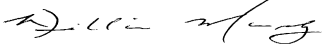





**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William P. Murphy 

**SUBJECT:** State University of New York at Buffalo: Regents  
Authorization to award the Doctor of Musical Arts degree

**DATE:** April 24, 2025

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents authorize the State University of New York at Buffalo to award the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its May 2025 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

On December 17, 2024, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees authorized SUNY Buffalo (UB) to offer a program in Contemporary Music Performance leading to the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree, subject to Regents approval. Regents authorization is required because this will be UB's first degree program leading to the D.M.A. degree. A master plan amendment is not required because the institution already offers doctoral level programs in the disciplinary area of the Fine Arts.

## **Background Information**

UB is proposing a program in Contemporary Music Performance leading to the D.M.A. degree. The degree is a specialized degree that emphasizes musical performance and prepares students for careers in music as performers, scholars, and educators. The proposed D.M.A. program at UB is designed for advanced performers with an interest in innovative new music. Through the proposed program's curriculum, students will participate in seminars, receive studio lessons, and collaborate with faculty and other students in the Contemporary Ensemble at UB. Students will also have the opportunity to premiere new work and collaborate with composers through the UB Center for 21st Century Music. The dissertation will connect aspects of contemporary music performance practice with original research and analysis. UB indicates that the D.M.A. will build on the multi-decade history of new and experimental music studied at UB and will add to a wide array of existing programs in music, such as the Bachelor of Arts in Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theater, Master of Education in Music Education, Master of Music in Music Performance, Advanced Certificate in Contemporary Music Performance, and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Composition.

The proposed D.M.A. program will draw on existing resources. No new faculty or facilities will be required.

## **Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize the State University of New York at Buffalo to confer the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents authorizes the institution to award the Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree, the Department will register the proposed program in Contemporary Music Performance at the State University of New York at Buffalo.