



MUSC 4840

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 4840

Title: Live Sound/Concert Production

Catalog Description:

This course is required for all students in the Performance (instrumental/vocal) and Music Production tracks of the Commercial Music Bachelor's degree program. Students in this course will learn the basics of live sound: PA systems, mixers, mics and typical stage setups. Students will have the opportunity to run live sound for two shows during the course of the semester.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: Completion of MUSC 3352 Music Technology I or permission of instructor

Justification:

Because they will most likely be involved with it in some professional capacity, students graduating with a B. Music degree in Commercial Music need to understand the theory and application of sound as it relates to live performance. In addition, they need to understand the business of live concert production, especially as it relates to advertising and promotion, box office, program and ticket printing, and concessions. Courses of this type are typically offered as part of commercial music degrees at other institutions across the US.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate a knowledge of the components of a typical PA system: loudspeakers, amplifiers and mixing consoles;
- demonstrate a knowledge of digital and analog mixing consoles and their uses;
- demonstrate an understanding of effects typically used in live performance: EQ, compression, reverb and delay;
- demonstrate a knowledge of stage microphones, including types, pickup patterns and uses;
- demonstrate an understanding of the stage setup for a typical contemporary concert;
- demonstrate a knowledge of the roles of a Front of House board operator, lighting board operator and other technicians in a concert setting, and the ability to fulfill those roles.
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of advertising/promotion, print and web materials,

concessions and the box office as part of a successful concert experience, and the ability to fulfill those roles.

In addition, students will work on the crew for two live shows during the semester and will have the recordings of those shows to use as part of their pre-professional portfolio.

Content:

The PA System

- Loudspeakers
- Crossovers
- Amplifiers

Analog and digital PA mixing boards

- Preamps
- EQ
- Routing
- Inboard and outboard effects

Microphones

- Impedance
- Types: dynamic, capacitor, electret, ribbon
- Polar patterns: Cardioid, Omnidirectional, bidirectional, PZM
- Proximity effect
- Handling characteristics and other noise measurements
- Mic choice: different mics for different jobs

Stage setup

- Backline
- Monitors
- Instrument requirements
- DI boxes/cable choices
- Snakes

Concert Promotion and Management

- The Box Office
- Printing requirements
- Promotional materials
- Concessions

General Education Outcomes:

Applied Education Outcomes:

1) Students will acquire entry-level skills specific to and appropriate for employment in their chosen field of study.

The skills learned in this course will prepare students to work in a live music venue as a technician or to be better prepared for live work as a musician. Students work will be assessed throughout the semester by the instructor who will provide both verbal and written feedback.

Key Performance Indicators:

Students in this course will be assessed using the following measures:

- Participation: Attendance at class sessions;
- Written: PA design, budget and implementation plan;
- Exam: Written and hands-on midterm;
- Exam: Written and hands-on final;
- Presentation: Midterm live concert project;
- Presentation: Final live concert project.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

White, Paul. Basic Live Sound. Sanctuary Publishing. Current edition

Optimum Class Size: 16

Maximum Class Size: 25

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Music Department:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)