



June 7, 2018

Dr. Jeffrey L. Kirk
Associate Provost & Associate Vice President
of Academic Affairs
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

Dear Dr. Kirk:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 2017, notifying the Commission of plans to offer a Bachelor of Music degree program beginning in August 2018, on the University's main campus. A copy of the prospectus was provided. In several emails to Dr. Jerry Stephens, you provided the additional information included in this letter.

The University is a regional institution offering undergraduate programs in Applied Arts and Sciences, English, History, Political Science, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Finance, Human Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Business, Management, Marketing, Aviation Science, Biology, Computer Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Liberal Studies, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Nursing, and Social Work. The Bachelor of Music was developed by the faculty and has all institutional approvals. The program has received approval from the Texas A&M System Board of Regents. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the program on May 8, 2018.

The program expects to admit twelve new upper level students annually and will be offered on an ongoing basis. The program will be delivered face-to-face. The primary audience for the program will be graduates with an A.A. degree in Music from regional two-year colleges who expect to complete their baccalaureate degree in Music. The program expects to benefit from the partnership with Temple College. The majority of Temple College's faculty contributing to the music program have terminal degrees, competitive backgrounds, teaching experience and credentials, and are well-trained musicians.

An essential component of the institution's mission is to collaborate with local community colleges and high school education partners to meet the program needs of the local community. The Bachelor of Music program supports the University's mission by providing music workshops and performance master classes for members of the high school orchestra programs. The program will provide local students of different musical aptitudes and abilities the opportunity to strengthen their overall knowledge base, and refine their skill sets to pursue numerous careers in music and music related fields. The program supports the University's mission by preparing students to pursue graduate music education.

The Bachelor of Music degree program requires 120 credit hours. Course descriptions and student learning outcomes were provided. The core and elective courses in the curriculum directly support the goals of the program. Students graduating from the program are expected to be complete musicians in the areas of performance, musicianship, history/theory, and education.



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Graduates will be ambassadors of music in the community and will be prepared for graduate study in Music and/or the pursuit of music careers or careers in music related fields.

Program assessment will follow the same assessment schedule as other programs in the Department of Humanities. Assessment measures will include written artifacts, syllabi, and student evaluations. The assessment results will be reported annually to the Chair, and in the university-wide assessment management program. A description of program oversight was provided and appears to be adequate.

A Faculty Roster Form was provided. The faculty have areas of specialization in theory and performance. The adjunct faculty have doctoral degrees or master's degrees in their specializations. It appears the faculty have the necessary credentials to support the program.

The Library collection provides print and electronic resources to support the mission and programs of the University. The collections contain an adequate number of resources to support the music program. The Library provides a number of online databases including access to the *NAXOS Music Library* and *Oxford Online*. The resources of the Temple College library and the Temple College Music Department library are available to support the program. The libraries at both institutions provide a full array of services including reference and research assistance and instruction in information literacy and library use. The Library offers digital LibGuides which offer interactive tutorials that assist students in learning research strategies. These services are provided on campus and to remote users.

Student services provide support to all students regardless of level or program. Services include academic advising, academic support, career services, counseling services, disability services, library, teaching and general purpose labs, student engagement, student financial assistance, technology support services, and veterans' affairs. The University Writing Center provides tutoring assistance to help writers at all levels and abilities.

Current physical facilities are available to support the program. The University has identified performance space to support the program. Discussions are underway regarding the development of an amphitheater to accommodate the growing needs of the institution. Through the partnership with Temple College, the physical facilities at Temple College's Performing Arts Center are available to provide additional support for the music program.

A proposed budget for the Bachelor of Music degree program was provided. It provided a five-year summary of revenues and expenses for the program. It appears the major sources of revenue are tuition based. The major expense of the program is in personnel (faculty). The budget does include supplement support for supplies and materials. The University anticipates revenues to exceed expenses over the five year period.



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The University has an established Continuing Improvement Process (CIP). A new program joins the other academic units at the institution in annually assessing student learning through the University's CIP. The CIP requires each academic unit to submit annual operational plans for its areas. The plans contain the unit's mission, goals, and student learning outcomes, assessment measures, and annual performance targets. The CIP requires each area to report annual findings and create action plans based on those findings. The Bachelor of Music will be integrated into an ongoing assessment program that is focused on identifying student learning objectives, measuring student's success in achieving those outcomes, and systematically identifying areas for improvement. The evaluation of this program will involve assessment within the major based on embedded course assignments as well as data from student comprehensive exams and student rating of instruction at the end of each course using the Individual Development Educational Assessment (IDEA) survey instrument.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Bachelor of Music degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/JWS:iy

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo, President
Dr. Crystal A. Baird