Proposed Music and Culture Major

Description:
This major will form a parallel interdisciplinary option to the existing music major (which is located entirely within the music department). It offers an approach predominantly scholarly and critical to music-as-culture from the perspective of research, criticism, and interpretation, and with an emphasis on historical and ethnographic approaches. It is oriented primarily toward understanding music as a culturally expressive form rather than as objectified art. Courses in music and dance performance are required but are positioned more broadly within the major as a means to explore interrelationships between music and other forms of performance. Students can choose from an array of designated courses from the Departments of Music, Dance, Anthropology, Sociology, English, and the Program in Film and Visual Culture.

All majors are expected to attend Wednesday@One (a weekly series of special events) and to contribute to the artistic and intellectual life of the department by participating in ensembles, ArtsBridge, and/ or the Gluck program.

Justification:
This major will complement the existing music major, which is focused overall on Western European art music. The proposed major is a reflection of the department's interest in expanded approaches to the study of music. A music major should have the opportunity to gain a knowledge and awareness of music as a worldwide cultural phenomenon and develop critical facilities through a manifold approach to sound in its many cultural settings. In 1997, we added a track in ethnomusicology to our existing M.A. program; this undergraduate major will carry forward similar principles by adding to what we already offer without requiring additional resources and (importantly) without taking anything away from our existing program. It will offer a set of parallel options to the existing music major. The proposed major also substantiates the department's desire to appeal to a wide array of undergraduate students: UCR has the most ethnically diverse UC undergraduate population, and we believe that the proposed major will offer different approaches to a broad range of repertoires.

The majority of any student's courses will be taken within the music department (more than 50 units). The courses that define the major are upper division and oriented either toward music history (such as Music 112A-C: History of Western Music; Music 114: Opera, Music 116: Music of J.S. Bach; and Music 117: Music and Religion) or toward ethnomusicology (such as Music 124: Music of Asian America; Music 125: Music of Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean; Music 126: Music and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspectives; Music 127: Music Cultures of Southeast Asia; Music 128: Performing Arts of Asia; Music 129: Music Cultures of Africa; and Music 140: American Musical Subcultures: a Genealogy of Rock). To take these courses students must have completed the Music 30A-C (Harmony) sequence to have a basic understanding of Western musical concepts.

In addition, students will be required to take 12-24 units in several areas outside of music. The overall scheme is meant to be more flexible and to encourage students to follow their interests. The music department routinely assigns faculty advisors to all majors; advisors and advisees meet on a quarterly basis during preregistration periods, allowing for close supervision and mentoring. Three of our six faculty members (Profs. René T.A. Lysloff, Deborah Wong, and Ethan Nasreddin-Longo) will take responsibility for advising students in this major.
In encouraging our majors to take either music or dance ensemble courses for credit toward the Music and Culture major, we acknowledge the considered ways that the Department of Dance has integrated praxis and theory in all its courses. Furthermore, dance and music are closely aligned in virtually all cultures: dance is nearly always accompanied by music. The ethnographic study of dance and music therefore share certain methodologies and histories, and we believe that our students have much to gain from performance experience in either department.

This proposal was approved in principle and in detail at faculty meetings and in other discussion between April and September 2001. The submitted version was approved by a vote of 4-0 (and 2 non-voting) on September 11, 2001.
Music and Culture Major

**Proposed**

**Major Requirements**

This major requires a total 76-78 units of undergraduate courses, 17-19 units in the lower division and 59 units in the upper division.

Additionally, all majors are required to enroll in at least one music ensemble each quarter. However, students may choose to enroll in Dance 67A-75B instead of, or in addition to, any of the music ensemble courses.

**Lower Division Requirements (17-19 units):**

MUS 030A, 030B, 030C = 12 units total  
MUS 031 = 1-3 credits total  
ANTH 001, SOC 001, DNCE 005, or DNCE 007 = 4 units total

**Upper Division Requirements**

**Music Courses (no fewer than 39 units total, but no more than 49):**

Western Music History Courses: (MUS 112A-C, MUS 114, MUS 116, MUS 117, MUS 191 [E-Z])  
Ethnomusicology Courses: (MUS 121, MUS 124, MUS 125, MUS 126, MUS 127, MUS 128, MUS 129, MUS 136, MUS 140)  
Individual Study Courses: (MUS 190, MUS 194, MUS 195, MUS 199)

**Other Upper-Division Courses (12-24 units)**

1. Dance History (at least 4 units but no more than 8 units total): DNCE 130, DNCE 141,
DNCE 142, DNCE 170 (E-Z)

2. Anthropology or Sociology (at least 4 units but no more than 8 units total)

3. English or Film and Visual Culture (at least 4 units but no more than 8 units total)

4. Other courses in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or the Arts could count towards these units if petitioned and an advisor's permission is granted.

Approved: CHASS Executive Committee - November 14, 2001
           CHASS Faculty - January 9, 2002
           Committee on Educational Policy – January 29, 2002