**Performance Committee Notes**

**November 10, 2020**

Present: Kumaran Arul, Marie-Louise Catsalis, Mario Champagne, Christopher Costanza, Laura Dahl, Greer Ellison, Debra Fong, Russ Gavin, Stephen Harrison, Wendy Hillhouse, Tamami Honma, Kathryne Jennings, McDowell Kenley, Lori Lack, Joo-Mee Lee, Rowen Leigh, Zack Leuchars, Anthony Martin, Robert Huw Morgan, Geoff Nuttall, Paul Phillips, Lesley Robertson, Steve Sano, Robin Sharp, Elaine Thornburgh, Rick Vandivier, Gregory Wait, Frederick Weldy, Matt Wright

**1. Music Arts Portfolios, quality and quantity** – Steve S.

This year, we experimented with eliminating the letter of recommendation requirement from the Arts Portfolio. Jarek felt that this might be more inclusive since not everyone is fortunate enough to study with a private teacher. Steve’s assignments in Contemporary Commercial Music were notably weak. Other areas did better.

In the past, we’ve allowed other types of mentors to write a letter of recommendation for the student. The letter provides additional information about the student that we otherwise wouldn’t get. We can revisit this topic between now and late spring and decide if we want to bring the letter back.

**2. Department of Music Awards –** Rowen

Giancarlo and Rowen met to discuss the possibility of presenting Department of Music Awards this Spring Quarter, and came up the following suggestions:

1. One round only.
2. Accompanied or unaccompanied.
3. Recorded accompaniment or some other solution.
4. No accompaniment, in which case, we would make some allowances.
5. Length of approximately 10" or shorter (but no shorter than 5").
6. Submission deadline of Mar 19.
7. Jury review deadline of Apr 19.
8. Some form of online concert shown at a specific date and time.
9. Typical program information.

**3. Black Lives Matter fundraising concert –** Paul

Akwasi and Paul had a meeting yesterday. They’re aiming to do something in the Winter Quarter—could spill into Spring. Zoom-like format. Substantial proportion of Black performers and feature Black composers.

Works by living Black composers could be preceded by a short introduction to provide context. Moving toward a general idea of supporting Black Lives Matter and less of a fundraiser.

Might include other arts and kinds of artists, and not only music.

Artists would have some sort of connection but not necessarily a current affiliation. We want to reach out to TAPS, our students, alumni. Performances are on a pro bono basis.

**4. Concerto Competition** **–** Paul

Concerto competition not happening this year. Students need to be on campus. We also need to provide the opportunity for last year’s winners to perform. Hopefully next year.

**5.  Update, Winter in-person/ indoor ensemble activities** – Steve S.

Mario, Matt, Paul and Zack sent a proposal to have in-person, indoor small ensemble rehearsals resume Winter Quarter for lower risk instrument areas: keyboard, percussion, strings. This was approved. More details at the Cardinal Recovery site:

<https://cardinalrecovery.stanford.edu/music-related-recommendations/>

Even singing and woodwinds could return outdoors Spring Quarter with social distancing, masks and coverings for instrument bells. Flute might even be possible with mask with embouchure slit and a covering for the entire instrument.

* For winter, we plan to see an increase on campus of ~6K students to ~10K students.
* 85% of frosh have asked for campus housing for winter.
* 50% of sophomores have asked for campus housing for winter.
* Students will need to self-quarantine for two weeks upon arriving on campus.
* Students will be required to test twice per week for at least the first part of winter quarter.
* Faculty and staff who are on campus more than once a week will be required to test as well.
* The thing that would make us not have frosh and soph students on campus is if Santa Clara County goes back into purple.

**6. Student performance opportunities: stream/record from Braun** – Zack

Student recitals on video in Campbell. Dinkelspiel will not be useable Winter Quarter. But in the meantime, we are able to set up a multi-camera shoot in Campbell. Backdrops available. We can offer livestream with up to four cameras. New video equipment is coming late November or early December. Audio recording will be vastly improved. Currently making updates to the department YouTube page. We can also charge for events. For archival recording (and not livestream), we’ll be able to offer cinema-quality video. We’ve been working with Michael Hodgson. We’ll send out a demo reel. Laura Dahl can help with a piano performance for this.

Still working through permissions. Paul interfacing with ASCAP to understand what our license covers. If we’re streaming from a Stanford-originating site, then it is likely that we are covered by the license. For students whose pieces are in the public domain, please make sure that the edition they are working from is also in the public domain.

Working with Robin McClish on the backend on the internet.

Students could be in Campbell with an accompanist as long as we observe the rules about the number of people permitted in the room at one time and social distancing. Keyboards, percussion, strings. There are time limits, which will mean longer booking times with breaks to allow any aerosol to settle. A livestream would need to be limited to 50 minutes.

**7. Update, JackTrip** -Wendy

JackTrip is a technology developed at CCRMA led by Chris Chafe. It allows musicians to perform together remotely with very little latency. Audio only.

There are a number of platforms becoming available in addition JackTrip: Dante, SoundJack.

JackTrip can be run through a full computer or through a small unit called a raspberry pi. JackTrip kit contains a soundbox to connect the pi with mic, ethernet cable, etc.

100 kits were mailed with the help of Adriana at the end of Sept. We plan to order more, but we deliberately kept to 100 because we knew there would be some technical issues to work out.

We’ve had issues with hardware, registering the devices with Stanford, and the firewall in student residences. Some problems with static. Must use wired headphones (no wireless). Earbuds can be problematic—recommend “over the ears” headphones. There’s a need for tech time outside lesson time to work out the bugs. For the moment, we’ll have to rely on Chris Chafe and Matt Wright for support. Someone like Wendy who has already worked through the issues could be a resource as well. It can take a few sessions before everything is up and running.

Robin McClish wants to manage the firewall issues with the student residences. Send people to her.

**8. Update, Student equipment requests –** Laura

The Tech Desk had ten mics, and all were mailed out to students. They’re set up to deal readily with those requests. Students to get audio JT just went out last week and should have arrived by now. The dept does not have a budget for speakers. We can ask Friends of Music for support for these, but we need the names and addresses of those students before we can do that.

***Email names and addresses of your students who need speakers to Zack:*** [**leuchars@stanford.edu**](mailto:leuchars@stanford.edu)

**9. Student testimonials –** Kathryne

During office hours with Stephen Hinton, he talked about how important it is that we have testimonials explaining what students are getting out of what we’re doing in dept during the pandemic, and how it gives students a vital sense of connection that they’re not getting in other classes. Stephen is afraid that the senior administration won’t consider the importance of what we do, and that this could make us vulnerable to budget cuts.

***Would we ask students to write testimonials and send them directly to Stephen Hinton:*** [**shinton@stanford.edu**](mailto:shinton@stanford.edu)

**10. Trial lessons, uniform policy? -** all

This item will have to be postponed yet again due to lack of time, but we’ve learned so far that approaches by individual instructors are too diverse to capture here for now, and that this needs a full discussion.