

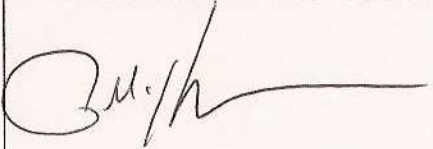


Ball State University
Music Education
Professional Development Log

Name: Michael Thom

| DATE | EVENT/LOCATION | HOURS | VERIFICATION |
|----------|---|-------|--|
| 9/25/07 | MENC- Dr. Garrity | 1 |  |
| 11/18/07 | CCA- (see attached for summary) Lead/Rehearse Worship Team | 2 |  |
| 11/27/07 | MENC- Brian Wand | 1 |  |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Michael Thom
MusEd 350 – Turner
December 6, 2007

Professional Development Log – Activity Justification/Reflection

On Sunday, November 18, 2007, I led worship at my church, the Christian Campus House (located at the corner of Riverside Ave. and Dicks St.). We have a contemporary worship band, the instrumentation for which changes weekly. In this case, it consisted of a pianist, a drummer, a guitarist, two female vocalists, and me playing bass and singing lead vocals. This was the first time that I have led worship at church (though I have played almost weekly for two years, and led in a similar setting elsewhere this summer). On Sunday morning, the band played for a 10-minute set at the beginning of the service, for a response song immediately after the sermon, during communion (instrumental only), during the collection of the offering, and at the end of the service to dismiss the congregation. In total, five songs were played, though one was actually a medley of sorts, combining two songs into one.

The rehearsal took place on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 7:00 in the evening and lasted for nearly 2 hours. At this rehearsal, I was in charge (in other words, I wasn't simply the guy who sang the most on Sunday; I actually was in charge, start-to-finish). I did not come to this rehearsal with an actual written lesson plan, so it wasn't as formal as most of my teachings through the School of Music. Nonetheless, after having led some this summer and simply after having participated in many, many band rehearsals at the Campus House in the past, I knew quite clearly how I wanted to run rehearsal. Also, though I didn't have a "plan" written down for rehearsal, I had taken time to write down notes for how I wanted to play each song. On Tuesday, I selected the songs that we would be playing (based in large part upon the portion of Scripture that the sermon was to be based on) and printed chord sheets with lyrics. I was quite familiar with four of the five songs, so I didn't need to listen to any recordings for those (although I did for the fifth one, primarily to get a better feel for the melody). That evening, I spent about an hour and a half audiating and thinking through the songs, deciding how I wanted to arrange each. I selected verse/chorus/bridge orders as well as instrumentation for each (including things such as styles and dynamics). I wrote all this down so that Thursday's rehearsal would go smoothly.

On Thursday, then, we spent a few minutes performing a sound check, and then we simply started at the beginning of the service order and worked through each song until I was satisfied. I didn't expect them to be *perfect*, in large part because we meet at 9:00 each Sunday (before a 10:30 service) to warm-up and review the music, so we usually "perfect" things at that time. I started rehearsing each song by explaining the overall form (verse/chorus/bridge order) and who would play when, and (as needed) I would play a recording of it (at least one person was unfamiliar with most of the songs we were playing).

This process was a significant experience for a future music educator because, while obviously completely non-curricular, it is very "real-world" in the sense that the people playing for me are not professional musicians. In fact, only two others (besides me) were music majors – the others just played or sang during high school and still enjoy doing so. Thus, I could not be extremely technical with some of my explanations – I was forced to explain things in "real words" so that I could convey musical concepts to as many people as possible. Overall, it was a very fulfilling experience.

The signature on my Professional Development Log is of Alex Robinson, Associate Campus Minister at the Christian Campus House (and the one who is primarily responsible for organizing and, often, leading worship on Sundays).