November 29, 2012

Dear Members of the UEPC:

I am taking the liberty of submitting a single form for three consecutive .25 courses called Sightsinging 1, 2, and 3 as the details are virtually the same.

1. School of Liberal Arts
   Performing Arts Department
   114, 02 Sightsinging 1
   117, 02, Sightsinging 2
   120, 02 Sightsinging 3

   Reason for upper-division designation
   These three .25 courses will be co-requisites for the Performing Arts Department’s three upper-division music theory courses: Perfa 114 Music Theory and Ear-training, Perfa 117 Form and Analysis and, pending UEPC approval, Perfa 120 Orchestration. All three have prerequisites, starting with Sightsinging 1 requiring completion of Perfa 11, Music Fundamentals. All three contain challenging material requiring rigorous discipline that is currently included (inadequately) in upper-division theory courses.

2. Justification for the Course
   All musicians must develop strong musical ears, and ear-training is a universal component in every college music curriculum. Ear-training is a wide term encompassing interval identification (i.e. knowing precisely how far one note is from another), harmonic perception (i.e. recognizing one chord after another by ear), notating melodies and rhythms by ear, learning to execute increasingly complex rhythms and, perhaps most important, sightsinging. Please note that sightsinging is not for singers only but all musicians. It’s purpose is not to teach singing. Ultimately the skill allows musicians to look at a melody and know what it sounds like without needing a piano or listening to a recording.

   Every college either includes ear-training nested in its theory classes (as SMC does) or separates the activity out to co-requisite partial-unit courses. The reason most schools choose the latter option, and why we would like to do so as well, is there is simply not enough time to address the essential skill of sightsinging adequately. It is a significant weakness in the music program. Separating the training into .25 co-requisites ensures the discipline will not be given short-shrift.

2a. Learning Objectives:
   The three sightsinging courses will train students to sing increasingly complex melodies, beginning with simple, conjunct diatonic phrases and working toward more disjunct and chromatic ones.

2b. The three sightsinging courses will advance the Performing Arts Department learning outcome (listed on p. 166 of the 2012-13 catalog) that states: “Adapt performance skills both in
rehearsal and performance to the technical demands of specific masterworks of various styles and eras, as well as to original/contemporary works. “

2c. Kinds of Assignments:
Preparing and practicing increasingly complex melodies.

3. **Student Population** will consist of both music majors and minors in Sightsinging 1, majors only and ambitious minors in Sightsinging 2 and 3. The courses will be on the same two-year rotation as the theory courses, and enrollment is expected to be 15-20 in Sightsinging 1, and 9-14 in Sightsinging 2 and 3.

4. **Relationship to Present College Curriculum**
As stated above, these three courses will be co-requisites with Perfa 114, 117 and 120 respectively.

5. There will be no extraordinary implementation costs.

6. **Library Resources**

7. **Course Credit and Grading Options**
The three courses will be worth .25 each. Since they’ll be required for music majors pass/fail is not an option.

8. **Prerequisites**
a. The prerequisite for Sightsinging 1 is Perfa 11, Music Fundamentals
b. The prerequisite for Sightsinging 2 is Perfa 114, Music Theory and Ear-Training and Sightsinging 1
c. The prerequisite for Sightsinging 3 is Perfa 117, Form and Analysis and Sightsinging 2.

9a. **Course Description Wording for Catalog:Sightsinging 1**
Students will develop their musical ear by learning to sightsing diatonic melodies. 
Prerequisite: Perfa 11

9b. **Course Description Wording for Catalog:Sightsinging 2**
Students will continue developing their musical ear by learning to sightsing diatonic melodies with chromatic embellishment. Prerequisite: Perfa 114, sections 01 and 02

9c. **Course Description Wording for Catalog:Sightsinging 3**
Students will continue developing their musical ear by learning to sightsing chromatic and modulating melodies. Prerequisite: Perfa 117, sections 01 and 02.

10. **Course Content: Tentative Syllabus**