

*Blueprint for Quality Enhancement at
USC*

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FY 08

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL VERSION

5/1/08

I. Vision, Mission and Goals

A. Executive Summary

1. VISION

The vision of the School of Music at USC is to be the Southeast's premier public university music school for the preparation of tomorrow's professional musicians and to be a national leader for improving the lives of Americans through music.

2. MISSION

Music is an essential component of the human experience. The University of South Carolina School of Music exists to transform lives through excellence in music teaching, performance, creative activities, research, and service. Toward these ends, the school endeavors to meet five tenets:

- *prepare musicians for professional careers and leadership in music teaching, performance, composition, research, and related fields*
- *serve as a cultural and educational center of excellence for the State of South Carolina and the nation*
- *generate research and other creative activities in music that have local, national, and international impact*
- *provide meaningful music experiences for all University students through courses designed to foster an awareness of the role of music in society*
- *enhance the University of South Carolina's commitment to become one of the finest public universities in America*

3. HOW THE VISION STATEMENT IS COMPATIBLE WITH MISSION:

The USC School of Music is a collection of roughly 50 faculty, 20 staff, several buildings of appropriate facilities, and numerous other resources whose charge is to educate students in music and to provide musical experiences, knowledge, and skills to all who encounter its endeavors. It has existed to serve the musical and educational needs of the populace of the state of South Carolina since 1924.

Between 1973-1994 the school's status and quality achievements emerged significantly, its growth evidenced today in two ways. First, the School of Music stands as an emblem of musical excellence for South Carolina and the Southeast. Secondly, it is the home of distinctive educational assets for persons who wish to lead musical activities of all kinds in their communities of choice throughout the United States and the world.

Since 1994, strategic accomplishments have been realized by the School and its faculty and students to secure a national reputation for the School, including such model programs for musical leadership as the USC String Project, the Children's Musical Development Center, the Congaree New Horizons Band, The Center for

Southern African-American Music, the Conductor's Institute, the Piano Pedagogy On-Line Forum, enviable ensemble programs in orchestra, band, and choir, and numerous outstanding degree programs across a wide array of music specialties.

As the mission of the School has evolved in recent years to include tasks associated with "leading" as well as "preparing," and as the School has attained a fine measure of success with these new tasks, the vision of the School must now feature this aspect of musical training and achievement in full focus, with the significant goal of being the premier institution for such not only in our region, but beyond as well.

4. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STANDING OF VISION AND MISSION

As articulated above, the USC School of Music is meeting its mission to a very significant extent. The unit is highly respected in the Columbia metro area, throughout the State of South Carolina and across the US for both its daily and its annual contributions to music as indicated in the five tenets of the mission statement.

The School has accomplished a great deal of success with both preparing musical leaders and with developing its own reputation as a leader as well. Much, however, remains to be explored with this aspiration. To do so more fully, the faculty and students of the School must:

- *engage in more focused research and practice on the use of technologies in music making and understanding*
- *discover and implement strategies and methodologies for expressing, through demonstration of their own musical talents, music's vital place in the lives of Americans*
- *investigate both curricular and extra-curricular activities for students to gain knowledge and skills concerning their own needs to formulate future professional careers in music*

5. ENUMERATION OF GOALS

GOAL 1. The School of Music will enhance the quality of and environment for teaching and learning in the School.

GOAL 2. The School of Music will enhance the recruitment and admission, of outstanding students.

GOAL 3. The School of Music will enhance its visibility.

GOAL 4. The School of Music will expand its scope of instruction, experiences, and engagement for developing musical leaders from its student body and faculty and staff in an effort to improve the lives of citizens through music.