Proposal to Establish an Artist Diploma in Music
School of Music, a Unit of the College of Fine and Applied Arts

TITLE: Proposal to establish an Artist Diploma in Music to be offered by the School of Music (this will be a Post-Master’s Certificate, IBHE code 50.0903, IPEDS degree level B).

SPONSOR: Edward Rath, Associate Director, School of Music, 244-2670.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Artist Diploma programs have for decades existed in many of our peer institutions (see Attachment A). Such programs were largely patterned after pre-World War II models found in the major conservatories of Europe, some as early as the 1920’s, and became increasingly popular in many top-rated, performance-oriented college and university music units with the rise of the doctorate in musical performance (DMA) in the 1950s and 1960s. The Artist Diploma focuses its entire curricular content on performance studies and recitals, whereas the doctoral degree in performance is a more comprehensive curriculum requiring studies apart from performance and on occasion including studies in ancillary academic areas outside of music.

There will be three areas of specialization in the proposed Artist Diploma program: one for instrumentalists, the second for vocalists, and the third for keyboard performers. The essential thrust of the program overall is shown in the 32 hours of course requirements normally taken over a four-semester period of time. These courses would include 1) intense study of repertoire through individual applied instruction, 2) experience in public performance as a soloist, and 3) ongoing involvement in ensemble and collaborative performance. The expectation is that after two years of this type of study, a student will be ready for entrance into the music profession as a solo artist, member of an orchestra or chamber or jazz ensemble, or as an apprentice in an opera company, and should be prepared to compete effectively in international music competitions.

Required Courses:

MUS 578-598* Applied Music/Performance Studies 20 semester hours (5 semester hours per semester)
MUS 450/499** Large and Small Ensembles 8 semester hours (2 semester hours per semester)
MUS xxx*** Recitals 4 semester hours
TOTAL: 32 semester hours

*MUS 578-598, each of which is currently available for 1-4 semester hours, will be altered to permit up to 5 semester hours of credit per semester, but the 5-hour credit allotment will be available only to Artist Diploma enrollees. Such restriction will be administered through a special section of each course on a semester-by-semester basis as needed.

**Players of orchestral instruments will enroll in 4 semesters of chamber music (MUS 450A, G, H, or J) and 4 semesters of orchestra (MUS 450K); vocalists will enroll in 3 semesters of opera (MUS 450, 1 hour of credit per semester, or MUS 499, 2 hours of credit per semester) and 2 semesters of UI Chamber Singers (MUS 450F, 1 credit per semester); keyboard majors will enroll in 4 semester hours of instrumental chamber music (MUS 450A, G, H, or J) and 4 semesters of vocal or ensemble accompanying (MUS 577).

***A Banner number will be assigned for a course under consideration, entitled Artist Diploma Recital, which may be repeated for up to a total of 4 semester hours of credit. In the vocal track, public performance of a major operatic role may substitute for a recital.
Performance Instruction is intended to enhance the student's artistry and skills while expanding to the greatest extent possible the student's repertory. As part of MUS 578-598, each mentor professor or invited guest professors will offer master classes. Each student will present works being prepared for public performance and will take part in the discussion of works presented by other members of the class, all under the direction of the faculty member in charge of the seminar. Experience in public performance will also be gained through participation in the ongoing concert and recital activities of the School of Music.

The Ensemble component of the program will stress the artistic and practical aspects of collaborative music making, which is a necessary part of any professional performing career. Public presentation as part of the School's ongoing ensemble and chamber music performances will both enhance and be enhanced by the high level of performances generated by enrollees in the Artist Diploma program.

Admissions
All prospective students will be expected to audition in person on campus on regularly scheduled audition dates, or during well-publicized off-campus auditions. It will be the responsibility of each applied division in the School of Music to establish its own criteria for admission, although there will be a necessary consensus concerning a quantitative minimum for repertoire requirements (length of audition, minimum number or works to be performed, required memorization, etc.). Normally students will be expected to have attained a master's degree (in the same performance area as that intended for the Artist Diploma) from an accredited conservatory, college, or university located in North America, or the equivalent degree or certificate granted by a certifiably similar institution abroad.

Maintaining Good Standing in the Program
All students enrolled in the Artist Diploma must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale each semester. In the event that the student falls below this minimum in any given semester, the student will have one semester in which to raise the cumulative GPA to a minimum of 3.0, or s/he will be dismissed from the program.

Time Period for Completion
The normal time for completion would be four semesters over a consecutive two-year period of time. Ordinarily, such a time period would not be truncated through summer study, as enrollees would be encouraged to attend world-class summer festivals to further their exposure to professional performance and concert activity. Time for completion of the Artist Diploma may be extended by one semester with the approval of the mentor professor, division chair, Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music, and the Director of the School of Music.

Advising
The mentor professor, who normally would be the enrollee's principal applied instructor, will serve as advisor for the student, in consultation with all other members of the appropriate applied division. Ultimate responsibility for adherence to program requirements will be the responsibility of the Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music.

Graduation
Prospective graduates must complete all program requirements, including course work and recitals (the final recital will serve as the final examination for the degree and be heard by a committee drawn from all members of the principal division, plus two additional artist faculty drawn from other divisions). The appropriate division will recommend through the Coordinator of Graduate Studies to the Director of the School of Music that the student be permitted to receive the Artist Diploma. With the Director's concurrence, this recommendation will be forwarded to the Graduate College for approval and processing as per normal procedures.

JUSTIFICATION:
While UIUC has for years had a thriving DMA program, in the past 10 to 15 years there has been a growing interest in focusing on performance in the School of Music. The time is appropriate to establish a two-year Artist Diploma at the State's flagship music school, and the University of Illinois is uniquely positioned to offer such a program. (Although two
schools in Illinois - Northwestern University and Northern Illinois University - offer a one-year Performer's Certificate and Certificate of Performance, respectively, no other school in the state comes close to offering the rigor of what we are proposing here.) The following four reasons support our decision to implement a two-year program instead of a one-year program. First, to learn new music (music not having been performed prior to matriculation into the program) for four recitals and perform it at the level of expectation for which we are aiming requires two years; in our professional opinion. Second, we anticipate that most of the students in this program will not be coming from an undergraduate program at UIUC, and the two-year residency requirement will enable the Artist Diploma candidates to become part of the fabric of the School of Music. Third, a two-year program will help to stabilize the program in terms of enrollments and studio assignments. Fourth, as a result of these considerations, we feel that the program will become known for its high quality and, as such, it will be more attractive to the truly serious young artist.

In addition, there has been a growing interest in an Artist's Diploma on the part of prospective graduate students who seek to prepare for concert and/or professional orchestra, vocal/operatic, chamber music, or jazz careers. The School of Music continually receives inquiries from individuals as to whether the school offers an Artist Diploma. The frequency of these inquiries is the basis for the School's estimate that there will likely be at least five candidates for the proposed program during its first year, growing to approximately 25 or 30 in the entire program by the third year. (This represents about 8-10% of graduate enrollment during the past five years, or about 3-4% of the entire School.) We intend to cap enrollment at 25, but would need flexibility to work with up to 30 students. To maintain a viable distribution/balance of enrollees in the various areas of orchestral and keyboard instruments and voice, the Director of the School of Music will make the final decision as to who is admitted into the Artist Diploma.

The Artist Diploma would permit us to promote, maintain, and enhance leadership opportunities for the School, its faculty, and its graduates at international levels, at the same time as we increase significantly the services we provide to the very best of young performers. Such a program would enable us to be competitive as one of the leaders for research and practice in the arts with an emphasis on professional excellence, building upon our traditional preeminence and advantages as a center for a broad range of scholarship and research. The result would be an opportunity to accord full value to our teaching and performance missions, preparing our students for professional life and leadership in various areas of music performance.

Accordingly, the Artist Diploma program will be reserved only for the most talented students who are on the verge of major performance careers in solo, ensemble, or studio settings.

While the performance aspects of the program would be similar in nature to those of the DMA program now in place, there should be no interference created between the two programs; indeed, they would enhance one another in maintaining the highest artistic standards of performance in the School of Music. Credit offered in the Artist Diploma program would not be automatically transferable to the DMA, although within the first year of either program there will be enough flexibility to permit transfer from one program into the other, provided that the student meets all admissions requirements in effect at the time of the transfer.

The Artist Diploma will consist of a strategically balanced offering of performance instruction entailing individual study, chamber music, large ensemble, and preparation and performance of recitals. In addition to the public performances per se, which will have been prepared by the candidates under the careful guidance of their faculty mentor, prospective graduates will have the opportunity of ordering two separate digitally-recorded professional CD recordings at their own expense, copies of which will be available for distribution as part of competition applications, professional ensemble auditions, etc.

Graduates of the Artist Diploma program will possess enhanced audition and performance abilities, increasing their odds for success in pursuit of careers as performers. Performing arts organizations exist in virtually every local, state, and national community. These organizations have a significant impact on their locality's economic and cultural/educational atmosphere, and the competition for performance opportunities with these organizations is intense. The Artist Diploma addresses the need for performing artists who are thoroughly prepared to succeed in this arena and thereby attain their own economic viability.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:
The Artist Diploma will normally embrace a four-semester timetable with a total of 32 semester hours beyond the MM in Performance and Literature or its equivalent. All but one of the courses in the proposed program are presently offered by the School of Music, and the program will not require additional facilities or financial resources.

Equipment in support of the program will include that purchased and maintained with funds from the School’s budgets dedicated to such purposes. Principal facilities to be used in support of the program will be the Music Building (including the Music Library) and Smith Memorial Hall. A secondary resource will be the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, which may serve as a performance venue for selected enrollees in the program as well as the location for non-credit training seminars in the business of the performing profession.

Existing faculty and facilities can provide support in academics and logistics, and therefore costs to the University in these areas will be minimal. It is expected that students in the Artist Diploma program will be exemplary performers and, therefore, may be eligible to receive tuition and fee waivers without being required to perform any duties such as teaching, graduate, or research assistants. At the discretion of the faculty, the Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music, and the Director of the School, Artist Diploma candidates may also be eligible for existing fellowships. Except in extraordinary cases, however, the teaching, graduate, and research assistantships offered by the School will be reserved for degree candidates in the MM and DMA programs; Artist Diploma candidates may be nominated for these positions only with specific justification and only at the discretion of the appropriate divisions of the School.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

CLEARANCES:

Edward Rath
School of Music

[Signature]

College of Fine and Applied Arts

[Signature]

Graduate College

[Signature]

Provost

STATEMENT FOR THE PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

ARTIST DIPLOMA (AD)

The School of Music offers an Artist Diploma (AD) for students who have demonstrated superior musical and technical skills and whose career aspirations focus on performance. The Artist Diploma is patterned after eminent models in the major conservatories of Europe and focuses its entire curricular content on performance studies and recitals. Admission to the program is highly competitive and is accomplished through a live audition and an interview by appropriate artist faculty and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies. A Master of Music degree or its equivalence in the appropriate applied area is normally required for entrance into the program. The Artist Diploma normally takes four semesters to complete and consists of 32 hours distributed as follows: 20 semester hours of applied music/performance studies; 8 semester hours of ensemble participation, both in large and chamber/small groups; and 4 semester hours of performances, including solo and chamber music.