

Proposal for a Master of Sacred Music Program conjoint with the University of Toronto

Emmanuel College of Victoria University

**federated with the University of Toronto
and
member of the Toronto School of Theology**

3 March 2008

1. Rationale and Fit with Academic Plan

Within the federated family that makes up the University of Toronto, there is the country's largest concentration of expertise in theology and liturgy, in music performance including organ, keyboard, choral and instrumental conducting, and in music education. These impressive resources have, however, not been brought together into a degree program. And in fact, there is no place in Canada with a master's program in sacred music.

The proposed Master of Sacred Music program is, at one level, simply a way of structuring into a new degree our collective resources, by gathering together existing courses in liturgy, theology, and music performance and education. But the whole will be greater than the sum of these parts. Students and faculty will collaborate in a strongly interdisciplinary exercise, bringing together the academic and professional study of a long established practice, sacred music.

The rationale for the degree involves both the synergies possible through this collaborative interdisciplinary structure, and the opportunity to meet the needs of practitioners of sacred music in Canada. It has been part of the academic planning of Victoria University for Emmanuel College, and the endowment of the current position in church music is part of its approved advancement plans.

2. Societal Benefit

Sacred Music professionals have asked for advanced level training. Numerous inquiries regarding the availability of this program have been received in recent months; the Royal Canadian College of Organists, a professional guild, endorses the concept of this proposed program since nothing at this level is available in Canada. .

Upon graduation students will be employed as full-time music coordinators in urban congregations or as regional facilitators of music and liturgy programming in multiple congregations. Graduates may be allocated liturgical responsibilities as well as music responsibilities because many congregations are unable to afford full-time clergy personnel.

An additional benefit lies in the strengthening of connections between university and the city. The students in this program, and its graduates, will be professionals working for the main part in the religious communities of the City of Toronto, which will benefit from their professional education.

3. The M.S.M. Program

3a. Description of the Program

The program is comprised of twenty half-credit courses, that is, ten full course equivalents. Of the twenty, fifteen are required, including a practicum; there are three Music electives and two theology electives. The program may be taken full-time over two years, or part-time within a five year limit.

3b. Appropriateness of Degree Name

The standard nomenclature for a program of this nature is Master of Sacred Music. Since it is comprised of courses in theology and liturgy, and courses in music performance, it is not appropriate to use the Master of Divinity designation alone, or the Master of Music Performance designation alone.

A list of the many US institutions offering the degree includes Yale University, Emory University, Boston University, University of Texas at Austin and the University of Florida. The model for this proposal benefited directly from close examination of the course content and requirements of the Master of Sacred Music graduate programs of Yale and Emory universities.

3c. Course Objectives

The proposed program will provide post-baccalaureate level training in the art of leading sacred music with musical and theological depth that will further students' professional practice of sacred music. The learning objectives of the Master of Sacred Music program are to refine existing skills in music leaders (earned in previous leadership experiences, academic programs, and continuing education programs), to broaden understanding of the mandate available to community leaders of sacred music, and to advance the skills of these leaders in congregational settings. Students will acquire specialized skills in order to mentor other regional leaders of worship music and volunteer musicians, as appropriate.

These learning objectives will be achieved through a) course work which features individual and group process with students in both the theological and musical disciplines; b) intentional guidance in reflecting on the merits of both the musical content and the liturgical/theological import of repertoire and texts; and c) exposure to the sociological context in which musicians work with volunteers and professional colleagues, especially in the area of culture and spirituality. Students will be required to provide evidence of their process of synthesizing multiple aspects of the demands faced by a practitioner of sacred music through an on-site supervised practicum and a written and oral summation of their academic experience.

Students will develop the following skills:

- Advanced music performance proficiency in the music medium of their choice
- Advanced knowledge of music for congregations and choirs
- Interpretation skills for a broad range of songs, including diverse styles and traditions
- Theological approaches to the changes demanded of evolving public worship
- Coordination abilities regarding all aspects of liturgical events
- Facility with current trends pertaining to congregational song, accompaniment possibilities, theological and liturgical concepts

3.d Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a 4-year Baccalaureate degree in Arts with documented evidence of equivalent musical skills, or a 4-year Baccalaureate in Music with documented evidence of research and writing skills related to the Arts. Students may be required to complete preliminary or additional supplemental coursework.

They will have demonstrable writing and research skills, as well as demonstrable sacred music experience on application, and/or be willing to enhance their background preparation through additional courses taken prior to admission to the Master's program, as appropriate. For advanced standing (for theology or music performance graduate work, for instance) the admissions committee must be satisfied that any proposed transfer of credit meets standards of both the University of Toronto and the Association of Theological Schools. Successful applicants will be selected on the basis of their musicianship and their academic suitability for studies in sacred music as assessed by their undergraduate preparation, work experience, interview audition and references.

There is no religious test for admission. Students from any or no religious tradition who meet the academic and professional criteria will be admissible.

3.e Courses

All courses are drawn from existing offerings that have already been approved by the relevant councils. All required courses are regular annual offerings and elective courses are offered on a rotational basis. Courses in Required Course Group One must normally be taken prior to those in Required Course Group Two. Students will be admitted to courses taught by Music faculty on permission of the instructor. Course weightings in Music courses vary with hours of instruction, but in the total program, students must accumulate at least four full course equivalents in required and elective Music courses.¹

Group One

Emmanuel Courses:

EMB 1003	Old Testament I	<i>or</i>	EMB 1501	New Testament I
EMH 1010	Church History I			
EMP 2101	Worship I			
EMP 2431	Education and Faith Formation			
EMT 1101	Theology I			

Music courses:

PMU 384Y	Applied Music (.5 fce)
EMU 330Y	Choral Conducting (.67 fce)
PMU 497Y	Master Chorale (.5 or 1 fce)
Music electives	<i>see below</i> (number and weight to be determined)

¹ The required Music courses add up to 2.34 or 2.84 fce's. The exact configuration of each student's program, including the number and weight of the electives, will be determined by the program committee.

Group Two

Theology courses:

EMB 1501	New Testament 1 <i>or</i> EMB 1003 Old Testament 1
EMP 3861	Songs of the Church
EMP 3858/6858	History of Sacred Music
EMP 2875	TST Choir
EMF 3010	Practicum
TST Electives	two half courses: <i>see below</i>

Theology courses:

PMU 484Y	Applied Music	(.5 fce)
PMU 380Y	Instrumental Conducting	(.67 fce)
Music elective(s)	<i>see below</i>	(number and weight to be determined)

Electives

The three electives in Music will be taken from a list of courses approved by the program committee. Courses on this list may vary with the permission of the instructor and the agreement of the Dean of the Faculty of Music.

PMU 357/457Y	Improvisation – Organ	(.67 fce)
PMU 480Y	Instrumental Conducting	(.67 fce)
EMU 430Y	Choral Literature and Conducting	(.67 fce)
MUS 485H	Music in Childhood	(.5 fce)
PMU 330Y	Performance Skills Class	(.67 fce)
PMU 492Y	MacMillan Singers	(.5 or 1 fce)
PMU 497Y	Master Chorale	(.5 or 1 fce)

The two electives in Theology will be taken from a list of courses approved by the program committee.

EMB1004H	Old Testament II
EMB2506H	New Testament II
EMT1102H	Theology II
KNP1863H	Music and Christian Spirituality
EMH2010H	History of Christianity II
EMP3/5881H	Arts in Worship
TXH3805H	Transitions in Canadian Protestantism

Note: The liturgical and theological traditions studied are mainly western Christian, and include the history of Jewish liturgy. Those are the existing main areas of liturgical study in the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto. Where approved appropriate courses in other liturgies are available, arrangements can be made to include them as part of the degree requirements. Electives in World Music would be especially welcome, should instructors agree to include M.S.M. students under the terms of this program.

4. Faculty

The faculty members from TST are all appointed to teach in the Basic Degree program and also in the Advanced Degree program; the faculty members from Music are appointed to teach in the master's performance or music education programs in the Faculty of Music and may be cross-appointed to Emmanuel College with the approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Music.

Emmanuel College faculty members are governed by a Memorandum of Agreement that parallels the hiring, tenure and promotion policies and practices of the University of Toronto, and belong to the Victoria Chapter of the University of Toronto Faculty Association.

Airhart, Phyllis	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
Bourgeois, Michael	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
Derksen, John	Associate Professor	Knox (TST)
Dolloff, Lori	Associate Professor	Music
Graham, Fred	Assistant Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
Kervin, William	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
MacDonald, Lorna	Professor	Music
MacKay, Gillian	Associate Professor	Music
Newman, Judith	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST) & Religion, Arts & Science
Rao, Doreen	Associate Professor	Music
Reynolds, Thomas	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
Tuttle, John	Organ	Music (University Organist)
Vaage, Leif	Associate Professor	Emmanuel (TST)
Wright, Patricia	Organ	Music
Wright, William	Organ	Music

5. Program Administration

The program will be administered and directed by a committee including faculty of Emmanuel College and cross-appointed members of the Faculty of Music. Admissions will be recommended by a committee competent to assess academic and musical ability and accomplishment. The program co-ordinator will be the professor of church music at Emmanuel College.

The program will report through its co-ordinator on academic policy and regulations to the Emmanuel College Council, the Senate of Victoria University as appropriate, and the Basic Degree Council of the Toronto School of Theology. The co-ordinator of the program reports to the Principal of Emmanuel College on matters of budget and personnel. Under the 2004 Memorandum of Agreement between TST and U of T, changes in the programs, curricula, admission standards or requirements, grading practices or requirements for graduation would be instituted only after consideration and approval of U of T (section 6.ii).

The program is subject to periodic review. The 2004 Memorandum of Agreement states: “TST will transmit to U of T the appraisals of its programs by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. U of T reserves the right to conduct with the co-operation of TST, under the auspices of the School of Graduate Studies (“SGS”) and in a manner analogous to its own periodic program reviews, subsequent reviews of any TST program leading to a conjointly awarded degree.” (section 18). Reviews will be carried out in accordance with University of Toronto policy and guidelines for review of academic programs.

6. Students

6a. Enrolment

The program will enrol up to ten students per year, for a steady state of twenty FTE students in the program at any time. It is anticipated that about half this FTE number will be part-time students.

6b. Student Demand

There is no master’s level program in sacred music in Canada. The GTA has many practitioners of sacred music, and anecdotal evidence suggests a high level of interest. The possibility of a new program has been discussed in several venues. Access to the program will be facilitated by making it available part time.

6c. Student Support

Students in the M.S.M. program are eligible for needs-based financial aid through Emmanuel College, which expends annually \$250,000 on participants in its degree programs.

6d. Student Policies

All Emmanuel College students are students of Victoria University and come under the University of Toronto policies, adopted by Victoria. These include the Policy on Sexual Harassment, the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, and the Code of Student Conduct. Emmanuel College students have access to the Committee on Academic Appeals following decisions at the local and council level.

7. Budgetary Implications

Since all the courses in this program are already staffed and offered, there will be minimal program costs, mainly in co-ordination and promotion. These costs, and the financial aid mentioned in section 6c above, will be borne by Victoria University.

The additional costs for performance courses will be covered by student fees levied by Victoria University. The Faculty of Music will be compensated for interdivisional teaching under a separate agreement.

8. Space and Facilities

Since the delivery of the program involves adding only a few students to any existing course, there are very few demands for increased facilities or space. Performance lessons will be given in existing studios. For practice facilities, Victoria University has two organs and several pianos; the Faculty of Music has two organs and several practice rooms; there are also arrangements with five local churches. For public performances Victoria University has two chapels and the Isabel Bader Theatre.

Library facilities are excellent. UTL and the theological libraries of TST collect systematically in all areas of theology and music, including liturgy and sacred music. In the 2001 North American Title Count, UTL ranked second highest in the classification ranges which include sacred music and liturgy.

9. Relationships with Other Divisions

This program requires the collaboration of faculty members from more than one division of the greater University collectivity. The students will be registered at Emmanuel College, but they will have access (as do all TST students with the appropriate qualifications) to courses across the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto.

The courses in this program include existing approved courses at Emmanuel College and at Knox College on the TST side, and in the Faculty of Music courses in the performance and music education divisions. All Faculty of Music faculty members teaching courses in this program have agreed to participate, and the program was discussed with the previous Dean of Music and the current interim Dean. Although this is not a joint program with the Faculty of Music, there is agreement that Music faculty who wish to participate in this interdivisional teaching may do so under the terms and conditions outlined in this proposal.

Consultation within TST occurs through the Basic Degree Council, which has representation from the University of Toronto.