

APPENDIX M

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Fine Arts In Film Music Composition at the North Carolina School of the Arts

Introduction

The North Carolina School of the Arts notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Fine Arts in Film Music Composition (CIP 50.0699) on May 30, 2003. The School requests authorization to establish the degree program effective September 15, 2003.

Program Description

A comparable program in film music composition is currently offered as one concentration of the Master of Music degree in NCSA's School of Music. The NC School of the Arts requests authorization to change the degree designation for this program by establishing a Master of Fine Arts in Film Music Composition, which will be located in NCSA's School of Filmmaking where the primary faculty members who teach in this program have their appointments. The major difference in the program is that an undergraduate degree in music will no longer be required as a prerequisite for admission, as is the case with the Master of Music degree. As an MFA program, the School can be more flexible in admitting experienced musicians and composers who wish to move into the areas of film and television scoring. The program will be a natural outgrowth of the School's undergraduate program in filmmaking, which has achieved national prominence in its nine years of operation.

Program Need

More than 100 inquiries are received annually for such a program, and no other comparable program exists in North Carolina. North Carolina has attempted for a number of years to establish a significant film and television industry in the state, which led to establishment of the School of Filmmaking in 1993 and construction of state-of-the-art facilities in 1998, making the program one of the largest state-supported undergraduate film conservatory programs in the country. Currently, 95 percent of film scoring work is done in Los Angeles—an expensive and cumbersome expense for NC filmmakers. This program will prepare a pool of film and television scoring talent trained in NC. It is anticipated that the program will enroll 20 fulltime students by the fourth year.

Resources

No new state funds are requested. Faculty and facilities are currently in place to support this program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Fine Arts in Film Music Composition degree at the North Carolina School of the Arts effective September 15, 2003.