

2013.002
FF

Student Technology Fee
Grant Proposal Request Form
Fiscal Year 2012-13
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

ALL BLANKS MUST BE FILLED COMPLETELY

Prepared by: Paul Forsyth For: NSU Jazz Program

Department/Unit: CAPA College: Arts, Graduate Studies, etc.; Campus: Natchitoches

Which NSTEP Goals/Objectives does this project meet? Objectives 1,2,7

Requested equipment will be located/installed/housed? Building: 025 Old Fine Arts; Room: 322

Does the department requesting funding receive lab fees? (circle one) YES/NO

Are department property policies and procedures in place for requested equipment? Yes

Which individual will be responsible for property control of the requested equipment?

Signature: Paul Forsyth  Date: 10/15/12

Proposal Requested Amount: \$ 1368.85 Budget Attached (circle one): YES/NO

Proposal delivered to Student Technology located in Watson Library, Room 113. Date 10/22/12

The proposal must include all specifications, description, model number, quotation, cost, state contract number, and vendor for each item. If the proposal does not include all requested information, it will be returned.

1. Describe target audience.

There are two target audiences. The first audience being the students in the NSU Jazz Program, particularly the students enrolled in the NSU Jazz Combos. The second target audience would be the audiences of NSU and Natchitoches that attend the NSU Jazz concerts, for example the NSU Jazz Festival, the annual NSU Jazz Combos "Jazz in the Park" concert, and the NSU Jazz Combos "Jazz for Tots" concert.

2. Describe project/initiative for which you are requesting funds.

I am requesting the funds to purchase a Portable Public Address (PA) System for the NSU Jazz Program, and specifically the NSU Jazz Combos. The NSU Jazz Combos have been in existence for the past four years. They were created to fill a hole in the curriculum of any student wishing to study more about jazz and/or improvisation. Since that time the class has grown and become a fixture in the University and

Natchitoches communities. For the program/class to continue to blossom and grow, they need to be able to reach more audiences, and to reach their current audience more efficiently. For example, the NSU Jazz Combos have started a yearly outdoor concert in the Spring semester at the Beau Jardin. Because this is an outdoor venue, it is very difficult to address the audiences. A public address (PA) system will fix this issue. Also, seeing that many jazz instruments are already amplified (bass, guitar, keyboard, etc), it is often difficult to hear the smaller wind instruments like saxophones. A PA system will fix this problem. Audiences will now be able to hear saxophones and other small instruments better. The combos will not only have an easier time reaching their audiences in all their venues, they will also be able to speak to their audiences more easily and clearly. Jazz music is meant to have close communication with your audience. Without a PA system, it is very difficult to speak to the audience. This grant proposal will fix this problem.

Another issue that continually arises for the Jazz Program is the lack of electronic equipment to support guest artists at the annual NSU Jazz Festival. These guest artists always perform a concert with the NSU Jazz Orchestra. In order to properly perform with a soloist in this setting, the soloist must be amplified through a PA system, AND the soloist must have a monitor so they hear what sound is projecting from the speakers. The NSU Jazz Program does not currently have a sound system that can support these ventures, often resulting in a slightly embarrassing situation with the guest artists.

This PA system will also provide the Jazz Program students with the opportunity to learn about the electronics that are necessary to have a successful jazz ensemble. This knowledge is crucial for musicians to learn if they plan to perform any type of popular music such as jazz professionally.

The PA system is listed with great detail in the budget at the end of this proposal.

3. State measurable objectives that will be used to determine the impact/effectiveness of the project.

Objective 1: Improve audience's interaction at NSU Jazz Program concerts, particularly our outdoor concerts.

Objective 2: Improve the balance of the musicians during performance. The smaller instruments will be more balanced with the rest of the ensemble, particularly with outdoor concerts.

Objective 3: Each member of the NSU Jazz combos will gain the knowledge of properly setting up and using professional sound equipment.

4. Indicate how each project objective will be evaluated.

Objective 1: Following (and during) jazz performances, I will ask audience members about their experience at the concert and if they were able to hear and relate to the jazz ensembles for effectively.

Objective 2: Particularly with the outdoor concerts, I will be able to see if the smaller wind instruments are being heard and they are properly balanced with the rest of the ensemble.

Objective 3: I will test each member of the combos at the end of each semester to see if they have learned how to properly set up and use the equipment.

5. If funded, which NSTEP <http://www.nsula.edu/nstep/NSTEP.pdf> objective(s) will this funding of this project advance? How will funding of the project advance the University and College/unit technology plan?

NSTEP Objective 1: To improve access to technology by students, faculty, and staff at Northwestern State University. With this new PA system, students and faculty will gain experience with the growing demands of sound production in this day and age. They will learn how to speak to audiences, how to perform using a microphone, and how to set up these electronics.

NSTEP Objective 2: To provide classrooms with updated technology and multimedia. The NSU Jazz Program does not own any of their own equipment. This requested equipment will make the NSU Jazz Program more versatile, educational, and better suited to perform for audiences.

NSTEP Objective 7: To encourage technology initiatives by faculty, staff, and students. This technology will encourage more usage of and experimentation with this professional sound equipment technology. The possibilities are endless with this type of sound technology. This request is just for basic sound production. The results could lead to more usages of the equipment, possibilities of more advanced equipment, and definitely more well-rounded students who are comfortable with sound production/amplification.

6. Provide a justification for funding of this project. Estimate the number of students that will be served per academic year and in what ways. Please indicate also any unique needs of the target group.

Jazz is the only true American art form AND it was started in Louisiana. When I arrived at NSU in 2007, I was really surprised that there was no jazz combo class at a university within the state where jazz was created. So in the spring of 2008, I attempted to create the NSU Jazz Combos class. Over the past 4+ years, the class has tripled in size and we have approximately 15-20 students in the class per semester. Consequently, since the NSU Jazz Combos class teaches students about arguably one of the most important historical elements of Louisiana, and since the class has become a fixture in the NSU culture, I feel it is important that the NSU Jazz Combos have the technology to properly demonstrate the art form that is so uniquely apart of Louisiana. A portable public address system will allow the combos to better perform jazz music and to better reach their audiences. The NSU Jazz Orchestra (Big Band) will also have access to this equipment. The equipment will help them sound more mature and professional.

The NSU Jazz students will learn the basics of sound production/electronics which is becoming increasingly important throughout the music culture. The PA system will also allow the combos to play in a wider variety of venues. For example, one of the jazz combos was asked to play at halftime during one of the NSU basketball games last year. Due to the lack of a portable public address system specifically for the jazz combo, the balance was completely wrong to play in the basketball arena. You could not hear the wind instruments and the combo was unable to address the crowd. These are two essential elements to a successful jazz performance. The performance was not a success. A public address system will make the NSU Jazz Program a more complete package and make them more versatile to perform in any setting.

7. List those individuals who will be responsible for the implementation of the project/initiative and indicate their demonstrated abilities to accomplish the objectives of the project.

Dr. Paul J. Forsyth – Associate Professor of Saxophone, creator of the NSU Jazz Combos, accomplished jazz musician, member of Jazz Studies committee, organizer/leader of the NSU Jazz Faculty Combo

8. Describe any personnel (technical or otherwise) required to support the project/initiative.

No personnel needed.

9. Provide a schedule for implementation and evaluation.

If the proposal is funded, the equipment will be purchased immediately. Assuming the equipment is received during the Spring Semester 2013, the students will begin rehearsing with the equipment during the Jazz Combo rehearsals throughout the semester.

March 2013 – the NSU Jazz Combos and NSU Jazz Orchestra will perform at the NSU-LAJE Jazz Festival. At this performance they will use this public address system for the first time. This equipment will specifically make the guest artists' experience more enjoyable, not to mention making the audiences experience more enjoyable.

April 2013 – the NSU Jazz Combos will perform at the ‘Jazz in the Park’ series in downtown Natchitoches. This will be another perfect opportunity to use the public address system and to evaluate how much this impacts the class.

April 2013 – The NSU Jazz Combo students will be tested on their ability to set up the equipment and use it to their advantage.

10. Estimate the expected life of hardware and software. Explain any anticipated equipment/software upgrades during the next five years.

There is no software needed. The hardware will last well over five years. I suspect this hardware to last 10 years at least, probably more. However, generally this type of equipment becomes outdated before it fails. I believe this equipment will keep the NSU Jazz Program sounding fantastic for many years to come.

11. Explain in detail a plan and policy that will be in place to ensure property security/controls for any equipment received through a Student Technology Fee.

If you are requesting equipment that will be either/or checkout to students or moved within the department, you must provide a checkout/loan policy.

The equipment will be kept in the office of Paul Forsyth, Old Fine Arts 322. I am the only person with a key to this office. I have had no trouble with security issues in the past. The equipment will not be checked out to anyone other than Paul Forsyth and will be used by the jazz program only. I will be responsible for transporting the equipment to and from rehearsals and concert venues. Any students who are using the equipment will be under strict supervision from Paul Forsyth.

12. Does the department that is requesting equipment receive lab fees? If so, please provide a justification for requesting funds from tech fee funds over using lab fees from your department.

Yes. Lab fees in the Music Area are currently directed toward purchasing items that support our continued accreditation requirements, especially in these times of limited budgets. The largest portion of our lab fees go to maintenance of our acoustical pianos. The department uses and maintains over 50 acoustic pianos that need to be tuned multiple times a year, regulated, voiced, and occasionally minor repairs. The pianos used in Magale Recital Hall and on stage in the Fine Arts Auditorium have to be tuned for every performance involving solo piano, which can be more than once a month. In addition, multimedia items such as CD recordings, DVDs, musical scores, books, etc., are purchased with these funds. Software updates, not covered by tech fees, also consume a significant portion of these funds.

13. Attach a detailed budget.

See below.

14. Attach two (2) letters of support for the project from the following individuals: the requesting department’s Dean, the appropriate Vice President or for student request, the SGA President from the requesting campus.

Budget

All prices and purchases are from Sweetwater – Music Instruments and Audio
Sweetwater is one of the most trusted dealers of music sound equipment. This company has all the equipment needed for the project and the prices are comparable to any other company I have found, and shipping is free for these items. CAPA already has an account with Sweetwater.

Fender Audio Passport 300 Pro.....On-line Price \$699.99

6-channel 300 watt portable PA system, two speakers
Retail Price - \$979.89

Fender Audio ST275 Passport Speaker Stands and Black Bag.....On-line Price \$99.99

These tripod speaker stands are necessary to hold the PA speakers at most venues. Bag has webbed handles for easier hauling, and durable, heavy-duty zippers.
Retail price - \$169.99

Behringer Eurolive F1320D Floor Monitor.....On-line Price \$269.99

12", 200-watt (RMS) Portable PA Monitor, 3-band EQ, and Feedback Filter. Monitors are necessary for the musicians to hear what is coming out of the PA system.
Retail price - \$349.99

Shure SM57 Instrument/Vocal Mic.....On-line Price \$89.00

The Shure SM57 is one of the most popular professional instrument microphones of all time. The dynamic SM57 mic performs reliably delivering natural sound night after night. Its durable, bulletproof design stands up to road travel and abuse. The Shure SM57 boasts wide frequency response (40Hz-15kHz) and a tight cardioid polar pattern that are ideal for close-in speaker miking.
Retail price - \$124.00

On-stage Stands MS7701 TB.....On-line Price \$34.95

Microphone Stand with Telescoping Boom, folding legs - black
Retail Price - \$72.99

Pro Co Exellines Microphone Cable (Single Cable).....On-line Price \$24.99

Microphone Cable, XLR Male-XLR Female, 20' long.
Retail Price - \$32.54

Rock N Roller R2RT Micro Multi-Cart.....On-line Price \$99.99

An easy-to-fold, easy-to-move, simple way to haul gear on a multipurpose cart. This handtruck has 8 different configurations and is necessary to make transport of this equipment possible. It will also be a safe way to transport the equipment.
Retail price - \$139.99

Furman SS-6B Power Strip.....On-line Price \$39.95

6-outlet Surge Protection Power Block with EMI/RFI Attenuation and 15' cord. Will protect equipment against untamed power and will also act as an extension cord
Retail price - \$50.00

Total Price (FREE SHIPPING!).....\$1368.85



NORTHWESTERN STATE

College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research
Office of the Dean

101 Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
O 318.357.4330
F 318.357.4255
liberalarts.nsula.edu

The Graduate
School
(318) 357-5851

October 15, 2012

Louisiana
Scholars' College
318-357-4577

Dear Student Technology Grant Committee:

School of
Creative and
Performing Arts
318-357-4522

Please accept this support letter for Dr. Paul Forsyth's grant proposal to purchase a Public Address System for the NSU Jazz Program.

Department of
Criminal Justice,
History and
Social Sciences
318-357-6967

The NSU Jazz Program does not currently have its own sound equipment. This proposal addresses that issue and will allow the NSU Jazz Program to perform in a larger variety of venues and allow it to reach larger audiences. The "PA" system will put our students in better positions to flourish within the NSU Jazz Program and will enable them reach a higher level of professionalism. NSU jazz students will not only be able to learn how to operate professional audio equipment, but they also will have "hands-on" experience with this equipment; consequently students will be better prepared as professional musicians entering the workforce after they leave NSU.

Department of
Social Work
318-357-5493

Department of
Language and
Communication
318-357-6272

This audio equipment would be an excellent addition to the NSU Jazz Program and will certainly help our students thrive in a professional setting. I support this proposal thoroughly and hope it will be given serious consideration.

Department of
Psychology
318-357-6594

Sincerely,

Steven G. Horton, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean
Professor of Education



**NORTHWESTERN STATE
University of Louisiana**

Natchitoches, LA 71497

**Mrs. H. D. Dear, Sr. and Alice E. Dear
School of Creative and Performing Arts**

Music	(318) 357-4522
Art	(318) 357-5744
Theatre	(318) 357-4483
FAX	(318) 357-5906

October 15, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this a letter of support for the Student Technology Fee Grant Proposal from Dr. Paul Forsyth.

Dr. Forsyth is requesting the funds to purchase a Public Address System for the NSU Jazz Program and in particular, to support the "jazz combo" portion of the program. Since his arrival at NSU five years ago, the jazz program has shown considerable growth and has led to the creation of a number of smaller "combos" that provide music in many different venues both on campus and in the community. The purchase of a "PA" System will greatly enhance the performances by our students and help the program to continue to thrive.

The jazz concerts presented by our "Jazz Orchestra" and "Jazz Combos" are possibly the best attended concerts on campus each semester and the students appear in a number of professional settings in the Natchitoches community and beyond. The use of electronic equipment to showcase our students would be of great benefit to not only the ensembles but also to the audience members.

It is with pleasure that I support this application and I hope you will give it serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Brent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Brent
Director, School of Creative and Performing Arts