

PILOT STUDY

EXPERT, GUEST ARTIST EDUCATION EXPERIENCES FOR MUSIC STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

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ABSTRACT

Many Universities have opportunities to work with guest and visiting artists of every musical genre and instrumentation. The University of Alaska Fairbanks, mainly because of the extreme distance between peer and aspirational universities, does not often host a visiting artist.

We wanted to gather data on how UAF music majors, students, and community members and Fairbanks high school students would respond to a visiting artist.

Vijay Singh, currently on faculty at Central Washington University, has visited Fairbanks in the past. He has presented at UAF Jazz Fest and the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. Mr. Singh is also versed in several genres of music from jazz to choral and composition.

After a performance by Vijay Singh on Saturday, April 28, we will survey attendees to garner data on how the performance was received. Our hope is that Fairbanks will grow and flourish from visiting artists and such visits will become common at UAF.

INTRODUCTION

Outside Alaska, professional musicians frequently respond to expressed need by stopping, teaching and performing at nationwide university music programs largely because of geographical convenience between closely situated metropolises. However, UAF remains a destination and not a stopping point. Therefore, instructive visits from professional performers are usually limited to large venues such as our Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra visits (three soloists per academic year). Fairbanks Concert Association visits (one-two visits per year); UAF Jazz Festival visits (three-four per year); and UAF New Music Festival visits (one visit per year). Other university music programs, including UAF's current peer and aspirational peer institutions, benefit from more numerous visits by professional, traveling performers/educators.

The purpose of this pilot project is to generate and collect data for future submission to major granting institutions (National Endowment for the Arts; Alaska State Council on the Arts; and others). The design of this pilot project focuses on assessing interest and benefit to determine feasibility, and to quantify logistical support needs for a guest artist/scholar series in the UAF Department of Music.

METHODS

The methodology of the pilot study is to invite one guest artist to visit UAF for the purpose of conducting master classes, providing public school outreach opportunities, instructing private lessons, giving a public performance. The research component of the pilot is to generate and collect data for future funding proposals. We plan to measure and document the strength of interest among constituencies while examining the benefits for students, the public, and university personnel. Instruments for assessment include surveys designed in alignment with best practices from the research base using Likert scales and open-ended responses. This will establish baseline data, including testimonials, that are intended to be incorporated into future funding proposals leading ultimately, to a guest artist series that could contribute to improved retention and graduation rates for B.A., B.M., and M.A. music majors in addition to enhanced recruiting efforts for both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Survey for Concert Attendees

Demographics: Please select one: Under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+.

How did you hear about the concert?

Experience: Overall, the concert was a professional level performance. Liked that the concert highlighted the expertise of the performer(s). The concert offered a balance of different musical genres. Have heard Vijay Singh in concert before. Have heard Barney McClure in concert before.

Advertising: Found the concert was appealing and inviting. The article is likely to be quoted in my section. Found more advertising about these visiting artists. Especially have a preference for the concert location.

Leading Impressions: Think Fairbanks would benefit from additional concerts. Would return for another similar concert. Visiting guest artists are important to UAF music students.

Survey for High School Students

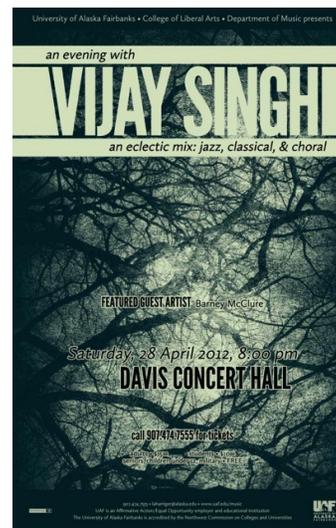
Demographics: Gender: Male, Female. Age: 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, 100+. Years in High School: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Major Class: Music, Non-Music. High School: North Pole, Fairbanks, Central, South Pole, Other (Specify). Instrument: Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano, Percussion, Other (Specify).

Experience: Overall, the experience only contributed to my learning. Give an overall additional help. Liked the workshop highlighted the expertise of the artist. The entire guest program that I feel are available in my own performance.

Leading Impressions (Workshop): I would like more opportunities for similar artists to work with my class.

Concert Experience: I would like to attend at UAF one day. I would like to attend at UAF one day. I would like to attend at UAF one day. I would like to attend at UAF one day. I would like to attend at UAF one day.

Leading Impressions (Concert): Think Fairbanks would benefit from additional concerts. Would return for another similar concert.



GUEST ARTIST

Vijay Singh is an active performer, composer, teacher, conductor, and clinician residing in Ellensburg, Washington where he is Professor of Music at Central Washington University. A graduate of Willamette University (B.M. Ed/Clarinet & Voice) and Portland State University (Masters in Choral Conducting/Vocal Performance), he has been rapidly gaining international attention for his eclectic musical compositions, performances, workshops, and conducting experiences. Vijay's teaching experiences have included work at public secondary schools, community college, and at university levels. He currently teaches voice, choral arranging, jazz pedagogy, directs the University Chorale, and award-winning CWU Vocal Jazz 1, and oversees the vocal jazz program (three jazz choirs). Vijay's student ensembles at CWU have been honored as some of the finest in the nation with invitations to perform at prestigious national IAJE, MENC, and ACDA conventions. Vocal Jazz 1 has been selected and will perform at the national ACDA conference in Chicago, IL March 11, 2011. As a composer, Vijay writes for all levels in both the classical choral and jazz idioms. His compositions (over 170 currently in print) are widely available from a number of publishers and he often writes on commission for some of North America's finest ensembles. Vijay's "MASS with Orchestra" received it's world premiere at Lincoln Center in New York City May 30th, 2011. An active performer, Vijay has appeared as featured bass-baritone soloist with such notable groups as Male Ensemble Northwest, Choral Cross Ties, the Oregon Symphony, the Robert Shaw Chorale, David Byrne (Talking Heads), Clark Terry, the Disciples of Groove, and as a member of the award-winning acappella jazz quartet Just 4 Kicks. He has appeared in professional opera and musical theatre productions, and maintains an active career in oratorio, recital, and contemporary music. Vijay served 4 years as the National Repertoire and Standards Chair for Jazz Choirs in the American Choral Director's Association and is in demand as a guest conductor of All-State and Honors choirs. He has conducted All-State choirs in over nineteen states and has the distinction of conducting both All-State Concert Choirs and Jazz Choirs within the same year. Vijay has served as adjudicator/jurist at international festivals in Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United States. The recent recipient of a tenth ASCAP Composer's Award, Vijay is also a member of ACDA, MENC, ASCAP, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

RESULTS

This study is in progress. Upon data collection and analysis, we will draft the results section.

CONCLUSIONS

This study is in progress. Upon completion of the results section, we will draft the conclusion section.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special Thanks to:

Anita Hartmann for the opportunity and grant to make this idea a success.
Dr. Eduard Zilberkant for supplementary funds and interest in the growth of music students.
Dr. Gary Laursen for your assistance in the preliminary writing stages.
UAF CMENC (Collegiate Music Educators National Conference) for supplementary funds to honor our guest artists.
Vijay Singh for traveling to Fairbanks and making our project and reality.
Barney McClure for returning to Fairbanks to make our concert spectacular.