DATE: 22 November 1989

TO : Ewell Thomas, Dean
H&S

FROM : John Chowning
CCRMA

SUBJECT: Three Year Plan 90/91 - 92/93

The rather lengthy statement from last year outlining the current status and future prospects for CCRMA is still applicable.

1. The most significant events at CCRMA within the past year:

a. Curriculum

Three courses have been added beyond CCRMA's traditional graduate level offerings and were well received. An interdisciplinary team taught a course in psychoacoustics last winter. It was given by Mathews, Pierce, Schubert and Shepard, joining together perspectives of electrical engineering, acoustics, physiology and psychology as applied to music. The course introducing affordable systems (MIDI) for computer music was offered twice attracting over 30 participants in the winter and a full summer workshop group. This course has been a magnet for undergraduates, several of whom have requested a major or concentration incorporating computers and music. A lecture course on the musical history of the past 20 years was offered both as a music department course and again as a continuing studies offering.

b. Faculty renewal/searches

Certainly, a significant event at CCRMA this past year has been the success in gaining appointments for Chafe, Mont-Reynaud and J. Smith. (I thank you and your colleagues for your support in that matter.) These appointments give me considerable optimism both for the academic and funding future of CCRMA.

c. Research and scholarship iniatives

The acquisition of NeXT machines has led to early and striking research results from two of our graduate students, one in music and the other in EE supported from CCRMA Industrial Affiliates' income. These machines, the first ever to support applications having to do with audition, will figure increasingly in the ongoing artistic/scientific work at the center.

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d. Undergraduate research

The plans for an undergraduate major in music having an emphasis in music science/technology are continuing to be developed. A number of undergraduate engineering majors have expressed much enthusiasm for the possibility of such a double major. The difficulty rests with the problem of meeting all of the requirements in a four year period.

e. Graduate student support

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of CCRMA, graduate support is from several sources. Music graduate students are granted fellowships when they are admitted. Students from other disciplines at CCRMA are more problematic (signal processing, psychoacoustics, computer science/AI). Some students are admitted with support from their department and do their thesis work at CCRMA. Others, especially those whose work is directly related to the research areas at CCRMA must find support. As grant funding is difficult to obtain in music technology; we are trying to identify funds that can be used to attract and support talented graduate students at CCRMA. This year we supported a computer science graduate student from an NSF grant, a psychoacoustic graduate student, and two engineering (signal processing) graduate students from gift funds obtained through CCRMA's Industrial Affiliates' Program. If CCRMA is going to be able to attract and sustain high quality graduate students, then funds to support them (especially those in the interdisciplinary areas at CCRMA) must be identified.

2. Reallocations - None

3. Incremental Support

The important question of continuing to build funds toward an endowment for CCRMA remains a high priority. At the end of fiscal year 1988-89 there was $3,594,281 in CCRMA's royalty account. $388,154 of this was used for operating which left $3,206,128 at the beginning of fiscal year 1989-90. Estimated income for this year is $1,000,000 and CCRMA operating support for 1989-90 to be used from this account is $471,468.

OTL's licensing of work developed by J. Smith, M. Mathews, C. Chafe and graduate student Xavier Serra holds some promise to increase the income. The main point is that we are currently spending money to operate CCRMA from funds that could be building into the endowment.

4. Budget Reductions

I agree that a reduction of the EM&S cost increment is probably the least disruptive.