

FACULTY ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY (FEO) APPLICATION**DUE March 20, 2009**Name (last, first): Richards, PaulUF ID: 9481-6550Type of Appointment (check): tenured tenure-track
 clinical other ()Date of Appointment to UF Faculty (month/year): 08/1999Date Tenure Awarded, if applicable, (month/year): 05/2003College: Fine ArtsDepartment: MusicTotal Central FEO Funds Requested: \$37,468Total College/Department Funds to be Provided: \$1275Any Other Funds to be Applied, if applicable: \$2,000GRAND TOTAL FOR FEO: \$40,743

ABSTRACT: (Provide **one** paragraph describing your proposed FEO project in a way that can be understood by colleagues outside your discipline, alumni, and educated members of the general public.

Hydra, a new composition for violin, guitar, and digital media, will be composed during the fall of 2009 utilizing a combination of traditional compositional techniques and new methods of digital signal processing, for concert presentation and publication in notated and recorded form. The work will be created in collaboration with Phoenix-based contemporary music ensemble Duo46, who will provide recorded source material for the digital media portion of the work, and perform and record the work in a series of planned international concerts. A technical consultant will be retained to assist with signal processing and source recording, and the final form of the piece will involve a digital sound file that will be used in live performance in conjunction with amplified acoustic instruments. My compositional career has involved primarily acoustic compositions, and the opportunity to explore digital resources will greatly expand the palette with which I work and inform my teaching and future creative activities. Drawn loosely from the Greek serpent myth that is often read as a portrayal of attempts to control the flow of water through dams and aqueducts, this allegorical work will involve melodic figures that grow in complexity and density as the piece progresses, coupled with recorded sounds from the natural world that are manipulated to participate in the melodic and harmonic discourse (for example, noise elements found in recorded sounds of rushing water can be processed through filters, or convolving of wave forms, to highlight periodic frequency response such that pitch is perceived, and the combination of many such manipulated sound files can create a virtual instrument whose origins as rushing water are still recognizable). The unfolding narrative will engage the audience through the telling of an ancient tale that can also be read as a modern parable about our entanglement with seductive technologies and their effects on the natural environment.

Please submit a two page *curriculum vitae* / resume with your application.

GOALS FOR FEO:

(List 3 to 5 succinct goals)

- 1) To create a new composition for international concert presentation by the ensemble Duo46 and others, and recording on the Summit Records label.
- 2) To acquire skill and facility with new technological resources for sound manipulation that will expand the potential of my compositional vocabulary and range of expertise as an educator.
- 3) To continue a long-standing collaborative relationship with an important contemporary music ensemble.

FEO PLAN/ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULES:

(Describe in the space allotted on pp. 2-3 of this form; plan cannot exceed one calendar year.)

The composition process for the envisioned piece will involve several phases, including research, planning, source recording, digital manipulation, composition, computer notation, and finalization. Trips to Phoenix, Arizona will be taken both at the beginning and final phases of the compositional process, initially to make sample recordings for both source material and experimentation, and later to fine-tune instrumental writing and balance issues between the computer and live instrumental components of the piece. The sounds created by the machinery involved in the manipulation of scarce water resources in the desert will also be recorded during the initial trip.

The work will require the purchase of some equipment for sound recording and manipulation, and a technical assistant will be retained to handle some of the sound file manipulation. Research into the allegorical underpinnings of the work, ancient Greek music theory, and appropriate technological resources will begin during the summer of 2009 and continue into the fall.

Following the composition of the work in the fall of 2009 (see schedule, below), the work will be rehearsed and performed by Duo46 in a series of concerts planned for the 2010-2011 concert season, will be submitted for conference presentations, and will be recorded for a compact disc that features new works for violin, guitar, and digital media on the Summit Records label, with tentative plans for a spring 2011 release. The work, and the collaborative process involved in its creation, will also be the subject of a concert and lectures at the Soundscape Contemporary Music Festival in Pavia, Italy in the summer of 2010.

FEO PLAN/ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULES: (Continued: page 2 of 2)

Schedule:

Summer, 2009

Initial planning and research

August, 2009

Travel with technical assistant to Phoenix, Arizona for initial consultations and sound recording

September – November, 2009

Composition of piece, including approximately 80 hours of assistance from technical aid (10 hours/week for 8 weeks)

December, 2009

Travel to Phoenix, Arizona for finalization of acoustic and digital components of the composition.

Summer, 2010

Composer and performers will present the new composition at the Soundscape Contemporary Music Festival in Pavia, Italy.

OUTCOMES OF FEO: (Remember that you will be asked to submit a report of your accomplishments at the conclusion of the FEO. Please prepare this section with that report in mind.)

A. List specific outcomes of this FEO related to your own professional growth and development.

- 1) Newly acquired proficiency with digital signal processing software and hardware for the creation of new compositions. Future goals in this area extend beyond concert works with digital media components, including applications in film scoring, theater pieces, and planned projects involving live electronics.
- 2) International exposure as a composer through concert, conference, and festival presentations, and through recording and publication.
- 3) Continued relationship with an important contemporary music ensemble with which I have previously collaborated on several highly regarded projects.

B. List specific benefits of this FEO to your department, college and/or the university overall.

- 1) Increased visibility for me as a composer through concert, conference, and festival presentation, and through recording and publication, thereby advertising the activities of the composition program, the School of Music, and the University of Florida.
- 2) Expanded range of expertise to include digital signal processing, enabling me to incorporate this knowledge into studio and classroom teaching. Most of our graduate students are increasingly engaged with technological mediation in their creative work, and this project will allow me to better assist them in their studio practice.

CHECK ONE: I agree (✓) or I do not agree () that my proposal (WITHOUT budget information), if successful, can be shared with others applying for FEOs.