


College of Liberal Arts

**Cover Page for
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity
Grant Proposals**

2011

Complete all information on this form and attach it to your proposal.*

Applicant Name: Benjamin Miles
Department: Music
Rank: Assistant Professor
Signature: 

Co-Applicant Name:
Department:
Rank:
Signature:

*If more than two faculty are involved, please attach additional sheet(s).

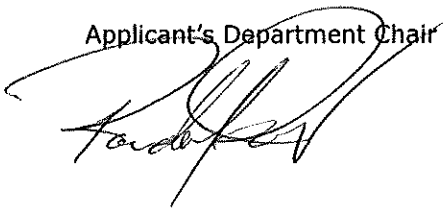
Project Title: "Contraptions" – A Solo CD Recording Project

Amount Requested: \$5000

I/We have read and do concur with the attached request.

Applicant's Department Chair

Co-Applicant's Department Chair, if different



“Contraptions” – A Solo CD Recording Project by Dr. Benjamin Miles, Assistant Professor of Music (Tuba and Euphonium)

“Contraptions” is a recording project created primarily to recruit talented new students to Wright State’s Department of Music, specifically in the area of tuba and euphonium. Blue Griffin Recording, based in Lansing, MI, has agreed to produce and engineer this project, which will feature and include five compositions by Dr. Benjamin Miles and two additional compositions, written by faculty members at Michigan State University. Any and all profits from the recording project itself will be used to set up a scholarship fund for the Tuba and Euphonium Studio and for recruiting events at Wright State.

Compositions

- *Three Sketches for Tuba and Piano*, composed in 2002 by Benjamin Miles
- *Sonatina for Tuba and Piano*, composed in 2004 by Benjamin Miles
- *Perspectives for Solo Tuba*, composed in 2004 by Benjamin Miles
- *Contraptions for Solo Tuba*, composed in 2009 by Benjamin Miles
- *Fantasy for Flute and Tuba*, composed in 2011 Benjamin Miles
- *Duo for Bass Trombone and Tuba*, composed in 1991 by Ron Newman
- *Incurziona for Tuba and Synthesizer*, composed in 1995 by Curtis Olson

Inspired by his Michigan State doctoral dissertation (“A Study of Intermediate Tuba Compositions”), Miles is dedicated to the growth of tuba students, not only in the Miami Valley, but across the country. “A Study of Intermediate Tuba Compositions” was written for advanced high school and early college-level tuba players. The history of the tuba, which is rather short but too long to go into detail here, explains that the tuba’s solo repertoire is either easy to perform or extremely advanced. It was Miles’ goal to compose quality musical compositions that could be performed by advanced high school or early college-level tubists. *Sonatina for Tuba and Piano* and *Perspectives for Solo Tuba* were composed as the result of this study. His other works, *Three Sketches for Tuba and Piano*, *Contraptions for Solo Tuba*, and *Fantasy for Flute and Tuba*, are written at an advanced level and are intended to inspire young players and to

entertain listeners. The *Fantasy for Flute and Tuba* is written for the *Extreme Duo* (Dr. Sarah Miles and Dr. Benjamin Miles) and will be premiered in March, 2011.

Duo for Bass Trombone and Tuba was composed by Ron Newman (Professor of Music Theory at Michigan State University) in 1991 for Miles' former teacher, Philip Sinder (Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Michigan State University), and Curtis Olson (Professor of Trombone at Michigan State University). *Incurzion for Tuba and Synthesizer* was composed in 1995 for Philip Sinder by Curtis Olson. Ron Newman's *Duo for Bass Trombone and Tuba* was performed on Dr. Miles' January, 2009 faculty recital at Wright State and Olson's *Incurzion for Tuba and Synthesizer* was performed on his February, 2011 faculty recital.

Recording Process

The project will be recorded at Blue Griffin Recording, located in Lansing, MI. Blue Griffin Recording (<http://www.bluegriffin.com/>) is owned and operated by Dr. Sergei Kvitko and selects its artists based on the quality of their performances. In addition to Dr. Miles, guest-performing artists who have agreed to participate in this project include Dr. Bryan Pokorney (Bass Trombone) and Dr. Sarah Miles (Flute). The entire project will require approximately twenty hours of studio work, which will include: the recording itself, editing, and mixing. An initial printing of 1000 compact discs will follow the studio work.

Projected Outcome

1) Exposure. The CD will be submitted to the International Tuba and Euphonium Association for review. If accepted, the association prints reviews in its quarterly journal. The positive outcome of this potential review is exposure for Wright State University's music program on a national and international level. Often times, music students make their college decisions based on the faculty who teach a given instrument and the faculty member's ability to

perform on his or her instrument. Therefore, a solo CD recording looks quite attractive to prospective students. In January, 2011, four of Miles' works (*Three Sketches*, *Sonatina*, *Perspectives*, and *Contraptions*) were published by Cimarron Music Press and are currently available to the public. This recording project will also help promote these works.

2) Publication. The newest composition (*Fantasy for Flute and Tuba*) by Dr. Miles will be submitted for publication. Music publishers require musical scores (already completed at this time) along with high-quality recordings. The professional-level recording by Blue Griffin Recordings will be an important asset to getting this work published and distributed to music students and professionals across the country. If the recording receives the exposure that is expected, it is also possible that it will lead to the publication of the compositions by Newman and Olson. All seven works have the potential of becoming welcome additions to the solo tuba repertoire by students and professionals.

3) Recruiting. The CD will be made available to potential WSU tuba and euphonium students and their parents at low brass-related events (recitals, festivals, etc.). It is probable that Blue Griffin Recording will also sell the product since it will be inserted into Blue Griffin's CD library. If the CD is available for purchase through the Blue Griffin website or made available for purchase on iTunes, 50% of all profits, as a result of this initial printing of 1000 CD's will be given to the Wright State University Tuba-Euphonium Studio. Ideally, revenue will be used for recruiting as scholarship money, or to be used in support of the annual Low Brass Festival (also a recruiting event), held on WSU's campus each year. Dr. Miles will use the remaining profits to fund solo recitals at other universities with the intent of attracting future graduate students.

Budget

Blue Griffin Recording Studio (\$90/hr @ 20 hours)	\$1800
CD Printing (1000 CD's)	\$1800
Graphic Design (CD Cover)	\$650
Musicians	
Payment for Dr. Pokorney	\$250
Payment for Pianist (<i>Three Sketches/Sonatina</i>)	\$500
Mechanical Licenses (required only for published materials)	N/A
TOTAL	\$5000

All costs of Dr. Miles personal travel to and from Michigan will be covered out of pocket.

DR. BENJAMIN MILES

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts 2005	Michigan State University Performance (Tuba) Primary teacher: Philip Sinder
Master of Music 2001	Pennsylvania State University Performance (Tuba) Primary teacher: Martin Erickson
Bachelor of Music	State University of New York, College at Fredonia Music Education Primary teacher: C. Rudolph Emilson

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wright State University	Assistant Professor of Music Fall 2008 to Present
University of Central Arkansas	Visiting Assistant Professor of Music August 2007-May 2008
Alma College (MI)	Adjunct Instructor of Low Brass 2005-2007
Flint Institute of Music	Instructor of Low Brass Jan.-June 2007
Lansing Community College	Adjunct Instructor Summer 2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: PERFORMING

Solo

- Guest Artist, Midwest Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference. March 2011
- Guest Artist, International Tuba and Euphonium Conference. June 2010
- Guest Artist, International Tuba and Euphonium Conference. June 2006
- Guest Artist, Midwest Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference. Feb 2005

Chamber Ensemble

- Galliard Brass Ensemble, Ann Arbor, MI. 2003-Present
- Wright State Faculty Brass Quintet, Dayton, OH. 2008-Present
- Cincinnati Brassworks, Cincinnati, OH. 2008-Present
- Oakwood Brass Quintet, Oakwood, OH. 2008-Present
- Richmond Symphony Brass Quintet, Richmond, IN. 2009-Present
- Pinnacle Brass Quintet, Conway, AR. 2007-2008
- Bay Street Brass works, Baltimore, MD. 2006-2007
Live on Stage Tour. 2006-2007
- Brassworks, Ann Arbor, MI. 2002-2006
- Michigan Chamber Brass, Ann Arbor, MI. September, 2005
- Detroit Chamber Brass, Detroit, MI. December, 2004
- Centre Brass Quintet, State College, PA. 1999-2001

Large Ensemble

- Principal Tuba, Richmond Symphony Orchestra (Richmond, IN). 2008-Present
- Principal Tuba, Conway Symphony Orchestra (Conway, AR). 2007-2008
- The Lion King (Lansing, MI). January – March 2006
- Substitute Tuba, Lansing Symphony Orchestra (Lansing, MI). 2003-2007
- Substitute Tuba, West Shore Symphony (Muskegon, MI). 2002, 2005-2006
- Substitute Tuba, Jackson Symphony Orchestra (Jackson, MI). 2004
- Penn's Woods Summer Music Festival (State College, PA). 2000, 2002
- Substitute Tuba, Altoona Symphony (Altoona, PA). 2000-2001
- Substitute Tuba, Nittany Valley Symphony (State College, PA). 2001

- Substitute Tuba, Fredonia Chamber Players (Fredonia, NY). 1998
- Contrabass, Cadets of Bergen County Junior Drum and Bugle Corps. 1996

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Tuba and Euphonium Association (ITEA)
- College Music Society

COMPOSITIONS (PUBLISHED)

- *Contraptions for Solo Tuba (2009)* - Cimarron Music Press (2011)
 - A 5-movement, ten-minute work written for unaccompanied tuba.
 - Premiered at WSU Faculty Solo Recital by Benjamin Miles
Schuster Hall, Wright State University
October 21, 2009
 - Performed at the 2010 International Tuba and Euphonium Conference
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
May 2010
- *Sonatina for Tuba and Piano (2004)* - Cimarron Music Press (2011)
 - A 3-movement, nine-minute work written for solo tuba with piano
 - Composed for DMA dissertation “A Study of Intermediate Tuba Composition”
- *Perspectives for Solo Tuba (2004)* - Cimarron Music Press (2011)
 - A 1-movement, five-minute work written for the solo tuba
 - Composed for DMA dissertation “A Study of Intermediate Tuba Composition”
- *Three Sketches for Tuba and Piano (2002)* - Cimarron Music Press (2011)
 - A 3-movement, nine- minute work written for solo tuba with piano

COMPOSITIONS (UNPUBLISHED)

- *Fantasy for Flute and Tuba (2011)*
 - A 4-movement, ten-minute work written for the flute and tuba
 - Composed for the *Extreme Duo* (Dr. Sarah Miles, Dr. Benjamin Miles)
 - To be premiered March 2011

CLINICIAN

- Midwest Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference
 - Mt. Pleasant, MI. March 2011
 - Invited to perform a recital as a Guest Tuba Artist
 - Invited to judge the Artist Tuba Competition
- International Tuba and Euphonium Conference (ITEC)
 - Tucson, AZ. May 2010
 - Performed a recital as a Guest Tuba Artist
 - Reviewed two sessions (published in the Fall 2010 International Tuba Euphonium Journal)
- Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA)
 - Cincinnati, OH. January 2010
 - Performed a recital as a Guest Artist with the Wright State Faculty Brass Quintet
- Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Competition
 - Preliminary Judge for the Student Tuba Competition (April 2009, 2010)
 - The only annual tuba and euphonium competition in the United States
 - The most prestigious tuba and euphonium competition in the U.S.
 - Listen to and rank 40 anonymous recordings
 - Provide feedback (1-2 page comments) for approximately 8 entrants

SOLO RECITALS

- Faculty Artist Series, Benjamin Miles, Tuba (Full Recital)
Schuster Hall. Wright State University
February 15, 2011
- Faculty Artist Series, Benjamin Miles, Tuba (Full Recital)
Schuster Hall. Wright State University
September 22, 2010
- Faculty Artist Series, Benjamin Miles, Tuba (Full Recital)
Schuster Hall. Wright State University
October 21, 2009
- Faculty Artist Series, Benjamin Miles, Tuba (Full Recital)
Concert Hall, Wright State University
January 13, 2009
- Faculty Smorgasbord Recital (One selection)
Concert Hall, Wright State University
September 25, 2009

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE RECITALS

- Canterbury Brass – Featured Artists
Destin, FL
December 17, 2010
- Canterbury Brass – Concert Series
Glendale, OH
December 8, 2010
- Extreme Duo (Flute/Tuba Duo) – Lecture Recital
Fairborn, OH
December 13, 2010
- Extreme Duo (Flute/Tuba Duo) – Concert Series
East Troy, WI
November 30, 2010
- Galliard Brass Ensemble Concert Series
Plymouth, IN
November 30, 2009
- Richmond Symphony Brass Quintet Concerts in the Park
Richmond, IN and surrounding areas
June 27, 2009, September 13, 2009
- Galliard Brass Ensemble Concert Series
Sturgis, MI
April 25, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet Recital
Concert Hall, Wright State University
April 22, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet Recital
Hainer Center, Troy, OH
April 7, 2009

OTHER CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
December 24, 2010

- Oakwood Brass
Centerville, OH
December 24, 2010
- Canterbury Brass
Cincinnati, OH
December 19, 2010
- Oakwood Brass
Springfield, OH
December 12, 2010
- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
November 20, 2010
- Dayton Philharmonic Brass Quintet – School Shows
Oakwood, Kettering, OH
October 25, 2010
- Dayton Philharmonic Brass Quintet – School Shows
Dayton, OH
October 18, 2010
- Oakwood Brass – Dayton Bach Society
Dayton, OH- Masonic Temple
October 16, 2010
- Faculty Brass Quintet - Freshman Convocation
Nutter Center, Wright State University
September 3, 2010
- Oakwood Brass – University of Dayton
Dayton, OH
August 22, 2010
- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
June 12, 2010
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
May 22, 2010
- Cincinnati Brassworks - U. of Cincinnati College of Law Commencement
Aronoff Center for the Arts, Cincinnati, OH

May 8, 2010

- Oakwood Brass – University of Dayton
Dayton, OH
May 1, 2010
- Faculty Brass Quintet - Arts Gala
Creative Arts Center, Wright State University
April 10, 2010
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
March 30, 2010
- Dayton Philharmonic Brass Quintet – School Shows
Oakwood, Kettering, OH
January 25, 2010
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
December 24, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks - U. of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy Commencement
Aronoff Center for the Arts, Cincinnati, OH
December 20, 2009
- Oakwood Brass Quintet
Springfield, OH
December 20, 2009
- Dayton Philharmonic Brass Quintet – School Shows
Oakwood, Kettering, OH
November 23, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
November 21, 2009
- Holidays in the Heartland (Brass Quintet and Orchestra)
Schuster Center, Dayton, OH
November 16, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet - Boonshoft School of Medicine Commencement
Schuster Center, Dayton, OH
June 28, 2009

- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
June 13, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter’s in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
June 9, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter’s in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
May 23, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks – Xavier University Commencement
Xavier University
May 16, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks - U. of Cincinnati Law School Commencement
Aronoff Center for the Arts, Cincinnati, OH
May 10, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet - Arts Gala
Creative Arts Center, Wright State University
April 4, 2009
- Faculty Brass Quintet - Tri-State Honor Band
Creative Arts Center, Wright State University
February 6, 2009
- Cincinnati Brassworks
St. Peter’s in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH
December 24, 2008
- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
November 22, 2008
- Faculty Brass Quintet – WSU Commencement
Nutter Center, Wright State University
November 16, 2008
- Faculty Brass Quintet – Daniel Zehringer, Faculty Artist Series
Nutter Center, Wright State University
October 24, 2008

ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES

- Dayton Philharmonic – New Year’s Eve Concert
Schuster Center, Dayton, OH
December 31, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
December 5, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
October 23, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – School Shows
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
March 12, October 22
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
May 9, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
April 17, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
March 13, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
February 6, 2010
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
December 6, 2009
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
April 18, 2009
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
March 14, 2009

- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – School Shows
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
February 23, October 23
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
December 12&13, 2008
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra – Concert Series
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center, Richmond, IN
December 6, 2009

BAND PERFORMANCES

- Dayton Philharmonic Concert Band – Concert Series
Troy, OH
August 22, 2010
- Dayton Philharmonic Concert Band – Concert Series
Vandalia, OH
August 8, 2010
- Ohio Valley British Brass Band – Concert Series
Fairborn, OH
June 11, 2010

COURSES TAUGHT

MUA 121-743	Applied Tuba Number of quarters taught: 6
MUA 121-743	Applied Euphonium Number of quarters taught: 6
MUS 465/665	Computer Applications in Music Number of quarters taught: 3 Online, 2 In-person
MUS 343	Orchestration Number of quarters taught: 2
MUS 414/601	Introduction to Writing in Music/Introduction to Graduate Studies Number of quarters taught: 3
MUS 114	Music Theory for Non-Majors Number of quarters taught: 1

MUS 214	Music in Western Culture (Music Appreciation) Number of quarters taught: 2 Online
MUS 225	Low Brass Methods Number of times taught: 2
MUS 780	Pedagogy Number of times taught: 2

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Low Brass Festivals held at Wright State University
 - Recruiting event
 - January 2010, December 2010
 - Worked with Dr. Gretchen McNamara in planning the event
 - December 2010 featured guest artists Ava Ordman (trombone) and Phil Sinder (tuba)
 - Created a website – www.wright.edu/~benjamin.miles/lowbrassday
- Chairman of the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition
 - May 2010 to present
 - Coordinate all aspects of the competition
 - Oversee selection of preliminary judges
 - Oversee selection of final round judges
 - Oversee selection of competition finalists
 - Coordinate competition finale concert
- Dayton TubaChristmas
 - Held at Wright State University – December 2010
 - Coordinate and host event
- Applied Tuba and Euphonium development and revisions
 - Developed a “Daily Routine” book of exercises for all tuba and euphonium majors
 - Developed a “Technical Skills Test”
 - Quarterly (week 8) technique examination
 - Exercises include: Prep Studies, Major Scales, Minor Scales, Chromatic Scales, Whole Tone Scales, Finger Studies, Flow Studies, Lip Slurs, Range Extension, and Articulation Exercises
- Weekly Studio Class (Fall 2008)
 - Master class setting
 - Designed for student comments, rather than instructor comments
 - Performing opportunities for students

- Jury Prep
- Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble (see above)
- Web Site Development
 - www.wright.edu/~benjamin.miles
 - Includes: Bio, Recordings, Calendar, Repertoire, Contact Information
 - Student Section includes:
 - All teaching materials (PDF's of "Daily Routine" and "Technical Skills Tests")
 - Tuning charts, Practice techniques, Drones (mp3 recordings), Curriculum requirements
 - Materials are protected by a password give to WSU students
- Appointed Principal Tuba of the Richmond (IN) Symphony Orchestra
 - Live audition – December 2008
- MUS 414/601 Revisions
 - In my first quarter of teaching MUS 414/601, I completely overhauled the course to meet more practical standards. Rather than making "Introduction to Research in Music" or "Introduction to Graduate Studies" a "library scavenger hunt" course, I approached the research-based course as a series of practical writing assignments which led to a final research paper. Assignments included: bio, concert review, program notes, abstract, persuasive letter, CV/resume, cover letter, and final research paper, as well as a library project.
- MUS 343 Revisions
 - MUS 343 (Orchestration) focused on band orchestration/arranging. Topics included: study of instruments, study of textures, arranging techniques, jazz/marching band techniques, transposition, vocal arranging, hand-written manuscripts, and computer-aided manuscript. The class used Finale significantly (which most learned in the Winter 09 MUS 465). Assignments included: written work, in-class projects (for small ensembles using class instrumentation), and a final arrangement/transcription for full concert band (read by the WSU Wind Symphony).
- Paperless Teaching
 - All of my classes are taught 99% "paperless" from the teaching side. Syllabi, assignments, class notes, projects, and any other course materials are presented and available to students on Web CT. Most tests are given on Web CT. Class presentations are taught through PowerPoint. All presentation files are stored on Course Studio and are available to all students.

- Student Awards and Accomplishments

- Jared Soergel – Winner/Performed at the Aria/Concerto Night concert. Jared was the second tuba player to win the Aria/Concerto Night at WSU. (March 1, 2011)

- Scott Rogers (euphonium) was named the first alternate for the 2011 Midwest Regional Euphonium Artist Competition

- TJ Pelon (euphonium) received an assistantship and began DMA studies in Performance at the University of Memphis (Fall 09). He was also accepted at the University of Georgia.

- Josh Davis began MM studies in Performance at Bowling Green State University (Fall 09)

- TJ Pelon – Semi-Finalist in the Leonard Falcone International Artist Euphonium Competition TJ competed against euphonium players from the University of North Texas, the University of Arkansas, and Japan. North Texas and Arkansas have the two top euphonium studios in the US. (Summer 09)

- Thomas Keene – Semi-Finalist in the Leonard Falcone International Student Tuba Competition Tom competed against high school and early college students who study with some of the leading tuba teachers in the US. (Summer 09)

- John Hardisky – Semi-finalist and performer at the Honor's Recital (Spring 09)

- Josh Davis – Winner/Performed at the Aria/Concerto Night concert. Josh was the first tuba player to win the Aria/Concerto Night at WSU. (March 09)