

Music Department equipment is top of the line

Christina Mueller
Co-Feature Editor

Through the years the college music department has come a long way.

In 1993 the department was able to expand their Finale™ (music notation) program to coordinate with music sequencing.

Finale™, which is a professional music notating program, allows students to print out something that looks like it came right out of a music book.

It was expensive and difficult to get the computers and keyboards necessary to teach the Finale™ program.

"We started with a few Macintosh computers that were inherited from a department that was no longer using Macintosh. They had gone to IBM like most of the rest of the campus.

So we bought some little \$400 keyboards to go with them, and we were in business," said part-time music instructor Janet Martin.

With eight Finale™ stations in Streeter Hall, the music department was able to start incorporating Finale™ right into the Music Theory program.

This enabled any student who came to study Music Theory, to also study computer music notation. Finale™ was becoming so popular and over utilized, that the department decided to get into music sequencing.

"Music Sequencing is where you have a computer program that looks like a tape recorder, and you have a sound module capable of making many sounds.

It can sound like a bass, a piano, a horn section, or even a drum set," said Martin.

"You record your music into the program one track at a time and when you're done, what you have created is a multi-track composition just like they do for professional recording. Then the music sequence plays that all back for you and you sound like a band," explained Martin.

The technology of the program convinced the music department that music sequencing was something they needed to get proficient at. Martin was chosen to be the instructor for music sequencing.

Martin said, "So I learned from actually scratch how to not

only do music sequencing, but how to teach it."

In the fall of 1994 Martin offered her first Music Sequencing class.

When the class began it was in the Streeter Hall lab. Now, the department not only had an adequate number of stations for Finale™, but it had stations for music sequencing also.

At this point over 100 music students were required to use the computers for what they needed to do.

"In 1994-1995 our department chair submitted a decision package asking for more computers. After that, we had discovered that there were more of the Macintosh computers available that were not being used, so we could get the computers for free. Our next question was, would the school pay for keyboards, sound modules and the stuff to hook them all together? And by golly we were approved," said Martin.

There are currently 16 units for music sequencing, which are now located in Randall Hall.

Martin explains, "These are full size keyboards with weighted keys, so they feel like a real piano and the harder you touch them, the louder they play."

There are two programs to use while sequencing music: Vision (advanced), which is a big music sequencing program, and Music Shop

(beginner), which is smaller and much easier to work with.

"So we get students that do lots of tracks and very complicated compositions, and then we get the people who are just starting out," explained Martin.

"Most people can do this just fine, because it works like a tape recorder. You play, you stop, you continue," said Martin.

In the beginning class, all the knowledge students need is how to read notes, open a file on the computer, get out the file, and then play along on their keyboards. Another option students have is to change the tempo. So if they think it's too fast, they can make it much slower.

"For the kids that are in my Keyboard Harmony class, I have them do some sequencing. What I'd do is give them a piece of music, and then I say 'O.K., now sequence this piece of music.'

Through that they were able to learn some sequencing and a lot of notation," said Martin.

The computers are meant to be a way for students to learn how to do things that, without computers, they could never do.

There are exercises students can do with the computer that teach them about music and how to read notes. The computer walks the students through step by step. Martin hopes it's a very strong reinforcement for her teaching.

"We use the program for

Music Theory students for notation and sequencing, and we use it for people who just want to study sequencing -- anybody in the recording industry. Those people can be anything from people who are church musicians and they want to do a fancy accompaniment with horns but they don't know any horn players," explained Martin.

"Students can hear what they compose without having to go out and hire a symphony," she said.

The computers are currently hooked up to the Internet, which gives students a wide range of things to explore in the musical world.

"I can have the students on headphones each working on different things. I have a console that allows me to tune into any student or combination of students on headphones," explained Martin.

The lab is designed for students to learn and have fun doing it. Clackamas is lucky to have this lab due to the need for instruction and money.

"One of the things that makes it unique, I think, is that we have full-size, good quality keyboards and, besides that, we have really good multi-purpose sound modules which not every school has. Some schools have good keyboards, some have good sound modules, we've got both," said Martin.

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Students invited to meet the president at 'College Conversation'

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The "College Conversation", an opportunity to meet President John Keyser and ask questions regarding the college, will be held on Friday Feb. 28.

"The purpose is to get faculty, staff, and students to interact," said Dean of Instructional Services Secretary Becky Carnahan.

The informal forum will be held from 12-1 p.m. in CC 127, and will cover topics that range from money to locker rooms.

"There's usually some good ideas that come up," said Keyser.

In addition to answering questions, Keyser will make statements regarding the tuition increase, the modification of buildings water intrusion



John Keyser welcomes students' ideas and questions at the "College Conversation" on Friday.

project, and the status of the college budget.

The event is sponsored by ASG and Instructional Services.

Free Pizza and drinks will be provided to all who attend for part or all of the forum.

News Briefs

Fundamentals of public speaking showcases students

Last term, Sp111, fundamentals of public speaking, held its first speech showcase which featured some outstanding speakers from the SP111 classes. This event turned out to be a great success. Faculty, student speakers, and friends and families were able to learn, enjoy, and celebrate applied academics together.

Our SP111 speakers were truly fantastic! This term, SP111 will

conduct a second speech showcase on Mar. 13 between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. in McLoughlin Hall room 202. All faculty, administrators, and other interested persons are encouraged to come and support our student speakers as they showcase their topics and speaking skills.

This is not a forensic's contest, and you will not be asked to judge or speak. This is a ceremony of acknowledgment for dedicated and empowered students. If you have any questions at all, then please feel free to contact Michael Flocchini at ext. 2492.

'Focus On Women' holds presentation

Come celebrate Women's History Week and join Clackamas's Focus On Women program as they present "Telling Our Lives- Poetry and Music" on Mar. 5 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Gregory Forum.

The women of Chrysalis will share their poems, and Kathleen Fallon of Motherlode will perform original songs. People interested should register for weeks 1 through 4. Cost for the session is \$5. This includes a light lunch. For more information, call ext. 2268.

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