Bruce Hamilton
2015 Summer Research Grant Proposal

“Professional Recording & CD Release of Chamber+Electronic Works”

I would like to professionally record a set of my recent chamber music compositions and manufacture a high profile limited run of compact discs for distribution on an established record label. This project would entail payment to professional musicians, audio engineers, and the disc designer and manufacturer.

What music will be included?
Here is the tentative list of works. [Not included are recent works that have already enjoyed excellent recordings and public release.]

Night Trips (2012), duo for vibraphone, marimba and electroacoustic music [7'40”]
commissioned by Drumartica (Slovenia)
—performance to be recorded by Drumartica this November

Attractors (2013), for piano, vibraphone and electroacoustic music [9’]
commissioned by Iktus+ Duo (NYC)
—performance to be recorded by Denise Fillion and Chris Graham (Iktus+) in 2015

munk punq tezilo (2014), for mixed quintet [12'30”]
commissioned by KOMPULZ (Slovenia)
—performance to be recorded by KOMPULZ in 2015

Motion Stasis (2012), for drum set soloist and electroacoustic music [8’]
commissioned by Wesley Stephens (OK)
—performance to be recorded by hired regional player in 2015

Portals (2003-04), for percussionsoloist and electroacoustic music [12’]
written for Marc Wooldridge (IA) and funded by WWU RSP
—performance to be recorded (probably) by Peter Saleh (NJ) (or Nick Papador (Windsor))

verges (1997), for mixed septet [13’]
a work from graduate school (IN) that was successful in terms of international performances and awards but never received a proper recording
—performance to be recorded by hired regional musicians in 2015

beats - (2014-15), for vibraphone and interactive computer [10-15’]
in development; a prototype will be performed in Slovenia this November
—performance to be recorded by Bruce Hamilton in 2015

Why CDs?
Compact Discs are still the standard media for presentation and dissemination of professional work in the acoustic/electroacoustic concert music arenas, even if usually alongside digital streaming/download options (which would also be a component of this project). Many reviewers and radio stations still require physical media. Vinyl LPs are a tempting physical media option as well but CDs are a more financially feasible and more flexible format for my purposes.
Why should Western fund this?
I have relied on external funding for the creation of most of these projects. Some pieces were commissioned from performers and groups, others were written without monetary payment for people or venues I respect. This project would bring the works together into a collection that showcases contrasting approaches in my chamber and electronic music which, in a way, represents my time at Western so far. Ideally this disc would be distributed by an established label like Innova (or similar), and would reflect well on Western.

How much money is required?
If working with a label like Innova, it probably costs about $5000 for disc manufacture, design, and professional distribution lumped together. This does not include making the actual recordings. [see http://www.innova.mu/apply/sample-budget for an example]

Recording most of the pieces will require fees for artists and engineers. Because many involved are friends of mine, such fees might only add up to around $2000. I will also have to travel to make some of these recordings, so I will need to be ready to spend another $1000-2000 or so on flights and gas and lodging.

These are very rough estimates but no matter what a project like this—doing it properly—will cost a minimum of $5000 and might be double that amount. This is not something I can afford to do on my own, though I would certainly anticipate covering a few thousand as necessary. A grant in the $3-7k range would make this project a reality.

Budget Summary
Projected Costs
- Artist and Engineer Fees - $2000
- Design, Manufacture & Distribution - $5000
- Travel for Hamilton and/or artists - $2000

Funding sources
- WWU - $2500-7000
- Hamilton - remainder up to $3000
- Other sources TBD if necessary $1000-3000

Timeline
Recordings to take place in late 2014 and throughout 2015 (summer in particular).
Final design and manufacture to take place in fall of 2015-winter 2016.
Public release by summer or fall of 2016.

Outcomes
- Developing the vibraphone & computer piece will take some significant research which will translate into new classroom teaching avenues.
- The process of recording and editing and mastering (all of which I will play a hand in) will add to my depth of knowledge and my teaching toolkit.
- This project would be an important development in my creative career, and could help attract more quality students to Western.