

Project Proposal
Recording Studio in the Music Department

Eric Saucke-Lacelle
Music Major

About me:

Before starting my education at Bishop's, I had a career as a competitive ice dancer where I won three National Championships, and twice placed in the top-10 at World Junior Championships. I am about to enter my third year at Bishop's, and am currently the head sound engineer for the music department.

I've been a student at Bishop's for two years now, and I've discovered many great opportunities this school has to offer. I've been told by several world-class performers that Bandeen Hall is one of the best sounding halls they have ever performed in. We have some of the most gifted professors and artists. We are one of the only schools in Canada to offer a Popular Music program. However, we are also one of the only music departments without a recording studio.

Recording is where my interests lie. For the last two years I've been part of a co-op of musicians in Montreal. We shared a rehearsal space, I recorded and engineered the sessions. It was the recording process that made me a better musician. It forced me to work harder, taught me how to listen to my bandmates and feed off of them. The knowledge I acquired during that time also got my band and I out of trouble more than once when the sound-guy didn't show up to the venue in time for our performance... This is an experience I believe every musician should have.

I've been asked by many of my peers to record them and teach them how to record. Unfortunately, we are missing a few key pieces of equipment, which makes the task much more difficult and time consuming.

I have identified the three elements that will complement our current set-up, as well as kick-start our new recording studio.

Budget

Mackie Onyx 1640i Firewire Mixer - \$2149.00

-Used to capture sound from many sources simultaneously

Yamaha HS5 Studio Monitors - \$444.99

-Used for playback during mixing/mastering of the tracks

Acoustic Treatment - \$450

-To be placed inside the Band Room in the basement of the music department.

Helps control volume and eliminate unwanted frequencies during the recording process.

BU Community Benefit

These elements, along with the equipment we already have, will give students the opportunity to record their craft and share it with the world. Dave Grohl from the Foo Fighters said that we should share our craft with everyone we can, because there IS someone out there that wants to hear it. We have so many vehicles at our disposal like Facebook, Soundcloud, Bandcamp...even Toast Radio. Why not promote some of our own! This studio will provide students with the means to be heard.

An other benefit to the project studio is it provides the infrastructure for new courses, and alternative grading material for current courses. In the past, the jazz and rock combo bands were brought to a studio, where they recorded two or three tracks, and it was part of their final grade. Unfortunately budget cuts have prevented us from taking these trips, and I believe have consequently eliminated a vital part of our education as musicians. Kevin Sullivan, prof. of Jazz and Rock Combo, has expressed interest in restarting this form of grading, provided we can get the funds. With this equipment, we can do it right here at school.

As I have previously mentioned, I am not the only student interested in learning more about recording. We will soon be putting in a formal request for a Masterclass on basic recording skills, and perhaps eventually a Record-Engineering course.

Lennoxville Community Benefit

The Musique Chez Nous concert series has not only been an integral part of our education, it has provided entertainment to the Lennoxville community for many years. Recently, we have been hosting larger pop, rock and jazz bands which require more sophisticated equipment than we currently have. This new equipment would expand the musical capabilities of Bandeen, allow us to project the sounds from our instruments while simultaneously recording them. Since the pool of acts from which to choose just got much bigger, we will be able to host artists that could potentially draw in a bigger crowd and additional funds to the department, whether it be through Musique Chez Nous or private bookings.

I really believe that this project will complement our education, make us better musicians, and better people. I've experienced it myself, and I've seen it in everyone I record. It sets new goals, new stepping stones to our careers; teaches us to work together and listen to each other, and brings us together in a way no other department can match. My classmates and I invest countless hours in practicing our instruments for performances. All we need now is a way to capture that moment.