

Integration of Musical Theatre Technology into EMU Classroom and Student-Focused Learning Environments

[Author 1] & [Author 2]

Faculty-to-Faculty

Classroom and Student-Focused Learning:

[The authors], working in collaboration, teach courses on musical theatre performance, style and technique every semester. In these classes, students learn essential fundamentals of stage performance techniques related to musical theatre.

Last year, [the authors] received an Eastern Michigan University CAS Dean's Project Development Initiative Award for their EMU Theatre New Musicals Workshop. This project is designed to create a national, and eventually international competition for new works of musical theatre. Writers and composers from around the country and throughout the world will be invited to submit music and scripts for new musicals. The most innovative and inspiring works will be staged and performed in readings by the EMU Theatre Department, directed by [the authors].

These staged readings will be offered as an EMU musical theatre class (Spring). Students enrolled in this course will participate in virtually every step of the process, from initial readings of scripts and music, to final staged readings at campus venues. The creators of these works will be encouraged to participate in these productions, giving students the extraordinary and unique opportunity to be part of the development of new staged musicals from their inception through performance before an audience.

Additionally, [the authors] will be working with students to produce next season's EMU main stage musical, and many other future EMU musical productions.

All of these classes and student-focused learning opportunities for EMU students require technology to offer real-world musical theatre experience. All professional musical theatre productions use extensive sound reinforcement technology, including wireless microphones, transmitters and receivers, mixing consoles, compression units, sound processing devices, and others.

It is essential for our students to learn to effectively use these sound technology systems, so that they will understand their applications and techniques when they enter the professional world.

To make this possible, we are seeking funding to obtain current-level technology wireless microphones, transmitters, and receivers. These will be used in all of the above listed EMU

classes and student- focused learning environments, providing our students with numerous circumstances to study and become knowledgeable about current musical theatre technology.

We believe that this classroom and stage experience with wireless microphone, transmitter, and receiver technology is critical, and will significantly improve EMU student marketability and preparedness when joining the musical theatre workplace.

Faculty-to-Faculty Collaboration:

This project was conceptualized by [the authors] through previous extensive collaborative experience working with a wide range of EMU classes, performances, and student-focused learning environments. [The authors] will participate in every aspect of implementation and evaluation of this project. There will also be a significant research aspect related to musical theatre, specifically dealing with the question of how musical theatre, a traditional American art form, has been adapted, interpreted and transformed by a wide range of cultures across the United States, and throughout the world.

Collaborations across many disciplines and curricula teaching areas will be possible due to the expansive scope of our projects. Theatre arts development and management, advertising and outreach, communication with international cultures, financial management, ethnomusicological research, and understanding the creative process in theatre are all significant areas of study and research at Eastern Michigan University.

We have already considered production of several works significantly focused on important ethnomusicological issues. Selected new musicals will begin being presented at EMU theatre forums this year.

The collaboration between [the authors] has already lead to a number of significant innovations in teaching and student-focused learning. Advanced theoretical and performance analysis of musical works has been added to a number of EMU classes, and students now have the opportunity to study completely new and evolving works for musical theatre through the CAS Dean's Project Development Initiative awarded to [the authors] last year.

We believe that the next important innovation needed in our classrooms and student-focused learning environments is the addition of theatre technology study and practice. The most critical element of this technology is the utilization of current-level technology wireless microphones, transmitters and receivers.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment:

Student learning outcomes will be the knowledge and experience gained by studying advanced performance technology in the classroom and student-focused learning environments. We

believe that this will strongly enhance our students' potential in the world of professional musical theatre.

Theatre in general has frequently served as a primary vehicle for the expression of cultural experiences and ideals. Musical theatre adds to this expression the rhythmic, harmonic and melodic contributions of musical styles throughout the world.

Assessment of our project in connection with these goals can be measured by the successful integration into classroom and student-focused learning environments of current wireless technology.

All students will be encouraged to individually assess their experiences with the project, and with their interaction with this technology.

It is our intention to promote the use of this wireless technology to the entire theatre area faculty, specifically encouraging faculty connected to all aspects of theatrical sound to benefit from our project.

Specific goals:

- Successful incorporation of wireless technology into our classrooms and student-focused learning environments.
- Positive student feedback on their interaction with technological applications.
- Successful classroom and stage performances of both traditional and outstanding new works for musical theatre, performed by EMU students, utilizing wireless systems effectively.
- Successful dissemination to the entire Eastern Michigan University community of our project's results, through public performances, promotion of wireless technology to other faculty, and through journal publication.

Technology background: (including use of technology in the classroom)

[Author 1] has previously been co-director of the electronic music studio of The Juilliard School, where he taught electronic music technology to Juilliard School graduate students, and was Director of the Juilliard School's Electronic Music Concerts. He has also been an electronic music technology consultant to Casio Corp. and Yamaha Corp., as well as written technological analysis reports on electronic musical instruments for the Yamaha Corp. on behalf of the Juilliard School.

[Author 1] has used a wide range of electronic music technology as part of his university teaching and consulting, including:

Wireless microphones, transmitters and receivers

Synthesizers such as the Korg Triton Pro, Korg X5
Samplers and sample editors
Notation software, including *Finale* and *Sibelius*
ProTools music recording software and hardware

All music for the EMU theatre department's productions of *Hamlet*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Imaginary Invalid*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* were created by [Author 1] using both *Finale* and *ProTools*.

Statement of Commitment:

We are both committed to comply with the conditions of the eFellows Program.

Our preferred methods of dissemination of our project results to the Eastern Michigan University community is through public performances, promotion of wireless technology to other faculty, and through journal publication.

Budget:

Faculty-to-Faculty: Collaborative project between two faculty members.

1. Integrate wireless technology into teaching and student-focused learning through purchase of current-level technology wireless microphones, transmitters and receivers: \$2000
2. Teaching / Learning Evidence / Dissemination Funds \$500

Total = \$2500

BUDGET -- ALSO SUBMITTED THROUGH EMAIL

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Budget

Countryman E6i Omnidirectional Earset (Omni, Vocals, Tan, 2mm), approx. \$400
Sennheiser XSW 52 Headmic Set (A Range: 548-572 MHz), approx. \$450

three sets = approx. \$2500 (approx. \$850 x 3)