

**SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF MUSIC IN PERFORMANCE

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

The unit-level self-study relied extensively on a document prepared by the CSU Schwob School of Music in 2012 for the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM): *Self-Study for Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree-Granting Institutions presented for consideration by the NASM Commission on Accreditation*. Following an external site visit by accreditation team members and review by the commission, all degree programs including the Master of Music in Performance achieved reaccreditation for ten years on July 3, 2013.

The NASM Visitors' Report (p. 13) stated:

The school and its faculty used the Self-Study to reflect on strengths and opportunities for growth and as a primary tool for strategic planning. The institution is commended for its comprehensive and thorough review.

Rapid growth in the nascent graduate program in music performance was acknowledged. The program began in 2010. The MM Performance degree was rated **Very Strong** in all but two categories through all three levels of review. In those categories it was rated **Above Average** at all three levels. The strength of the faculty, the quality of the facilities, and support through graduate assistantships attract students who could attend the finest graduate programs anywhere in the country.

*In summary, the Master of Music in Performance degree is identified as **Very Strong**.*

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

For section II.G *The Quality of Facilities and Equipment*, all three levels of review indicated "Above Average." The self study noted concerns, echoed in the NASM report and summarized by the CPR committee as: *Music library could use additional resources to expand its collection.*

Since the report the music library has expanded its subscription services to both print and audio materials, which helps address the concern. The Naxos classical music subscription has been expanded to include recordings from Telarc and Chandos, and the JSTOR subscription has been expanded to include Collections 6-13. We are exploring a stronger connection between the performing ensembles libraries and the music library as a mean of expanding cataloged collections. We will seek additional targeted donations of scores and digital recordings to supplement existing special collections donations.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

For section III.G *Cost Effectiveness of Instructional Delivery*, all three levels of review indicated “Above Average.” The school relies to a great extent on fund raising to supplement annual operating funding provided by the institution. There is broad recognition at the college and university level that music instruction at the college level across all degree programs has high resource needs.

The NASM Visitors’ Report offers this note of caution (p. 17):

The school is dependent on external fund-raising to an extent that could limit the program’s ability to set its own priorities.

National and international competition for talented graduate students means that CSU will be at a distinct disadvantage without a majority of graduate students receiving financial aid packages competitive with those of our peer institutions.

Within budget constraints, however, resources are well managed. Expenses are met through strong enrollments and increasing private funding for equipment and salary lines (endowed in perpetuity).

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The program is a viable, respected, and by most metrics thriving graduate degree that affords students significant academic preparation as well as performance opportunities to prepare for the profession. It is expected to be a cornerstone in the plan to develop a music conservatory curriculum at the Schwob School of Music.

Program Improvement Plan

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Given the program’s rating of “very strong” or “above average” in all categories with the preponderance of ratings being “very strong,” this program should be **Maintained at the Current Level**. Current resource allocation is sufficient to so.

As for the observations noted in the review, the College of the Arts is working in collaboration with the Dean of the Schwob Library to create a College of the Arts Library and Archives at the RiverPark Campus funded as part of the University’s comprehensive campaign. This would allow for additional resources to be allocated to the music library collection.