

Board Meeting  
March 15, 2017

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF MUSICAL ARTS IN LYRIC THEATRE WITH  
CONCENTRATIONS, COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre with Concentrations, College of Fine and Applied Arts

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish the Bachelor of Musical Arts degree with the major in Lyric Theatre and to establish two concentrations within this program, one in Performance and the other in Creative.

The Bachelor of Musical Arts (BMA) degree, Lyric Theatre major, is an interdisciplinary program for the singer-actor, incorporating training in dance and theatre with music. Students in the major choose from one of two concentrations, Performance or Creative, based on their career aspirations.

The School of Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and works within the curriculum framework of NASM with all programs to maintain accreditation. Based on the percentage of studies in music, opportunity within the

curriculum to study outside the field of music, and featuring of an interdisciplinary approach, the Lyric Theatre curriculum falls into the BMA degree according to NASM guidelines. Since the university does not currently offer a BMA, the proposal seeks to establish both this particular degree and the Lyric Theatre major.

In recent years, sung theatre has been at the forefront of prospective student interest to the School of Music. Sung theatre incorporates many areas of study, including music, theatre, and dance, that will be integrated into the Lyric Theatre major. The proposed program differs from similar programs at other universities. Rather than focusing on a particular style or current industry practices, the BMA in Lyric Theatre will focus on the fundamental vocal skills necessary to build and maintain creativity, flexibility, and wellness, which will give graduates a competitive edge in the sung theatre industry. Students in this program will complete general education requirements, a music core, a lyric theatre core, and coursework for a concentration in either Performance (for those who aspire to be singers, actors, and/or dancers) or in Creative (for those who wish to pursue careers as directors, choreographers, composers, and/or conductors).

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.