

**SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE DEGREE

BACHELOR 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 Bachelor 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.

Performance studies and the BM in Performance degree are core areas of strength for the Schwob SOM. Student and alumni accomplishments bear out this assessment; the CPR self-study includes several pages of examples. Large ensembles are acknowledged to be very strong and continue to gain national attention.

The BM Performance degree was rated **Very Strong** in all but one category through all three levels of review. In a single category it was rated **Above Average** at all three levels. The strength of the faculty, the quality of the facilities, and private support for undergraduate financial aid combine to attract talented students who could attend the finest music schools anywhere in the country.

*In summary, the Bachelor 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.

The faculty and the administration are also prepared to address one concern expressed in the NASM Visitors' Report (p. 12) as part of the innovative conservatory proposal:

Applied music involves a one-hour lesson plus studio classes, for all music majors, so even though these courses receive only one credit at the freshman and sophomore levels, instructional time is comparable to a 2-3 credit applied music course.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

The BM in Performance degree achieved **Very Strong** ratings in all categories in this section.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The program is a viable, respected, and by all metrics thriving professional degree program that affords students significant academic preparation as well as performance opportunities. The study of music performance will continue to be one of the signature strengths of the Schwob School of Music. Ensemble and solo performances, both in our own venues and around the area, represent essential community engagement activities for the university.

Program Improvement Plan

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Given the program's rating of "very strong" in all categories except one, in which the assessment was "above average," this program should be **Maintained at the Current Level**. Current resource allocation is sufficient to do 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. Secondly, the Dean in conjunction with the chairs/director as part of the implementation of the College's Strategic Plan are implementing a comprehensive fiscal plan to reduce the College's dependence on private support to meet operational costs. That plan is now in its second year.