May 2006

Dear Incoming Student,

Congratulations on being admitted to Bowdoin, and welcome! This letter is to introduce the **performing and listening opportunities in the Music Department**, and to ask you to introduce yourself to us, via the questionnaire on the back of the letter. You should know that you can get academic credit for both lessons and some ensembles, and that you can put up to 6 full credits towards the 32 required for graduation. You should also know that while sports and music are not mutually exclusive (lots of students do both), careful scheduling is important. Students who wish to do both a sport and an ensemble should check with the director of the desired ensemble to see how best to work out this combination. We also invite you to look at the Music Department’s website (http://academic.bowdoin.edu/music) for more information about who we are and what we do.

Musical performance at Bowdoin ranges from informal “work in progress” recitals to professional performances by visiting artists, and from solo recitals to large-scale performances for chorus and orchestra. These department-sponsored ensembles may be taken for credit: **CHAMBER CHOIR, BOWDOIN CHORUS, CONCERT BAND, CHAMBER ENSEMBLES, JAZZ ENSEMBLES, & WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE**. Lessons may also be taken for credit. Other groups, such as the a cappella groups, the Polar Jazz Ensemble, and the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra are not available for credit.

**CHAMBER CHOIR** is an auditioned group of about 25 student singers. Repertory ranges widely, from Renaissance sacred music by such composers as Palestrina and Morales to folk music of the world, from Senegal to the American South. New music is also a staple part of the repertory. Concerts often include members of the choir playing both ethnic and Western concert instruments. The choir tours abroad during some Spring Breaks. Recent trips have taken the ensemble to Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, England, and Chile.

**THE BOWDOIN CHORUS** is a choral ensemble composed of students, faculty, staff and community members. Entrance is by audition, as it is with the Chamber Choir. This ensemble was recently selected to sing at the regional convention of the American Choral Directors’ Association in Baltimore. The chorus has toured throughout New England, New York, Washington, D.C., and Montreal. In the summer 2002, the Chorus toured Russia. Recent performances have included Britten’s **Rejoice in the Lamb**, Brahms’ **Liebeslieder Waltzes**, Rachmaninoff’s **Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**, Faure’s **Requiem**, and selections from glee club favorites. Next season’s repertoire will include two major works with orchestra.

**THE BOWDOIN CONCERT BAND** is a performance ensemble open to all students with wind and percussion instrumental experience. The ensemble performs several major concerts each year on campus, along with performances at other campus events
and ceremonies. The BCCB performs a variety of literature from the finest of the wind
to show tunes and marches. Students have been featured

as soloists as well as student conductors with the ensemble. Student compositions have
also been premiered by the ensemble. There are no auditions necessary for participation
and the ensemble is open to all students, faculty and staff.

**STUDENT CHAMBER & JAZZ ENSEMBLES** range from sonata groups through
string quartets and brass and wind quintets to jazz combos. They are coached by
professional freelance musicians and by Bowdoin faculty, and perform in a variety of
venues on and off campus. Coaches and faculty also often play with the groups.

**THE WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE** is a newly-formed, auditioned small group
concentrating on ethnic music from a variety of traditions, African, Latin, and European,
and emphasizing percussion. Music is both written-out and improvised.

Contemporary concert music is supported by frequent visits by guest composers such
as Pauline Oliveros, Milton Babbitt, George Crumb, and Thea Musgrave, and a biennial
contemporary choral festival. The Music Department has won awards for its support of
American music. Recent American programs have included appearances by the Sonny
Rollins Quintet, Joshua Redman, Renee Rosnes, and a production of Otto Luening’s
*Evangeline*, with the composer in attendance.

Other visiting musicians in recent years have included the West African percussion
ensemble Talking Drums (including a Residency in Spring 2005), the Lydian String
Quartet, jazz pianist Renee Rosnes, classical singer Kurt Ollmann, jazz singer Susanna
McCorkle, the Publick Musick, the Orchestra of the University of Tübingen, Germany,
and the contemporary music ensemble Continuum.

Bowdoin owns a collection of orchestral and band instruments, and some twenty grand
pianos available for use by students. Soloists and ensembles have performed in the
recently renovated Bowdoin Chapel (with its newly renovated Austin organ and smaller
tracker organ), the Gibson Recital Hall, and Kresge Auditorium, as well as Pickard
Theater. Plans are underway to build a 300-seat recital hall.

**PRIVATE LESSONS** are available in piano (classical and jazz), harpsichord, organ,
guitar (classical or jazz), voice, and most orchestral instruments.

Please fill out the questionnaire on the second sheet to give us a sense of your interests,
and please do visit us when you arrive on campus!

With best wishes,
Robert Greenlee, Chair
Name__________________________________________ Class of__________________

Street___________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip___________________________________________________________

Cell Phone_____________________________________________________________

Please check the ensembles you might be interested in:

_____ Chamber Choir
_____ Bowdoin Chorus
_____ Concert Band
_____ Orchestra (not available for credit)
_____ Chamber Ensembles
_____ World Music Ensemble (drumming/percussion)
_____ Jazz Ensembles
_____ Brass Ensemble

_____ Other (please specify:_______________)

What instrument(s) might you play in an ensemble?____________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What voice part(s) do you sing?_____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What instrument(s) might you study privately or for credit, for a fee, here at Bowdoin?
________________________________________________________________________
Please be assured that your answers on this form are not binding, and do not commit you to anything. Even so, a general indication of your plans is useful to us now. Please return this questionnaire to us, by June 1st, if you think you might be making music at Bowdoin. A pre-addressed envelope is contained in your packet.