

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo Music, BA, Music BM, Music MA, and Music MM programs

The 2024-2025 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for the Music B.A., Music B.M., Music M.A., and Music M.M. programs in the College of the Arts (COTA) concluded with a culmination meeting on March 5, 2026. The programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and submitted accreditation materials in lieu of PPR documents.

The following people attended the meeting: Amir Dabirian (Provost), Arnold Holland (Dean), Dave Mickey (Associate Dean), Randall Goldberg (Director), Sean Walker (Deputy Provost), Greg Childers (Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Studies and General Education, AVPUSGE), Aimee Nelson (Executive Director for Graduate Studies, EDGS), and Su Swarat (Senior AVP for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, SAVPIEP).

The Provost congratulated the program for completing the accreditation process and commended the Director for his excellent leadership. The following specific accomplishments were highlighted during the PPR process:

- The School of Music embodies and aligns with the values and goals of the university and NASM.
- The School of Music serves as a cultural resource for the surrounding communities, offering rehearsal and performance space for community music groups, engaging with various school programs (e.g., Festival of TTBB Voice, Wind Ensemble Festival), and providing summer music programs for high school students.
- Faculty and staff engage with music students both internally and externally, with many serving on various community arts governing boards (e.g., Board of the Pacific Symphony, Orange County Register's Artist of the Year program) and leading community efforts (e.g., Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble).
- Music students and faculty are active performers in their communities, and faculty provide varied large and small ensemble opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in their profession.
- The School of Music also supports the education of non-major students, offering a variety of general education courses and ensemble participation opportunities (e.g., Singing Titans choirs, University Band).
- Department leadership is strong and well respected by the faculty and campus community.

Major recommendations and issues raised through the PPR/accreditation process were discussed as follows:

1. Curriculum updates:

- The external reviewers recommended the program to continue to ensure the curriculum and course offerings reflect the current faculty's expertise and the evolving field needs. Specifically, NASM is concerned with how the master's programs are meeting the standard regarding foreign language requirements.
- The Director acknowledged the concern and reported that the faculty have worked on curriculum upgrades, which will move into the Curriculog process soon.
- The Director also reported that NASM recommended the change from BA in Music Education to BA in Music Teacher Education, which could help meet the needs of

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students in the BM program whose real passion is to teach. This change, however, will require resource investment from the college.

2. Recital Hall renovation:

- The need to renovate the Recital Hall was highlighted through the accreditation process. The chairs in particular need to be replaced and could become a liability concern. With the renovation, the Recital Hall could also be used more to provide student performance and practice space.
- The Provost acknowledged the need and agreed to look into replacing the chairs this semester.

3. Practice rooms:

- The NASM called out the need to address practice room shortage issues, as the prior discussion of Wenger modular units did not come to fruition.
- The Director reported the school currently has 7-8 practice rooms for piano and 12-14 for other students but would like to add 10-12 more to meet student needs.
- The Provost recommended the consideration of using the modular classroom space, possibly placing the Wenger units into these spaces. The Deputy Provost suggested looking into moving the offices into the modular classroom space to make room for practice rooms. The Provost's office has agreed to look into these possibilities.

4. Student awareness of resources and policies:

- The external reviewers acknowledged the availabilities of various resources and policies (e.g., health and safety policies) on the school website but pointed out the continued need of enhancing communication efforts to increase students' awareness.
- The Director concurred and reported multiple strategies in place to support student health and safety (e.g., regular emails, wellness room, education tools).

5. Strategic growth:

- The external reviewers recommended the school to engage in a thorough and inclusive strategic planning process that encompasses enrollment and planning.
- The Director acknowledged that the programs could grow but will require more practice space and a plan to strategically identify areas of growth. He is working with the faculty on structuring the curriculum and developing a model that highlights appropriate growth needs.

The Provost concluded the meeting by thanking the Director for his leadership and the department faculty for their hard work. The Director expressed appreciation for support received from both the university and the college.