

Sabbatical Report

By

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(for a Sabbatical Leave taken during Spring, 2020)

INTRODUCTION

With a deep gratitude extended to the sabbatical leave committee, which approved my leave, and to the administrative staff at Moorpark College, I was able to enjoy my sabbatical leave during the spring semester of 2020 for the second time in my 30-year tenure at Moorpark College. I tried to stay true to the original proposals as presented to the sabbatical committee as much as possible, but the unforeseen events that affected everyone throughout the world certainly dampened and restricted very much of my ability to fulfill and to achieve these goals.

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has certainly changed everything, but thankfully I was able to complete at least one of the objectives, and that was to write a Zero Cost Textbook for the Music Fundamentals course (MUS M01 – Music Fundamentals). Now, this newly completed Zero Cost Textbook is being fully utilized during this fall semester, 2020 in all MUS M01 sections at Moorpark College. The second objective was to travel to various destinations throughout Europe, particularly to Germany, to continue to gather historical materials to support our Music History students. I am happy to report that I was able to accomplish one of these objectives during my leave, in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns.

STATUS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

Proposal 1 - During the Spring 2020 semester, as part of my effort to build Zero Cost Textbook for our Music Fundamentals students, I will work on gathering materials, compiling home works, worksheets, and activity materials to serve our students in these classes. Since learning musical notation for pitches and rhythm, as well as learning about scales, intervals, and chords as part of the fundamentals of music would be akin to learning a new language, building these home works, activities, etc. will be a very time consuming project. I hope to offer Zero Cost Textbook to our Music Fundamentals students starting in the fall, 2020.

During the Covid-19 situation during the spring, 2020, I was able to focus on this objective as I had more time at home to write this textbook. And, I am happy to report that the textbook was completed as proposed. Music Fundamentals (MUS M01) students were paying more than one-hundred dollars for their textbooks in the past for this class. But, for the first time, that I can recall during my tenure at Moorpark College, our students are fully benefitting from using this Zero Cost Textbook during this fall semester of 2020. All the quizzes, assignments, lessons, activity

materials, worksheets, etc. have been integrated into the textbook, and the current MUS M01 students are using this precious resource with Zero Cost to them.

Some of the feedbacks have been very positive from our appreciative students. I am very confident that the overall improvements in their comprehension of the materials and their test scores, even in this completely online Distance Education setting, are some of the indications that this project has positively impacted their overall learning experience. With some little adjustments, this textbook will be used again in the spring semester, 2021, and beyond.

Status – Completed!

Proposal 2 - Also, as part of this sabbatical leave proposal, I would like to travel to various places in Europe to collect and gather research information that are directly related to the Music History. Particularly, the year 2020 will be an important anniversary year all throughout Germany, especially in Bonn, where Beethoven was born. It will mark the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth, and the commemoration performance, exhibits, etc. will take place all throughout the year. To be a part of this celebration will be very exciting, and that experience will certainly add to my repertoire as I deliver the materials for Music History classes. Our music students know that I am a great admirer of Beethoven, and adding this component to my delivery will most definitely add to the course content.

Sadly, I was not able to fulfill this objective as the global pandemic situation made it impossible to travel as scheduled. Originally, I had made travel plans which included trips to Bonn, Berlin, Vienna, and other destinations as part of the 250th anniversary of birth of Beethoven, but they had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation.

Status – Incomplete!

CONCLUSION

This sabbatical leave will always have an asterisk associated with it, as the unprecedented Covid-19 has deeply impacted our lives, and it has certainly skewed my plans to fulfill the objectives as proposed. But, in spite of this unforeseen situation, I have been able to complete a textbook that has proven to be very beneficial for our students in the Music Fundamentals course. God has given me strength and wisdom to write this textbook and for that I am very thankful.

In closing, I would like to thank the sabbatical leave committee, my colleagues in the Music Program and the Performing Arts Division, and all the faculty, staff, and the administration at Moorpark College, the district and the board members, for allowing me to have this incredible gift of a sabbatical leave during spring, 2020.