January 9, 2004

Professor James A. Remnier
Chair, Department of Music
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Dear Professor Remnier:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its November meetings gave careful consideration to materials concerning new curricula submitted by Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

The Commission voted to accept the response and grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree program:

Bachelor of Arts in Music.

The Commission commends the institution for the quality of its application.

With best wishes and cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:ws

cc: Robert R. Furgason, President
    Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Karen L. Wolff, President, NASM
    Don Gibson, Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
    Jon Piersol, Associate Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
January 10, 2003

Professor James A. Renner
Chair, Department of Music
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5599

Dear Professor Renner:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its November meetings gave careful consideration to the application for renewal of Membership submitted by Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

The Commission voted to approve the application and continue the institution in good standing with the following degree listing:

Bachelor of Music in Performance.
Bachelor of Music (Teacher Certification).

Plan Approved:

Bachelor of Arts in Music.

The next NASM evaluation for reaccreditation is scheduled for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The Commission requests a progress report addressing the following concerns:

1. The Commission concurs with the observation of the visitors that students in the music unit would benefit from the presence of a faculty member with expertise in choral conducting. The institution is asked to give careful consideration to this issue, and provide information concerning the results of its deliberation. Ideally, the report will provide a plan with timetable for such an appointment (see NASM Handbook 2001-2002, pages 60-61, items I.E.1. and 2.).

2. The Commission asks the institution to clarify its intent with respect to the degree, Bachelor of Arts in Music. The Self-Study indicates that “faculty perceive that the greatest strength of the BA degree is its solid grounding in the true liberal arts tradition of the University,” and, quite laudably, is studying ways to “extend the liberal arts approach more fully” (see Self-Study, page 46).

At the same time, however, the Catalogue (page 107) refers to the Bachelor of Arts degree as “a liberal arts degree that is appropriate for students who aspire to careers in arts management and marketing, music technology, musicology … or as instructors in … music studies.” This latter statement seems at odds with the former. The institution is asked to refer to NASM operational standards regarding published materials (see NASM Handbook 2001-2002, page 66, item II.J.).
The Commission suggests that if the mission statement in the Catalogue began with a version of the second sentence and continued with an amended version of the first sentence, then the Catalogue statement would be consistent with the goals outlined in the Self-Study. Such a statement might read as follows: "The Bachelor of Arts in Music is a desirable degree for those who wish to study music within a traditional liberal arts framework. The degree is appropriate for students who wish to engage in studies in arts management and marketing,..." etc.

The progress report should clarify the music unit's intent and include a proposed revised text for the Catalogue.

3. The Commission notes the visitors' comments regarding the apparent lack of instrumental methods classes for students enrolled in the degree, Bachelor of Music with Teacher Certification (see NASM Visitors' Report, page 9). The institution is reminded of the NASM standard indicating that "functional performance abilities in instruments appropriate to the student's teaching specialization are...essential" (see NASM Handbook 2001-2002, page 94, item VIII.3.b.[3]; Approved Revisions to the NASM Handbook 2001-2002 [November 2002], page 5, item VIII.3.b.[3]). A copy of the revisions to the Handbook approved in November 2002 is enclosed for your reference.

The progress report should clarify how this standard is being met in both the choral and instrumental certification tracks.

The progress report should be submitted by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2003.

A copy of the NASM Visitors' Report is enclosed, along with a document outlining procedures for submitting the progress report.

The Commission also voted to defer action on the request for Final Approval for Listing for the degree, Bachelor of Arts in Music, pending receipt of three transcripts accompanying an application for Final Approval for Listing. The three transcripts should reflect the work of students who have graduated from the degree (see NASM Handbook 2001-2002, Rules of Practice and Procedure, page 38, Article VI).

The transcripts and application for Final Approval for Listing should be submitted by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2003. A copy of the NASM document Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula is enclosed for your convenience.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff for further clarification, information, or assistance in responding to issues raised by the Commission.

The institution is highly commended for its excellent Self-Study and for its substantive Optional Response that reported accomplishments with jurisdictional issues regarding maintenance and operations budgets, meeting needs for accompanists, acquiring additional classroom space, improving the
acoustical environment in the choral rehearsal room, acquiring significant new computer hardware and software, implementing an audition procedure as part of entry requirements, funding and a long-range plan for library acquisitions, and increasing the scholarship budget.

This action is taken upon review of Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi according to accreditation standards in effect in November of 2002. As a member of NASM, the institution is responsible for participating in all revisions and additions to the standards as well as maintaining its curricular programs in music current with NASM standards as these are developed.

Please accept our congratulations on behalf of the Association.

With best wishes and cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

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Enclosure

c:  Robert R. Furgason, President
    Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
    David Tomatz, President, NASM
    Don Gibson, Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
    Jon Piersol, Associate Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
    James Richard Joiner, NASM Visitor
    David A. Milburn, NASM Visitor