



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 388-3300

October 2, 2003

Lee E. Berk, President  
Berklee College of Music  
1140 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02215

Dear President Berk:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Program Approval team please accept our sincere appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to us by Berklee College of Music during the August 13-14, 2003 program approval visit.

The team notes with particular gratitude the assistance provided before and during the visit by Mr. John Hagon, Chair of Music Education and Visit Coordinator.

Enclosed please find the team report. The College response to recommendations should be submitted to the Department by December 15, 2003. We encourage that careful consideration be given to suggestions included in the report which are offered to strengthen the music education program at Berklee College. If needed, additional time may be requested to prepare the response.

Best wishes for continued success at the Berklee College of Music.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret L. Cassidy".

Margaret L. Cassidy, Ed. D.  
State Coordinator for Program Approval  
Office of Educator Preparation in Higher Education

C: Robert Myers, Associate Vice President, Institutional Assessment  
Lawrence McClellan, Dean, Professional Education  
John Hagon, Chair, Music Education  
Barry Low, Team Chair  
Michael Boday, Team Member

**Program Approval Team Report of the  
Music Education Program**

**at**

**Berklee College of Music  
Boston, MA**

**August 13 and 14, 2003**

*Prepared by Barry Low, Bedford Public Schools, Team Chair*

**Team Report of the Review of the Music Education Program  
at Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA  
August 13 and 14, 2003**

**I. Program Approval Team Members**

The following were members of the program approval team for Berklee College of Music:

Chair: Barry Low, Bedford Public Schools, K-12 Music Program Director

Michael J. Boday, North Smithfield RI Public Schools, Teacher of Music: Generalist and Instrumental

State Coordinator: Margaret L. Cassidy, MA Department of Education

**II. Program Reviewed**

The team reviewed the following program submitted for approval by Berklee College of Music:

Baccalaureate level, Teacher of Music: Vocal/Instrumental/General, All Levels

**III. Program Standards**

The team reviewed the program in light of the *Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval*, and the *Guidelines for Approval of PreK-12 Education Preparation Programs* for the following components:

Preparation in Subject Matter Knowledge and Professional Knowledge

Pre-practicum

Assessment of Performance during Practica

Appropriate Advising Services

Maintenance of Records and Transcripts of Candidates

Annual Reporting Requirements

**IV. Commendations, Recommendations, and Professional Suggestions**

Upon the review of the Berklee College of Music self study documents, and materials provided on site, and after interviews with students, faculty, and administrators, the team offers the following commendations, recommendations, and professional suggestions.

### **The Team Commends Berklee College of Music:**

~ For undertaking of and successfully implementing "Preparing Teachers to Use Technology" (PT3), the technology grant. The team believes that students in the Music Education Division, and the Berklee College community will benefit from this successful initiative.

~ For the integration in PT3 of non-music curricula e. g., art, history.

~ For substantial pre-practicum experiences that exceed state licensure requirements, and. provide students with a variety of opportunities before beginning their student teaching.

~ For observations by College supervisors during practica. Students expressed appreciation for faculty's commitment to weekly visits to their practicum sites.

~ For Berklee's commitment to preparing students for the Massachusetts Teacher Test beginning the second semester of their college experience.

~ For the Music Education curriculum delivered by distinguished full and part-time faculty.

~ For opportunities the Berklee College of Music faculty have for professional development.

And finally, the team believed that students interviewed could well serve as ambassadors for the Music Education program. They were enthusiastic and positive about their experiences in an excellent and rigorous program.

### **The Team Recommends:**

~ That Berklee College of Music submit a plan to address the consistent and ongoing need for advising Music Education students. Given the intensity of the music education program and the importance of students' completing required courses in a proper sequence, this deficiency needs immediate and long range planning.

~ That official College documents, e. g., for recruitment, admission, and advising, and the Catalog/Bulletin include full disclosure of the 130-132 semester hour requirement for the Music Education program. Include language that discusses the likelihood that more than four years is needed to complete licensure and degree requirements at Berklee College of Music.

~ That matrices in the self-study document be corrected to reflect how the Professional Standards for Teachers are addressed in music education required courses.

~ That evidence be submitted of collaboration between Music Education and Liberal Arts Faculty for program planning, implementation and evaluation. Include meeting agenda and minutes in all state annual reports.

**Professional Suggestions:**

~ Reexamine the sequence of required courses, giving particular attention to semesters with more than sixteen credit hours. Give special attention to students' need to devote full concentration to student teaching during the last semester.

~ Consider establishing a symphonic wind ensemble, symphony and orchestra, and all-college chorus, given the concern voiced by students about a lack of ensemble experiences.

~ Consider music education students' use of portfolios, which are now required for interviews by many school districts.

~ Remove or reduce any consideration given to class attendance for the final grade in required course work.

## **V. Individuals Interviewed**

### **Students:**

Michael Bunting  
Ashley Melidosian  
Jason Squinobal  
Marianne Solivan

### **Administrators, Faculty, and Staff**

Peter Cokkinias, Professor, Music Education Department  
John Hagon, Chair, Music Education Department, Visit Coordinator  
Stefani Langol, PT3 Grant Consultant  
David Mash, Vice President for Information Technology  
Lawrence McCellan, Jr., Dean, Professional Education Division  
Robert Myers, Associate Vice President for Institutional Assessment  
Sara Regan, Director, Counseling and Advising Center  
Nalora Steele, Associate Professor, Music Education Department  
Wayne Ward, Professor, Music Education Department