

AY20 Academic Program Improvement Report: Civic Engagement

MUSIC

S20 MUS 445

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AY19 Recommendation for Improvement: The AY20 MUS's Civic Engagement Improvement Plan should focus on sharing the results of this assessment with program faculty. Since this was a 400-level course, the program might review ways to enable all its students to become “vocal leaders,” while keeping in mind that not everyone is comfortable with leadership—some people are devout introverts. Insofar as vocal leadership is a central skill for Music majors, the program should consider ways to cultivate that specific skill. The AY20 CE Improvement Plan should report on the results of these efforts and provide data on a course where the improvements have been operationalized.

Improvements (briefly describe improvements made based on the recommendation above): Due to COVID-19, the course presented additional challenges to the students. Each member of the class was forced to design their project within the context of their quarantine family. For some, it was younger children and another, a group of housemates. All the projects were shared through video presentation. The class format did allow for improved vocal leadership developments within the class context. Several of the projects were repeated multiple times with the same people so the communication styles improved. As a class, we were not able to develop new styles of vocal leadership through interactions with groups of community members due to COVID-19.

Program Civic Engagement Verticality (briefly describe how Civic Engagement is reinforced in the program curriculum & co-curriculum, e.g. club activities): Civic Engagement is reinforced throughout the majority of our music curriculum. Our ensembles work together as a community and present and share with the community. Our students share their musical skills through performance and teaching and we strive to integrate the community into our performances whenever possible. This past quarter has been a challenge as much of that has been taken away due to COVID-19. While videos play a constant role in our life, the act of creating and making music as a group continues to be a major force of why students gravitate toward ensemble music making.

Faculty Review (Have the results of these improvements been reviewed by program faculty?): The results have been shared and developed by program faculty