

2016 Willock Library Research Award Application Supplement Form

Name (s) - including group-mates if applicable:

Mary Hansen

Category (college, department and major):

College of Fine Arts, Fred Fox School of Music, Music Theory

Division: Undergraduate or Graduate

Graduate

Project Title:

“Composition and Choreography: A Synergy of Aural and Visual Art”

Essay:

Music composition is an intense form of research as composers spend numerous hours creating their works. The Composers Concert series at the University of Arizona (UA) provides student composers the opportunity to showcase their works and obtain professional recordings. Three of my compositions were performed in the Spring 2015 concerts. These included music for harp, instruments, and voice. One of these pieces was a collaborative effort between music and dance and was choreographed by UA School of Dance graduate student Magdalena Kaczmarska.

This project consisted of composing original pieces of music, transferring written notes to an electronic medium, producing MP3 files for rehearsal purposes, recruiting performers, collaborating with a choreographer, revising compositions, and producing professional grade scores, all culminating in a public performance of the works.

The project was fundamentally dependent on the support of materials available in the Fine Arts Library, located in the Fred Fox School of Music building. Prior to beginning work on a composition, I studied many scores of various music, including works for solo harp, vocal ensemble, piano, and chamber ensembles, all of which are housed in the Fine Arts Library.

In addition to reviewing printed scores, I listened to recordings available on the Naxos music database, available through the UA Library website. The access to this database allowed me to hear excellent recordings of the works.

The music writing software programs available on the computers in the Fine Arts Library, *Finale* and *Sibelius*, were instrumental in the production of my works. I was able to quickly and effectively notate my scores. Changes to the scores were easily made due to the capability of the electronic program.

“Plurality Perceptions,” was choreographed by Ms. Kaczmarska. We met several times and brainstormed over challenging sections. Because of the ability to quickly and effectively change the scores through the music writing software, I was able to readily provide Ms. Kaczmarska with updated MP3 recordings of the piece.

Due to scheduling, rehearsals with both musicians and dancers was limited. This made it necessary to provide music for the dancer to rehearse prior to group rehearsals so that productivity could be maximized. The music writing software allowed for midi realizations of the pieces, which are recordings made with electronic versions of the instruments. Because of the recordings, the dancers were able to rehearse and perfect their work prior to meeting with the musicians.

The UA Library website and the Fine Arts Library were invaluable to the success of this project. The Naxos database and the extensive score collection in the Fine Arts Library allowed me to research and prepare for the act of composition. In addition, the music writing software enabled me to effectively and successfully complete my compositions, provide rehearsal music for the dancers, update changes to the pieces, and craft professional quality scores. I am extremely grateful for the wonderful resources made available to me through the UA Libraries.