

Instructional Related Activities  
Report Form

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| SPONSOR             | DEPARTMENT                     |
| <b>Steven Marsh</b> | <b>Performing Arts - Music</b> |

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| ACTIVITY TITLE  | DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY  |
| <b>JAZZ performance/demo series, featuring vocalist Dr. Cynthia Felton.</b> | <b>Sept. 23, 2015</b> |

PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY;

**THIS EVENT WAS MY PAMU 330 JAZZ IN AMERICA COURSE'S FIRST IN-CLASS IRA-FUNDED CONCERT FOR THE FALL '15 SEMESTER. THE EVENT TOOK PLACE DURING OUR CLASSTIME, AND OTHER CI STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY ALSO DROPPED BY TO EXPERIENCE THE PRESENTATION. OUR FABULOUS GUEST VOCALIST DR. CYNTHIA FELTON SANG CLASSIC SONGS FROM THE JAZZ MUSIC REPERTOIRE, AND IN HER SPOKEN INTRODUCTIONS TO EACH SONG, CYNTHIA GAVE THE STUDENTS SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SONG'S COMPOSER AND ORIGINAL RECORDING. DR. CYNTHIA FELTON WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF L.A. FINEST JAZZ MUSICIANS, INCLUDING JOSH SKLAIR, WHO SPENT 25 YEARS AS GUITARIST AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR WITH THE LEGENDARY ETTA JAMES.**

**DR. FELTON DIRECTED A CALL AND RESPONSE "SCAT SINGING" EXERCISE WITH OUR STUDENTS. THAT WENT REALLY WELL. EVEN THE STUDENTS WHO WERE INITIALLY VERY SHY ABOUT SINGING – ENDED UP PARTICIPATING AND HAVING FUN WITH JAZZ SCAT SINGING! YOU WILL SEE IN THE PHOTOS BELOW THAT MANY STUDENTS CAME ON STAGE TO PARTICIPATE IN SINGING SOME JAZZY IMPROVISED VOCAL SOLOS.**

**OUR STUDENTS WERE ALSO ABLE TO INTERACT**

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S);

**FOR OUR FIRST TUNE (I ALSO PERFORMED ON SAXOPHONE) THE RHYTHM SECTION DEMONSTRATED SOME OF THE SPECIFIC JAZZ MUSIC TECHNIQUES THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN CLASS. AS YOU'LL READ IN THE STUDENTS' COMMENTS ATTACHED BELOW, STUDENTS LEARN A LOT MORE ABOUT THIS MUSIC BY SEEING IT PERFORMED LIVE – AS OPPOSED TO ONLY SEEING THE TECHNIQUES BEING DEMONSTRATED ON YOUTUBE OR ON DVDs.**

**DR. FELTON DESIGNED HER SET LIST AROUND THE LEGENDARY FEMALE VOCALISTS WE HAD JUST BEEN STUDYING IN OUR CLASS – BILLIE HOLIDAY AND ELLA FITZGERALD. CYNTHIA'S PRESENTATION ALSO FOCUSED ON THE GREAT JAZZ COMPOSER WHOM WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING, SUCH AS THE GREAT DUKE ELLINGTON.**

**IN OUR QUEST TO IMPROVE “WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM”, MY STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE A MULTI-PAGE REPORT ABOUT THIS IRA EXPERIENCE. IN THESE REPORTS, THE STUDENTS WRITE ABOUT THE INSIGHTS THAT THEY GAINED DURING THE PRESENTATION AND THEY WRITE ABOUT THEIR REACTIONS AND FEELINGS ABOUT THE MUSIC THAT WAS PERFORMED.**

**AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.**

**THIS IS MY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER OF TEACHING OUR JAZZ IN AMERICA CLASS. EVERY TIME THAT I PRESENT ONE OF THESE HIGH QUALITY MUSICAL EVENTS FOR OUR MUSIC COURSES, I AM REMINDED THAT OUR STUDENTS VERY MUCH VALUE THESE CONCERTS. SEEING THE MUSIC PERFORMED LIVE IS A VASTLY SUPERIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS, AND IT ADDS SO MUCH TO THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF OUR COURSES.**



**DR. CYNTHIA FELTON (FAR RIGHT) ENGAGING OUR STUDENTS  
IN SOME SCAT SINGING FUN!**



**L – R: KENNY ELLIOTT: DRUMS, ADRIAN ROSEN: BASS, DR. CYNTHIA FELTON:  
VOCALS, JOSH SKLAIR: GUITAR.**



9/23/2015 – Malibu Hall #140

(Student survey results attached below.)

3. How did you hear about this activity?

| # | Answer  | Bar  | Response | %   |
|---|---|--|----------|-----|
| 1 | Instructor                                      |  | 23       | 96% |
| 2 | Word of mouth                                   |  | 0        | 0%  |
| 3 | Facebook announcement or posting                |  | 0        | 0%  |
| 4 | csuci.edu website                               |   | 1        | 4%  |
| 5 | Flyer/ Poster                                   |  | 0        | 0%  |
| 6 | CI newsletter or publication- if so, which one? |  | 0        | 0%  |
| 7 | Campus Quad app                                 |  | 0        | 0%  |
|   | Total   |  | 24       |     |

CI newsletter or publication- if so, which one?

| Statistic          | Value |
|--------------------|-------|
| Min Value          | 1     |
| Max Value          | 4     |
| Mean               | 1.13  |
| Variance           | 0.38  |
| Standard Deviation | 0.61  |
| Total Responses    | 24    |

4. Rate your overall satisfaction with this activity- 1 being lowest, and 10 being the highest score.

| #  | Answer | Bar   | Response | %   |
|----|--------|---|----------|-----|
| 1  | 1      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 2  | 2      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 3  | 3      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 4  | 4      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 5  | 5      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 6  | 6      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 7  | 7      |  | 1        | 4%  |
| 8  | 8      |   | 0        | 0%  |
| 9  | 9      |  | 7        | 29% |
| 10 | 10     |  | 16       | 67% |
|    | Total  |   | 24       |     |

| Statistic          | Value |
|--------------------|-------|
| Min Value          | 7     |
| Max Value          | 10    |
| Mean               | 9.58  |
| Variance           | 0.51  |
| Standard Deviation | 0.72  |
| Total Responses    | 24    |

5. What do you consider the positives/ strengths of this activity?

**Text Response**

learning how to feel the music and incorporating those feelings in order to scat sing. it is hard at first but once you feel the music it makes it easier to scat and feed off the band.  
very interactive

the band not only played for us and explained how this fit into our class but they also were willing to answer any questions that we had. And they were very interactive with us which made the experience so much better.

Instead of learning only from the book we got to hear the different instruments and styles live. I gained a much better understanding from seeing and hearing what we have been learning from a live performance.

What I found most amazing about the concert was how it seemed to be unrehearsed and spontaneous - although, of course, I'm sure self-preparations were done. That said, the lack of rehearsal and spontaneity provided a clear understanding of the nature of jazz. It was pure entertainment.

- actual jazz musicians - great representation of course material - highly entertaining and yet enriching

It was an appropriate introduction to the jazz form for those of us who know little to nothing about this music genre. I enjoyed the interaction the audience was able to have with the musicians. They involved us in their performance and answered questions.

This activity gives us a "real life" example which I believe is better or enhances learning better than studying from a book or recording.

The fact that we got to listen to amazingly talented and successful jazz musicians play music for us live is a positive enough. Being able to experience an event like that in such a private setting was awesome.

Describing music in a purely theoretical way robs it of that which makes it worth studying. Even after hundreds of years, musical notation is still not precise enough to articulate every aspect of a song. The only way to really understand how structures relate to the actual emotions music can generate is to have music played and those structures explained simultaneously. Doing so live allows for instant feedback and demonstration that would be otherwise unavailable through recorded mediums.

The performer encouraged us to improvise in the jazz style along to songs that were made up on the spot.

The opportunity to see top notch los angeles studio musicians

The positives were really enjoying the music and learning first hand about the material. The negative was that the building was hot so it wasn't very comfortable.

The interactiveness, as well as the knowledge & know-how of all the musicians that performed for us.

Having the concert in-class was a strength because we were the only class in attendance, which gave us the complete experience.

The positive of this activity was just getting to see a performance live. It is one thing to read about drum solos and scatt singing but it is another thing to actually hear it in person, it offers a deeper level of understanding. Another strength was just being able to have an example of the things I read about like the different chords and riff bass blues melodies.

I consider the positive part in this activity to be being able listen to the music live which gives me a better prospective of each style and solo being performed and the strengths of this activity was being able to see first hand the emotions going through each performer as they went on playing or singing

Seeing the music live helps visualize the lessons we have learned up to this point.

The band was very interactive with the audience. The vocalist, Cynthia Felton, invited some audience members to the stage and try to do some scat singing. Furthermore, the band performed phenomenally together as a whole.

Interaction and Q&A

Instead of a lecture about jazz, the students got to experience real, live jazz. We were able to take the things we have been learning about in our text and hear them. Another strength was the hands on nature of this performance. The vocalist pulled students from the audience and had them practice scat singing, which is a technique we have been learning about. Not only did we get to witness the music, we got to be a part of it.

Being able to hear techniques was most positive.

It really helped me understand better the different strategies used when playing jazz, helped me better understand how scat singing works, and the music was amazing.

Students were able to witness first hand everything that had learn in the course. The activity gave a live example and made the content of the course clear.

| Statistic       | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Responses | 24    |

6. Were there any weaknesses of this activity? (If not, leave blank.)

| Text Response  |
|--|
| Just time, we really only covered about 5 songs and there seemed to be more we could have gained insight from. |
| - just that the PA was a little too far forward  |
| I wish the performance had included a piano.   |
| The size of the ensemble was somewhat small, which limited the amount of musical voices they could portray.    |
| I think we could employ more musicians for these demonstrations  |
| The activity did not have any weaknesses.  |

| Statistic       | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Responses | 6     |

7. Suggestions or comments for future activities?

| Text Response   |
|---|
| these are great activities that are small enough where i was able to really focus and watch each musician perform at different times. they are very beneficial and it was fun at the same time. Cynthia was great. please allow her to come back!                       |
| continue same   |
| More concerts for all students to enjoy would be awesome!!  |
| School has been a tough go for me so far do to of a lot work and the passing of my grandfather. This concert was fun, informative, and challenged us to participate. I am thankful because for a moment I got to forget about my hardships and have fun while learning. |
| - move the PA speakers towards the back of the room   |
| The only suggestion I have is to keep activities like this going. It was very enjoyable and it helped me apply what I had learned from lecture.   |
| I am excited for more!!! I cannot wait for the next one.  |
| It may be worth seeking the assistance of on campus music majors to diversify events such as these.   |
| N/A   |
| More of these fun concerts! They really are a blast.  |
| Continue to provide opportunities/showcases like this for students because the ability to experience live music like this is unparalleled!  |
| Maybe dimming the lights (if that is possible; not sure if it impacts playing ability) to maybe give use that jazzy groove feeling.   |
| I like this kind of activity! I really enjoyed the audience participation in the music.   |
| Bringing back the people that played and sang would be great as they are amazing musicians and they explained things very well.   |

| Statistic       | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Responses | 14    |

8. Which course(s) that you are currently taking did this activity relate to?

| Text Response                  |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| I am taking PAMU 330           |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz in America PAMU 330       |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| PAMU 330 - Jazz in America     |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| PAMU 330 - Jazz in America     |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| jazz in america                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Jazz In America                |       |
| PAMU 330-01 - Jazz in America  |       |
| PAMU 330 which is a Jazz class |       |
| Jazz In America                |       |
| PAMU 330- Jazz in America      |       |
| History of Jazz                |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Pamu 330-01                    |       |
| Jazz in America-01             |       |
| Jazz in America                |       |
| Statistic                      | Value |
| Total Responses                | 24    |

9. How did this activity relate to the content and/or learning outcomes of the courses that you are taking?

| Text Response  |  |
|--|--|
| it shows how jazz musicians can improvise, and it also shows the dynamic of these musicians and how they can feed off of each other and make a great performance.  |  |
| It exemplified the types of music and techniques about which we have been learning in class.   |  |
| The band performed everything that we have been learning about and even new things that we will be learning about. The vocalist even taught us more about the history of jazz as well  |  |
| The played instruments we have reviewed. As well as songs and styles   |  |
| It was a live jazz concert that assisted in making our lessons in class more tangible with respect to sound and communication through sound.   |  |
| It was a live representation of the material covered in class, even going so far as to include most if not all of the students in the class in actual jazz improvisation.  |  |
| The musicians performed jazz songs and engaged us, the audience, helping us appreciate and better understand the construction and layers of the music, as well as the feeling that goes into the production of it.   |  |
| This activity related to what we are learning in our course by showing us how certain jazz styles are performed and what they sound like. It also allowed for us to see first hand how musicians communicate musically which is something that we are learning in our class as well.                       |  |
| We got to hear amazing live musicians play the music that we have been learning about in class. They played tunes that were either the exact songs we have been studying and learning about, or they played songs to show us different types of jazz collaborations.                                       |  |
| The concert put into practice many of the theories and structures we had studied. It is for example, one thing to learn the structure of a song, and another to have musicians point it out to you, put it into practice, and use the audience to clarify wherein a real song that structure can be found. |  |
| The performer brought in to sing for us was a jazz singer and sang in that style. She also encouraged us to do the same thing.   |  |
| live jazz concert  |  |
| Perfectly, it really demonstrated the different types of music.  |  |
| It provided a first-hand experience to LIVE Jazz music!  |  |
| Learning and recognizing jazz music and the instruments/vocals involved. Getting a visual of the instruments and keys and melodies was a great experience in my learning about a new music genre.  |  |
| The aim of Jazz in America is to study jazz throughout the ages and understand the development of different jazz styles and attending this concert allowed for me to understand different jazz techniques and listen to the musical style firsthand.   |  |
| This activity related to the listening skills of how each song is performed as well as each style that was being used.   |  |
| It showed all of the theory and history we've been learning in a live performance setting.   |  |
| It helped myself along with my classmates become more familiar with the different styles of jazz music. In addition, this concert was also helpful in listening for rhythmic components among the performers (i.e. solos, licks, chord changes, dynamics).   |  |
| Live Jazz Performance.   |  |
| It showed us the different styles of Jazz music, and directly correlated to the Jazz principles we are learning about!   |  |
| This activity was highly correlated to our understanding and history of the subject of jazz. We learned and heard techniques imperative to our understanding of music.   |  |
| This activity showed me techniques jazz players use that we have read about in class   |  |
| This activity help me further learn what we have learn in the class. The activity tough me a lot of new things as well that I will need to be successful in the course.  |  |

| Statistic       | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total Responses | 24    |