

Lawrence University
Conservatory of Music
Memorandum

Date: March 13, 2007
To: Students, Lawrence University Conservatory of Music
From: Deans' Advisory Council and Robert Thayer, Dean
Re: Practice room policy

Issues

Concerns have recently been expressed about the overall availability of practice rooms for performers in all media, the availability of rooms for specialized practice (e.g., grand pianos for piano performance majors), and the care and maintenance of practice rooms and equipment. Various observations and proposals have been made. Following consultation with faculty and students and a review of options, the members of the Deans' Advisory Council have approved the following recommendation. I am pleased to endorse this recommendation.

The Lawrence culture

Although a number of institutions have responded to similar concerns about practice room availability and conditions by restricting access to practice facilities, we believe that there is, indeed, a "Lawrence difference." Among other factors, this difference is characterized by a mutually supportive environment coupled with a high regard for personal integrity. This Lawrence tradition, reinforced by both an honor code and a social code, calls for the application of personal responsibility by all Conservatory students. It is based on the fundamental principle that "no Lawrence student will unfairly advance his or her own academic performance or in any way limit or impede the academic pursuits of other students of the Lawrence community."

Although there are times, especially in mid- and late afternoon, when practice rooms are heavily used, existing practice room resources are believed to be adequate to meet the needs of the student body.

Practice room policies

The use of Conservatory practice rooms is restricted to currently enrolled students and Lawrence Academy of Music teachers during hours when the Conservatory is open (7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.). All basement practice rooms are available to students for use on a first-come, first-served basis.

Practice rooms containing grand pianos are reserved for piano majors. Although these rooms may be used by other students when they are vacant, they must be promptly vacated when requested by a piano major. Practice rooms may be utilized for lessons by Lawrence Academy of Music teachers. Rooms 4, 254, 259, 146, 156, and 163 may be reserved for practice on the following basis: large ensembles and chamber ensembles have first preference, up to two hours per day; piano majors have second preference, two hours per day up to a total of eight hours per week; all other students are allowed one hour per day. Classroom pianos are to be used only for rehearsal of solo literature and for ensemble work. Out of consideration for pianists, Lawrence Academy of Music teachers are asked not to sign out the large classrooms on a regular basis. The use of classrooms with grand pianos is a privilege. Please treat it as such. If possible, do not move the pianos. If necessary, move pianos gently and move them back after the rehearsal. Chamber groups are asked to replace stands and chairs to classroom set-up after rehearsals.

Piano majors who find students without priority practicing in facilities for which they have priority may request these students to vacate the room. The interaction between students shall be conducted in a courteous manner. In the event an appropriate request to leave is not followed, the requesting student may file a formal report in the Conservatory Office. This report will list the parties involved (including, when known, the name of the student without priority), day, time, and room number. When sufficient information is available, an administrative official will follow up.

Students shall not leave personal property unattended in a practice room for longer than ten minutes. In the event that personal property is not claimed within this time period, another student may use the room for practice. In the event that this practice is repeatedly ignored, a student may file a formal report in the Conservatory Office. This

report will list the parties involved (including, when known, the name of the student leaving belongings), day, time, and room number. When sufficient information is available, an administrative official will follow up.

All persons using Lawrence University facilities are expected to use these facilities, including musical instruments, responsibly. Pianists should avoid using excessive force, which results in broken strings and accelerated wear to the piano action, which in turn makes it more difficult to control the tone of the piano.

Policy review

This policy shall be in effect until further notice. It will be reviewed as warranted.