Performance	May 2005
Flute Performance	May 2006
Organ Performance	May 2006
	Piano Performance Musicology Oboe Performance Composition Composition Choral Conducting Theory Percussion Performance Flute Performance

Rationale for Continuation of the Certificate

There are several reasons why continuation of the certificate is warranted. First, the job market for positions in music in higher education continues to demand applicants who are versatile, with a specialty as well as a sub-specialty. Theory is often a desired sub-specialty and the Certificate adds weight to a person's vitae, in addition to giving that person the skills, expertise, and confidence to succeed in interviews and on the job. Mira Kruja, Terri Armfield, and Chris Mathew, besides earning the certificate, have completed their doctorates in performance, while Rachel Hauser and Maria LeRose both completed Master's degrees in performance. The certificate does not require that a person be enrolled in a graduate degree, but it does strengthen the credentials of such a person, and thus far, all who have worked on the certificate have also been enrolled in a music graduate degree program, as shown in the Discipline column above.

Another reason is our placement record. Of the three certificate holders who have also completed the doctorate, two have tenure-track positions in institutions where the certificate was an important consideration in their hiring. Dr. Terri Armfield is teaching theory and oboe performance at Western Carolina University; the faculty at that institution were particularly impressed with her theory pedagogy knowledge and skills. Dr. Chris Mathews is conducting choirs and teaching theory at Clemson University. His ability to immediately handle theory courses was an important factor in his hiring. Chris's dissertation (doctoral project) had to do with theory pedagogy as well, and this was an outgrowth of his work on the Certificate.

Finally, we currently have the following students working on the Certificate:

Adam Sovkoplas Jay Crutcher Jennifer Hughes

Three other students began the certificate and are close to completion: Larry Mark Gardner (lacks 1 hour), Michael Aukofer (lacks 3 hours), and Phil Todd (will lack 3 hours after Summer '05).

