

STUDENT PROPOSAL FOR THE SIXTH FLOOR OF ALFRED LERNER HALL

**A survey current space needs & proposal for the development of the last
unfinished floor in the student center**

Columbia College Student Council

MARCH 2003

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Cover Letter and Introduction

March 20, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

The Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) representing more than 4000 students and residents of Columbia housing request that the sixth floor of Lerner Hall be designated for student and student group use.

A student center should be a place for the community to come together in a comfortable environment and a resource to students and student groups that enhances the quality of campus life and community. That mission can only be achieved when student space needs are made a priority. The CCSC already funds over 300 student groups, but lack of space undermines groups' current efforts and threatens their future growth. Many of these groups include substantial numbers of graduate students, servicing their needs as well as those of the undergraduate community. The needs of non-recognized groups and individual students are also presently underserved by Lerner Hall. The undeveloped space on the sixth floor of Lerner Hall offers an opportunity to correct the some of building's current deficiencies and address looming problems.

We offer the following issues for your consideration. They correspond to the proposal's four sections and are all *equally important*:

I. Total campus space available to individual students and students groups is relatively small and shrinking. Current space allocated to administration is substantial and increasing.

II. Student groups lack storage space. Current campus storage resources are decreasing and already fail to meet the needs of most groups.

III. Groups and students lack community space for group work, meeting, and socializing. Current community space is small and shrinking. Comfortable centralized communal resources would create hubs of student activity.

IV. Students lack music and performance practice space. Current space is inadequate and shrinking. All students suffer from practice in unsuitable venues and competition over insufficient space.

Although we submit this proposal guided by the belief that undergraduate student needs should be paramount in determining the sixth floor's design, our plan does not discriminate against other members of the Columbia community. In particular, we would welcome collaboration with the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) in the actual management of the space. We strongly believe, however, that the issues we have outlined are substantial, pressing and encompass the interests of the entire student community. We also believe that no student, undergraduate or graduate, should be shut out of any part of the sixth floor.

We hope that the needs of students and student groups will be the foremost consideration in determining a design for the sixth floor.

Respectfully,

Columbia College Student Council

A. Observations of Need and Recommendations

I. Current Space Distribution:

OBSERVATION

A disproportionate amount of space in the student center is already designated to administrative, outside vendor and business space.

PROPOSALS

[1] There should be no increase in administrative, outside vendor or business space in Lerner Hall.

[2] The entire sixth floor should be designated for student use. Alternately, a space of equivalent size on a lower floor should be designated for student use and the administrative office(s) currently located in that space should relocate to the sixth floor.

ARGUMENT

Although many of the offices and services housed in the student center are integral to student life or provide resources essential to making Lerner Hall a hub of student activity, there is relatively little space left for students in the student center. A quick glance at the Lerner floor plans shows that administrative office space, vendor and business space and reservable or exclusive student group space all far outweigh open use student space like lounges or resource areas in the student center*.

According to the Lerner Hall website, the building currently houses the following administrative offices and vendors:

Basement: Columbia Bookstore, Crown Catering

1st Floor: Mail Services, STA Travel

2nd Floor: Café (212), Citibank

3rd Floor: Copy Express, Ferris Booth Marketplace, Mail Services

4th Floor: Crown Catering, Division of Student Affairs for CC and SEAS (Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, Academic Services and Intercultural Resources, Alumni Representative Committee, Financial Aid and Educational Financing, First Year / Sophomore Academic Advising Center, Parent and Family Connection, Pre-Professional Office, Scholars and Fellowship Office), Double Discovery Center Mail Services

5th Floor: Columbia-Barnard Federal Credit Union, Student Development and Activities

7th Floor: ALICE! Columbia's Health Education Program, Lerner Hall Management, Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Education

8th Floor: Office of Counseling and Psychological Service, Office of Disability Services

In addition to occupying more square footage, many of the offices, services and businesses have far better accommodations in Lerner than the open use student spaces. Most of the administrative offices occupy large contiguous areas. By comparison, the spaces devoted to student use are generally small, disjointed and scattered throughout the building. All of the administrative areas are set back away from the building's noisy elevators, atrium noise and foot traffic. By comparison, most of the building's student space is wide open and at the ends of busy ramps and in cafeteria or other vendor space. There is no hub of comfortable exclusively student-use space resources anywhere in the student center.

There is already a concentration of food and basic services in the building. Current vendor and service resources are more than ample to fulfill student and student groups' basic food and supply needs in a convenient fashion. Additionally, there is no lack of businesses along Broadway and within easy walking distance of Lerner Hall.

While it is certainly useful to have some administrative offices in the student center, it is hard to justify having so many of them taking up so much space. Administrative offices are already spread throughout campus as well as outlying buildings. Many of the administrative offices already in Lerner have no compelling need to be located in the student center as opposed to elsewhere around campus. There are certainly no administrative offices not currently housed in Lerner that must be moved there in order to better service students. The student space needs highlighted in this report, however, can only be adequately accommodated within an on campus student center.

* See attached document

II. General Student Group Storage

OBSERVATION:

Student groups have substantial storage needs that are not met in Lerner Hall or elsewhere on campus. Many student groups depend on storage resources in order to function, and all student groups have some storage needs. The overwhelming majority of groups have no storage options as a result of lack of resources and exclusive policies –the two issues are intertwined and neither can be solved until more adequate storage space is created.

PROPOSALS:

[1] Plans for Lerner Hall's sixth floor should include group storage resources available to all student groups.

[2] All recognized student groups on the campus, irrespective of school, funding board, or council, should have the right to apply for the space annually. Resources should be distributed based on relative need and merit as determined by a representative body.

[3] Students should be able to access their assigned space whenever the need arises and as long as the building is open. Accordingly, each group should be given one or more keys to its assigned space.

[4] New storage space resources should be diverse and designed to accommodate a wide range of different student group needs. Relative amounts of different types of storage designs should be proportional to actual student group needs. The spaces should also be reconfigurable to accommodate changing needs.

ARGUMENT:

Summary of Student Club Storage Needs:

Most student groups are excluded from permanent storage space in Lerner Hall. The fifth floor includes Lerner Hall's only fully accessible student group storage resources. Groups are issued keys and can access their group property at any time that Lerner is open. Since the fifth floor spaces are exclusive to a limited number of ABC clubs, student organizations that cannot be accommodated have virtually nowhere else to go. There are a few special accommodations in other facilities, but these spaces are smaller and even more exclusive. As a result, most campus student groups have no storage options whatsoever. Furthermore, most buildings on campus cannot accommodate new storage options even on the small scale of the fifth floor storage resources.

Storage space is not adequate if it is not secure or not freely accessible at all times to groups. Many of the current storage resources in Lerner Hall are shared storage rooms. As part of a temporary response to current group storage problems many groups have been granted access to administrative storage space. For security reasons, students cannot have free access to any of these spaces and must make prior arrangements with administrators to access their property. Similarly, although shared student group storage spaces seem more space efficient, access must be controlled by an administrator in order to assure security of other groups' stored items. Students keep odd hours and student events often occur late into the night, long after administrators have gone home. Groups need storage space that they can access as needed.

Different groups have different storage requirements. Some need to store costumes, some need room for their archives or financial records, and others need a place for their equipment. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions. Accordingly, storage resources should always be diverse and include compartments of various shapes and sizes. While current

fifth floor resources are fairly diverse, there are certain needs, particularly file and paper storage, that are given disproportionate accommodation. All needs, however, remain underserved.

Fifth Floor Options:

The Fifth floor space is limited to ABC groups only, but is insufficient to accommodate even most ABC group needs. The fifth floor storage space is extremely small. Resources include a medium-sized locker and file cabinet set, three storage cabinets, a small costume room, and “library” with shelving for groups with book collections.

In the spring of 2002, all of the private student group office spaces were removed from the fifth floor of Lerner Hall. The offices were able to simultaneously serve a variety of creative purposes, from meeting space to resource storage, allowing for maximum utilization of the space. The arrangements with which the offices were replaced offer none of the flexibility of the previous spaces. Rather than offices, even the luckiest ABC groups are now only allocated either one or two filing cabinet drawers or workstation cabinets that include, at best, a computer desk and a few shelves.

The recent remodeling of the fifth floor has failed to address many ABC groups’ needs. The Science Fiction Club stores hundreds of books that it cannot display in the library area. The Chinese Student Club must now store its dragon costume, which the club uses for ceremonies throughout the year, in suboptimal temporary accommodations outside the fifth floor. Theatrical, dance and cinematic groups must find ways to store backdrops, props, costumes, lights and production equipment. In order for the myriad extra-curricular groups at Columbia University to continue to offer creative and rewarding opportunities to the student body, growing storage problems must be addressed. Most groups, however, have never had any storage options at all.

More groups than ever before now face the reality that there is *no space whatsoever* in the student center for them to store. The few groups that have storage space do not have enough room to meet their basic storage needs. Unacceptable. Storage constraints alone can prevent groups from fulfilling their intended purposes and divert time and energy toward simply finding expensive off-campus or unconventional storage spaces, such as student rooms. Non-ABC groups have long struggled under such constraints and remain excluded from storage resources in Lerner.

Groups are currently required to go through a competitive space request process that rivals our Columbia applications. Even for groups who follow the procedures and meet all requirements of the SDA space request application process, there is simply not enough space to go around. This fall, twenty-nine of the eligible student groups applied for space that includes only three full storage cabinets. The fifth floor space was remodeled over the summer, creating substantial confusion about the application process; now that the system and available resources are widely understood, there will undoubtedly be far more applications for this coming year. Obviously many groups were turned away, but of those groups who did receive space, none felt that it was adequate to their needs and some have

even abandoned their token drawers altogether. As a rule, however, the drawers and especially the large and small cabinets are filled to capacity. Many cabinets, moreover, function as alternative storage options, augmenting the separate and already-full costume and temporary storage spaces by putting costumes and props in file drawers.

Groups with Large Storage Needs:

Decreasing storage space has already driven special-need student groups out of existence and more frequently prevented them from even being formed. The Columbia University Producers and Directors Club (CUPDC) is a prime example of this phenomenon: until this year, it had approximately three hundred members who gather to create original cinematic productions and offer them for public viewing at film screenings and festivals. The club has had difficulty providing members with adequate space and technology resources essential to digital film editing. The GSSC gave the club money in 2001-2002 to purchase a G4 Macintosh computer with all necessary equipment. After the club lost its office space in spring 2002, it was asked to apply for the new and unfamiliar club spaces made available after the summer construction. CUPDC could not be accommodated and was left with only a filing cabinet drawer to store their computer, rendering the once-vibrant club inactive. There are certainly other spaces in the newly designed fifth floor in which CUPDC could successfully set up and work, such as in one of the desktop publishing cabinets, but there are not nearly enough of these spaces to accommodate the needs of all of the ABC clubs, let alone organizations under the four other governing boards and SGA. The cabinets, moreover, have been explicitly designed and set aside for student publications, and cannot even accommodate all ABC publishing groups.

Columbia University Producers and Directors Club also faces problems in consequence of large equipment needs, particularly for lighting and set pieces. These items must be purchased and require storage space that has never been made adequately available to clubs who engage in large productions. Special needs must be addressed in order for arts groups and many others with special needs to survive at Columbia.

Section Conclusion

It is indisputable that the needs of Columbia University's student groups are not being met. A solution to this problem could potentially be found in the sixth floor of Lerner Hall. The student center is the ideal place in which to house the facilities for these groups, and adequate space could lead to an even more outstanding extra-curricular student life at Columbia. Lerner was built to be a student center and should be treated as such. If our groups had adequate space, we could have an even more outstanding extra-curricular student life at Columbia. This University claims to value diversity and talent. Our students have limitless contributions to offer to Columbia's community, and simple space issues should not stand in their way.

The new storage space need not consume a large area in order to have a tremendous impact. Storage areas may be the most efficient use of space, if the area consumed is considered in proportion to the benefits that result.

The greater the diversity of student groups with assigned storage space, the greater the number and diversity of students utilizing Lerner 6. And the greater the number of eligible groups, the higher the probability that the space will be well used. It is essential for all groups to have storage options and preferable for the resources to be close together in the student center. A collection of student group storage resources in Lerner would foster group interaction and allow easy access for group activities.

Additionally, please see Music and Performance Practice Space Proposal [3] and section 4-E.

III. Non-reservable Space and Resources

Introduction

Non-reservable space for group work, study and relaxation is decreasing in Lerner Hall and around campus. The fifth floor club resource area has been reduced to about half of its original size, Earl Hall has had to reduce its hours of operation and there are plans to replace the IAB lounge with an administrative office. While there were good reasons for all of these changes, the amount of non-reservable space where groups of students can meet or do collaborative work is nonetheless being reduced at an alarming rate.

Since 1999, Lerner Hall's mission has been framed as a student activity center focusing on some organized student groups but somewhat neglecting space and resource needs of most students, particularly those without group affiliation. Lerner has, however, fallen short even of its stated aims. Most student group resources in Lerner Hall are set aside for ABC groups. Most recognized student groups are excluded because there is not even sufficient room to accommodate even most ABC groups. The survey of undergraduate students indicates a strong need for non-reservable space and resources on the sixth floor including (but not limited to) lounges, group workstations, and group study space.

These resources are in demand by students who participate in student groups but also by those who simply want to utilize Lerner Hall as their student center. The lounges, workstations, and study space are critical to maintaining student presence on the sixth floor. Furthermore, not all the resources on the sixth floor should be explicitly limited to those involved with any student groups.

The resultant space would integrate a wide variety of functions, creating a unique resource for students. By incorporating workstations, study areas, and meeting areas into a single unified space, the floor will become a magnet for all students. The resources will draw graduate and undergraduate students from across schools, groups, and organizations at Columbia, creating a single cohesive community. This inclusive approach to the space will maximize both the number of functions that it can serve, and the range of students whose needs it can meet.

Additional Group Study / Meeting Space

OBSERVATION and ARGUMENT:

There are very few spaces on campus where groups of students can work or meet in comfortable environments. Although the library provides quiet space for individuals to study alone, many students prefer to work in less sterile environments. Student groups, both recognized and informal, have no centrally located non-reservable space. There are spaces in dorm lounges, but most lounges have pianos and are frequently reserved for student group programs.

The individual and group study needs of students are very similar to the meeting needs of student groups. The fifth floor meeting rooms are popular venues for meetings as well as studying. The rooms are nearly always reserved for student group meetings, but whenever they are opened for individual students around exam periods, they become filled with students eager for alternatives to their dorm rooms and the library.

PROPOSAL:

We propose that meeting areas be included on the sixth floor to accommodate small to medium sized study and work groups of four to six people. The spaces should be small rooms with doors, a small table, and chairs, all adjoining an open lounge and group resource area.

Group study and meeting space in Lerner would provide alternatives to other currently overcrowded spaces. Its flexibility would allow it to be used for multiple purposes, accommodating the needs of the entire student body.

Improved / Expanded Lounges

OBSERVATION and ARGUMENT:

As a student center, Lerner Hall has largely failed to provide welcoming and comfortable environments for students. According to the 2002 Enrolled Student Survey, students go to Lerner primarily to utilize its services. Contrary to original hopes, they do not stay in the building largely because there is nowhere to go. Most of Lerner's space must be cleared and locked in order for the room reservations system to function. Though there are clusters of leather chairs on the ends of each ramp in Lerner Hall, they are small and unsuitable spaces for students to congregate. Current ramp lounge spaces on the second floor are small, reservable by student groups and do not provide environments conducive to collaborative work. Students who use the Main Lounge on the second floor are regularly disturbed by the recreational use of the piano, student group programming, and constant noise from the elevator. There is no large communal space that is not also noisy and a main route for foot traffic. The fifth floor club resource area is small, crowded and consists mostly of walkway space. Its main bay houses a large, cold and noisy component of the building air conditioning system that operates 24 hours a day and is unpleasant to be near. Students have consistently articulated a need for more undisturbed space in Lerner Hall as the current lounge space is too open and subject to distraction.

PROPOSAL:

We propose that expanded lounge and meeting space be included in the sixth floor of Lerner Hall.

Such lounge areas could be utilized for impromptu/informal meetings, study spaces, and social purposes. The lounge space will serve as a significant attraction of the sixth floor

and is integral to providing a sense of community for those that venture beyond the ramps of Lerner Hall.

Any new spaces and resources on the sixth floor should be open to all students during the building's operating hours.

Additional / Improved Workstations

OBSERVATION and ARGUMENT:

There is almost nowhere in Lerner Hall or elsewhere on campus where students can go and work in groups while utilizing well-equipped (at the level of AcIS computer lounges) computer resources. The fifth floor features five such computers, but they are group resources reserved for use by student publications and student government and are protected by password. These computers are intentionally left inaccessible to the average student and most student groups for fear that open use will overwhelm the limited resource. The second and third floor computer labs are filled to capacity throughout the day and furthermore require absolute silence of patrons. Although groups of students often attempt to use such spaces for collaborative work, doing so is disruptive and strongly discouraged. Having computers on the sixth floor would offer students a much-needed alternative. Moreover, the elimination of more than forty private and computer-equipped offices on Lerner 5 has left student groups without any space on campus where their members can gather to perform necessary work.

Many students prefer computer resources areas that permit conversation. Some students prefer less sterile work environments than the quiet library or computer spaces provide. Students regularly use residence hall lounge space, the café area in the library, and the fifth floor club resource area (illegal personal use of the student group computers is common). According to the Office of Disabilities Services, some students require microphone equipment in order to operate computers. Although such equipment is readily available and adaptable to campus computers, talking is uniformly unwelcome in quiet computer areas.

At present, there are no group workstations open to students without group affiliation. Those that are available to student groups are restricted to student publications, leaving the overwhelming majority of student groups without the ability to work in a collaborative fashion. There are certainly no publicly-accessible resources with publishing capabilities beyond those provided by basic Microsoft Office.

PROPOSAL:

In order to create space for collaborative work, the sixth floor of Lerner Hall should include computer workstations. In accordance with the results of the surveys, we propose a cluster of computer terminals with printers and advanced application resources be included on the sixth floor of Lerner. Such a resource would provide students and most student groups with needed alternative resources not found or easily incorporated

anywhere else on campus.

IV. Music and Performance Group Practice Space

OBSERVATION:

Columbia's music and performance groups are extraordinarily talented and growing in number and size. As the premier school in the "theatre, music and arts capital of the world," Columbia attracts high caliber student-performers seeking a top college education as well as opportunities to pursue their artistic interests. Columbia actively searches for students with demonstrated talents outside the classroom in order to build a dynamic student body and increase the university's reputation. Current facilities are not worthy of New York City, Columbia University or its students.

Lack of music and performance group practice space impacts heavily on recognized student groups, informal student music practice, and all Columbia students who reside in residence halls or meet and study in Lerner Hall or residence hall lounges.

PROPOSALS:

[1] We propose that there should be at least one additional rooms on the model of E477 to be used for performance, dance or musical rehearsal. The rooms should be larger than and mark the dimensions of as many performance venue stages on campus as possible.

[2] We propose that several smaller rooms on the model of E572 and E573 be included in the sixth floor and recommend that all measures be taken to ensure that these spaces are sound proof, ideally so that they could accommodate at least drum noise.

[3] We propose that an enlarged and secure storage room be allocated on the sixth floor to house the orchestra's equipment and that E478 be retrofitted to better contain sound. E478 could serve as a permanent amplified and drum practice room as it did on a temporary basis previous to the orchestra's decision to discontinue amplified practice in the space. The burden of accommodating loud music practice could thereafter be shared by the Green Room and E478, which would still be the only two spaces on campus for loud music practice.

[4] We propose that any new resources should be outside Lerner Hall Administration's pre-calendaring and normal reservations processes. Free and equal use by recognized and informal student groups alike should be assured by either student council or student group administration of the space. Certainly the space will need to be organized, cleaned and maintained under current procedures, but by removing these rooms from standard Lerner Hall operations of locking and unlocking doors and setting up space, they can be utilized with greater efficiency than spaces under Lerner control. Furthermore, removing these spaces from the pre-calendaring process will address the need of groups for greater flexibility than pre-calendaring will allow and permit use by non-recognized groups. (Clarified under Parts 2-F and 2-G).

[5] We propose that the undergraduate and graduate student councils be charged with responsibility for management of performance and music group practice venues on the sixth floor with the understanding that they will guarantee equal access to all student groups, recognized and informal, and seek a student group coalition to manage all or part of its day-to-day operations.

ARGUMENT:

1. Introduction: The basics -what groups need.
2. General Issues of Concern:
 - a- Insufficient space
 - b- Decreasing space
 - c- Performance practice space needs
 - d- Amplified / drum music practice
 - e- Disabilities and General Accessibility
 - f- Pre-calendaring problems
 - g- Independent student space management
3. Evaluation of current space: small practice space:
 - a- Schapiro Hall.
 - b- Other Music Department Spaces: Broadway, East Campus, Dodge
 - c- Barnard Space
4. Evaluation of current space: large practice space:
 - a- Lerner Hall
 - Primary space.
 - Additional mixed-use spaces.
 - Second rate space.
 - b- University Residence Hall (URH)
 - c- Barnard Space
5. Other possible venues outside of the traditional practice spaces described in parts 3 and 4.
6. Summary and Conclusion

1- Introduction

Music and performance groups use current practice spaces to capacity.

There are over 30 recognized student groups specializing in music or the performing arts. Several of these organizations, such as Columbia Music Presents (CMP) are actually coalitions of organizations that represent many subgroups not separately recognized. There are still more groups recognized under the Music Department, such as Collegium, the Orchestra and several ensembles.

Many cultural groups host major productions involving dance, music and theatrical performances. The Chinese Students Club (CSC), Club Zamana, Liga Filipina, and Korean Students Association (KSA) are just a few of the groups that hold such events.

A substantial proportion of music and performance space users are unaffiliated with recognized student groups. Professionals, such as Music Department instructors, conduct

regular lessons in campus music space. Many graduate students regularly use campus performance and music resources, often as part of their graduate studies. Even more common are informal groups and individual students who engage in frequent music and performance practice despite being shut out of most spaces on campus.

Many Club Sports teams have the same needs as performance groups. Columbia has 11 martial arts groups: aikido, Brazilian ju jitsu, capoeira, go ju ryu, Japanese karate, judo, kung fu, self-defense, shotokan karate, and tae kwon do. Club sports' ballroom and Latin dance team has very similar needs. All these groups are tremendously active and extremely constrained by lack of available space. The Athletics Department, which oversees athletic classes, physical education, Club Sports, intramurals, and NCAA competition teams, does not have sufficient facilities to accommodate all its groups and many club sports teams already practice outside of athletic facilities, particularly in Lerner Hall.

There are two basic types of music and performance practice spaces: small group space and large group space. Space that accommodates only 1 to 4 people without instruments is small practice space. Large spaces can hold music and performance groups on the size of an a cappella group or larger. Performance groups often require even bigger spaces with wood floors and no obstructions. Performance groups tend to use large spaces far more often than small, which are utilized disproportionately by music groups. Music groups frequently need large spaces, but performance groups are almost exclusively dependent on large practice space. Special case groups like full student orchestras have even larger needs that are already given special consideration by the Columbia Music Department and Lerner Hall Administration.

According to recognized student groups and implicit in current space reservation policy, effective music practice requires:

1. Access to a tuned piano (except for amplified practice).
2. Privacy.
3. Soundproofing.
4. Proper acoustic design.

All large music practice space available to undergraduates on the Columbia campus is controlled by the Music Department or Lerner Hall Administration. Large venues stand alone from small practice spaces in Schapiro Hall, which cannot be reserved and are accessible by individuals through an on-site office operated by the Music Department. All Lerner-controlled spaces, which include practice venues in Lerner Hall, classroom space and Residence Hall (URH) lounges, are available free of charge to *recognized* student groups. Non-recognized student groups have virtually no access to practice space in Lerner Hall. Space in residence halls is theoretically open to non-reserved access by individuals and student groups, but these areas are rarely unoccupied, making practice by non-recognized groups in large space virtually impossible. Furthermore, the better spaces under URH, for instance Wallach lounge, are heavily booked by recognized groups. While the small practice rooms in Schapiro Hall are open to anybody, there are currently no small practice options available to music groups in Lerner Hall and none that might be

conveniently reserved around campus through Lerner Administration. Nearly all small practice space is located in Schapiro, a dorm that is further from most dorms than Lerner Hall and not a central gathering point for resources and students in the same way as the student center.

According to student groups, effective performance group practice space requires:

1. Large private area.
2. Practice rooms whose size dimensions are equivalent or configurable to performance venue size and dimensions.
3. Sprung Wood Floor (particularly for dance).
4. Mirror (particularly for dance).

Performance groups must be able to rehearse acts on stages approximate to those that they will use to perform. It is essential to know the boundaries of the stage in order to prepare any performance that involves multiple people, movement and especially choreography. Ideally, groups would practice exclusively on the same stages that they plan to use for their performances. Unfortunately, performance venues are already extremely over-booked, forcing groups to conduct most of their rehearsals elsewhere. Practicing in a different space of the same dimension is by no means the first choice for groups, but it is far better than practicing in spaces that aren't of the same size and proportion. Unfortunately, Lerner does not seem to have been designed with that consideration in mind and current spaces generally do not match the size or proportions of stages on campus, including those in Lerner itself.

Music and performance practice resource policies are complicated and controlled by 13 disconnected university offices*. Nearly all these offices have unique and independently operated reservation procedures and all are booked at, near, or above capacity. Additional restrictions and reductions of available space have further constrained all student groups' abilities to navigate the system. It is a basic fact that student space, including both reservable and non-reservable spaces, is decreasing at an alarming rate. A new system with more performance and music practice space is sorely needed not only to meet growing demands but also just to satisfy current needs at existing levels.

* College Activities Office, Lerner Administration, ResLife Columbia, ResLife Barnard, Physical Education Columbia, Physical Education Barnard, Music Department Columbia, Music Department Barnard, Office of the University Chaplain, Schapiro On-site supervision, Dance Department, Theater Department, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

2 - General Issues of Concern

a- *Insufficient Space*: There is not enough room on campus to accommodate music or performance practice venues during prime use hours. There are very few sufficient rooms for any of the major types of need and demand for those spaces exceeds capacity (see sections 3-5). Spill over into mixed use space is substantial and constraining available

space for all student groups. There is no space for large unrecognized music or performance groups.

b- Decreasing Space: The number of reservable classrooms in Kent, Hamilton and the International Affairs Building (IAB) is decreasing rapidly. As rooms are updated to “electronic classrooms” they are removed from the pool of available space due to concerns about the security of new equipment. As a result, the modernization of this campus is ironically becoming an enormous problem for students. As the quality of venues in IAB and Hamilton in particular is enhanced, their utility to students outside of classes is eliminated. Lerner Hall Administration has indicated that it anticipates an enormous crunch on space as modernization plans approach completion. It is unfortunate that student groups currently have to practice in these classrooms under unsatisfactory conditions, but they still presently depend on those spaces as principal music practice venues. Moreover, other groups use the classrooms as meeting space. Consequently, any further decrease in classroom space will exacerbate space problems in Lerner in general and force music and performance groups to compete with other displaced groups for remaining space. Many classrooms have already been removed from circulation and the effects are already being felt. Current spaces are already inadequate; decreasing space is creating a crisis situation for all student groups.

With the impending demolition of McIntosh and construction of a new Barnard student center, the space presently available in McIntosh will shortly be lost. Although a new building may provide better practice venues, the loss of student space, general student group venues, and practice rooms will undoubtedly spike use demands in other buildings. Considering the time required to demolish Ferris Booth and complete Lerner Hall, the McIntosh disruption could last several years and in the meantime severely disrupt campus student groups.

c- Performance Practice Space Needs: There are no adequate venues for performance group practice at Columbia. Besides the performance venues themselves, such as the Lerner black box, Milbank Minor Latham Playhouse, Miller Theater, and Roone Arledge Auditorium, there is nowhere for groups to rehearse for performances in spaces that simulate performance conditions. There is certainly a continuing need for performance venue space, but the ceiling height, size and layout of Lerner 6 cannot accommodate such a venue. Any new large practice room could hold a performance under less-than-ideal circumstances, but another theater will not fit in the space available. On the other hand, construction of suitable practice space that can simulate the conditions of performance venues could reduce the practice time that groups require on the actual stage. Performance groups will continue to need a substantial amount of time for technical preparations – indeed most of the on-site pre-show preparation for any performance is dedicated to such needs. Currently, however, groups waste considerable time and energy adapting their rehearsed performances to the performance space; with more suitable practice venues the performance venues could be used more efficiently. At the very least they would minimize unnecessary stress and aggravation.

d- *Amplified / Drum Music Practice*: Lerner Hall has been unable to accommodate the needs of loud music practice. Although Lerner Hall Administration has found a creative solution in reconfiguring the Green Room to be used primarily as amplified music practice space, the space was not originally intended for such purpose and has been problematic for amplified and drum musicians. The Green Room has the sad distinction of not only being the only room in Lerner suitable to loud practice, but also the most heavily used space in the building. Prior to practicing in the Green Room, loud music practice took place in E478, the room on the 4th floor that primarily serves as the orchestra storage space. The space was able to satisfactorily hold in the noise, and likely could do so even better if it had been equipped with sound-deadening additions. Nevertheless, the accommodation was supposed to be temporary until E572 and E573 could be completed and equipped to handle amplified and drum practice. Unfortunately for these musicians and contrary to original intent, the fifth floor rooms cannot hold in loud noise for architectural reasons. The situation was further complicated by the orchestra's determination that the storage area could not be shared on a permanent basis with CMP or other loud instrument groups.

e- *Disabilities and General Accessibility*: Lerner Hall is distinct from Earl Hall, the Chapel, and many other spaces as the only on-campus building compliant with the most current accessibility codes. There is certainly room for improvement, particularly though installing motorized doors, slip-proofing of floors and reconfiguration of over-crowded furniture in areas like the 5th Floor Club Resources Area. Unlike Earl Hall, the Chapel and most URH spaces, Lerner is architecturally fully accessible to physically disabled students. Earl Hall's main (2nd) and 3rd floors can only be accessed by a bottom level door and complicated slow lift system. Going to the third floor requires taking a separate lift, adding to the already considerable amount of time needed to just go to the main floor. Furthermore, operating the lift disrupts foot traffic and draws considerable attention to the lift user. On the whole, using the lift is a rather embarrassing and disruptive endeavor. Although the stairwell lifts are fairly new and probably the best that can be provided under the circumstances, they are still inadequate. Earl Hall is too old to accommodate an elevator without enormous cost and at considerable sacrifice in building space. Due to its particular architectural constraints, the Chapel does not even have a lift system. Accordingly, physical disability access is limited to the main level, which obviously cannot accommodate any renovation that would add suitable practice space. Furthermore, reaching the campus level of the Chapel and Earl Hall requires using the inconvenient "Dodge" lift system between College Walk and the upper campus. Moreover, lifts are problematic in general because of their tendency to break.

Many musicians and performers have heavy cumbersome equipment that must be moved by dolly to practice locations. These musicians face very similar mobility constraints to students requiring disabilities access. Unlike identified disabled students, however, musicians do not have access to the Dodge lift.

Many URH dorms, particularly East Campus, McBain, and River, are not readily accessible. East Campus has to be entered by an inconvenient back basement elevator that is not regularly attended and requires long waits. McBain and River have stairs at

their entrances that prevent wheel chair access and make difficult obstacles to individuals with crutches. Accessing the basement level practice rooms of Schapiro is cumbersome and requires passing through narrow corridors and doors. Likewise, the small practice rooms themselves are very tight and too small for a wheel chair to maneuver.

Classroom space in Kent and Hamilton is problematic for disabled student access. The Hamilton elevator is extremely small and a lift is needed to get around stairs to reach the elevator. Kent is an even more problematic space, and must be accessed by the Dodge lift after the Financial Offices on the street level are closed and locked at 5pm.

f- Pre-calendarizing Problems: Music and performance groups have trouble operating within Lerner Hall Administration's pre-calendarizing schedule. It is very difficult for performance groups in particular to anticipate their rehearsal needs months in advance. Practice requirements often increase as groups near a performance date and so a standard one-day-a-week reservation is not sufficient. Groups often do not know months in advance when their performances will be held or what their schedules will be for an upcoming semester. Furthermore, actual performance dates for events on campus are often settled through the same pre-calendarizing process as practice space reservations, which makes it impossible to request suitable dates and times.

Any space that has mixed use is not logistically separable from the pre-calendarizing process. C555, for instance, cannot be pre-calendarized for some groups and not others – its schedule must be determined in advance and in a single process in order to sort out and best accommodate competing demands for the space.

g- Independent Student Space Management: There are several instances of student management already in Lerner Hall. Columbia Music Presents (CMP) already handles much of the responsibility for allocating practice times to loud music practice groups using the Green Room. Similarly, an undergraduate council-funded student manager handles the reservation and upkeep needs of the Fifth Floor Club Resource Area and Student Government Office. As part of a larger floor dedicated to student needs and run by the student governments, music and performance practice spaces could be run by students through their elected student councils or alternative systems of their own choosing. As a student-controlled resource, Columbia students could assume an active and direct role in addressing the several problems that arise from current music and performance practice space problems.

The CCSC believes that student management of sixth floor resources is both feasible and desirable. In particular, the Columbia University Performing Arts League (CUPAL) could be given responsibility for managing a new large practice facility on the sixth floor for at least part of the time and either exclusively or in cooperation with other similar student group coalitions. Any management should be placed under supervision of the student councils, allowing recourse for groups in the event of abuses or disagreements. Whoever runs the music and performance practice space(s) should be charged with opening them equally to recognized and informal student groups, and graduate and undergraduate students. Of course considerations such as the proximity of performances

and assessments of need must inevitably be made, but such student group coalitions as CUPAL are the best able to make those determinations. Moreover, CUPAL representatives have expressed interest and demonstrated capacity for taking on such a task with student council assistance. CUPAL is comprised of members from every performing arts group and is inherently in touch with performing arts group needs and information as well as ideally positioned to handle disputes. A similar coalition of musical groups could be formed to serve the same role for managing musical group needs in the space and split control over the space with CUPAL, under a flexible sharing agreement determined either between the organizations or by the councils. Alternately, CUPAL could also be charged with responsibility for music group practice or work in tandem with student council members or designees responsible for managing music practice in the space.

3- Evaluation of Current Space – SMALL Practice

All small practice space on the Columbia campus is operated by the Music Department. Although open to individual students and informal student groups, the spaces frequently have charges or require long waits and are largely inaccessible to large segments of the Columbia community as a result of their location in Columbia dorms.

a. – Schapiro Hall

Small practice space is found principally in dorms, particularly Schapiro Hall, which features 8 music practice rooms, 7 of which have pianos. Schapiro is the principle campus hub for small music practice and is uniquely able to accommodate rapid turnover and high volume usage through on-site proctor staff.

The Schapiro practice rooms have several limitations:

- The practice spaces have to be supervised and allocated by proctors, who are not available past 12am.
- Lines often form during peak use times after 5pm and in the middle of the day around noon. Supervising staff characterize the usage pattern as very similar to that of the gym (see CCSC Gym Proposal, 2002).
- At peak hours, rehearsal time in the rooms is limited to one hour, which is wholly inadequate for effective music practice.
- Most rooms can really only hold one person. Although some are approved under fire code to accommodate up to three, acoustically, the spaces are completely unsuitable for more than two people, and most work best with one.

Furthermore, there is often spill over from the theatrical groups, who usually practice in the neighboring Schapiro Theater (discussed in Section 5) but occasionally use the small music practice rooms to rehearse dialogue or hone aspects of individual performance. This spillover is only permitted at times of low use, and while not indicative of directly competing needs, does highlight the utility of small practice space to theatrical performance groups in addition to music groups. More importantly, it underscores the chronic problem of theater space for all students, undergraduate and graduate, as well as

the practical absurdity of rigidly dividing space resources between graduates and undergraduates or music or performance groups.

b. – Other Music Department Space

All Music Department Space outside of Schapiro Hall must be reserved in advance through the Music Department in Dodge Hall. The spaces are open to anyone with Columbia ID. There is 1 publicly available practice space in Dodge Hall, 3 in East Campus, and 3 in Broadway.

Most of the other Music Department spaces are slightly larger than the Schapiro rooms, and can accommodate about four people each. All of the spaces have upright pianos. Unlike the Schapiro rooms, these other practice rooms must be reserved in advance through the Music Department and are allocated in hour blocks for a given day throughout the semester (ie every Thursday from 4-6pm). There is a uniform charge of \$5 per hour of weekly reservation time (ie Thursday 4-6pm would cost \$10 for the entire semester) in addition to a \$20 security deposit. Although the space use fee is not particularly expensive, it has long been policy in Lerner Hall to offer accommodations to students and student groups without charging them and the mere possibility that the cost might be prohibitive for some students raises issues of equal access.

The rooms can be opened by key only and are consequently not accessible by the general public outside of reservation times. Peak times are generally booked fairly quickly, particularly for the room in Dodge, which is the only truly public-accessible facility of the non-Schapiro rooms. All the other spaces are located in dorms, and consequently are inaccessible to students not living in Columbia dorms, particularly Barnard and commuter students. There are also issues of disabled and large instrument accessibility (discussed in Section 4-A) that limit student access to practice spaces outside of Dodge.

Like Lerner Hall Administration controlled space, Music Department space must be reserved well in advance – although at the beginning of the semester rather than the end of the previous semester. The same difficulties encountered with Lerner’s pre-calendaring system (discussed under section 4-C) consequently apply to non-Schapiro Music Department rooms.

No Music Department space can accommodate a large a cappella or choir group. Nor can any accommodate loud music practice from amplified instruments or drums.

c.- Barnard Campus Space

Barnard has a total of 5 small music practice rooms, all rather small but piano-equipped. Two of the spaces are located in the McIntosh student center and the additional three are in Sulzberger.

The McIntosh rooms, which are controlled by the College Activities Office (CAO), are open to the general public and free of charge. They may be reserved up to two weeks in

advance but are primarily available on a first come basis for two-hour blocks. Unfortunately, they are only available from 9:15am until 11pm on Monday through Friday. They are also very small and suffer from the same space, acoustic and capacity constraints as the Schapiro rooms. The sound proofing between the rooms is also rather poor and cannot hold in even piano noise, precluding any loud music practice.

The Sulzberger rooms are run by the Barnard Office of Residential Life and are explicitly limited to Barnard students. The rooms are all reserved in advance, at the beginning of the semester. They are moreover booked solid according to the Residence Life Office.

There is an additional single music practice room in Plimpton Hall. Because of Plimpton's location, however, this resource is only useful to residents of that building.

4- Evaluation of Current Space – LARGE Practice

Large practice is available in Lerner Hall and University Residence Halls (URH) lounge space. The latter is available for reservations on Thursdays through Sundays only. Most large space is mixed use, meaning that music and performance groups must compete with each other and other users for access to the space, particularly during peak hours.

a.-Lerner Hall

Principal Space: E477, E573, E572, Green Room

Lerner Hall rooms available exclusively for music practice are: E573 and E572. Additionally, the Green Room, and E477 are often used for music and performance practice, although designed to serve wider performance group needs. Mirror and wood floor equipped E477 is, along with the Party Space and Roone Arledge Auditorium, one of the only spaces even marginally adequate to performing group needs. The Green Room is used as support space for performances and speakers utilizing Roone Arledge Auditorium, which is heavily used and generally booked solid.

E572, E573, and E477 all have pianos and are relatively private. The Green Room does not have a piano, but it is devoted primarily to amplified music practice and so is an exception to the general rule. It is primarily managed by Columbia Music Presents (CMP), a coalition of amplified music performers that allocates practice time between its many members in an attempt to directly address the high demand through students. E477 and the Green Room are acoustically insulated, but contrary to original intent and design, the spaces in E573 and E572 are neither insulated from outside noise nor from each other. The Green Room, which is the most isolated of all the venues, is the only space in current circulation judged suitable for loud music practice by groups using amplified instruments or drums.

Data provided by Lerner Hall Administration shows the Green Room and E477 being used an average of 8 to 9 hours a day and E572 and E573 4 to 5 hours daily. Lerner Hall

is open from 7am to 12 am on Monday, 7am to 1 am on Tuesday and Wednesday, 7am to 3am for Thursday thru Saturday and 9am to 12am on Sundays. This adds up to 128 hours a week or an average of just over 18 hours a day. Columbia students are of course at the foremost students and typically have classes until at least 5:30pm and many as late as 7:30pm. When one considers the fact that as an individual music or performance group becomes larger the chances that some of its members will have late schedules increases, the pressure on current space becomes clear. Additionally, finding time where all members of a group are available is inevitably problematic and complicates the task of finding space available at needed times*.

The current use patterns, lack of suitable venues and volume of use allow little to no flexibility. The fact that all these spaces must be reserved a full semester in advance during pre-calendaring makes finding music and performance practice venues all the more cumbersome and bureaucratic.

*Statistics from Lerner Hall Administration

Additional Mixed Use Spaces: C555, Roone Arledge Auditorium, Party Space.

C555, the Party space and Roone Arledge Auditorium are also available for music and performance practice on a limited basis. When utilized for rehearsals, C555 is typically used for orchestral practices. C555 and the Party Space have pianos, but neither is acoustically insulated. Furthermore, both are high-demand rooms that are frequently used for speaking and dinner events, by performance groups, and for dance practices. The Auditorium has other space demands and neither music nor performance practice is its primary purpose. The Party Space is particularly noisy, has acoustic problems due to the ceiling height, and must be used by Lerner staff to access the basement floor by elevator, leading to frequent disruptions and no privacy. The Party Space is also poorly lit and has many obstructions, which make performance group practice, particularly dance practice and theater rehearsals, extremely difficult.

C555 and the Party Space are among the most heavily used spaces in Lerner Hall. Both spaces are used an average of 5-6 hours a day, which is more than even the practice rooms. Of course neither venue hosts exclusively music or performance practice, but clearly these spaces are already being used to capacity. Certainly neither space will be able to accommodate any increased need.

Other Space in Lerner Hall: Satow, E568, E569, Ramp Lounges, Black Box Theater.

All of these secondary spaces are occasionally used for music practice, often under special circumstances. None provides a solution to the current need as consequence of both alternate demands on the spaces and poor fit to music and performance practice needs.

Ideally the walls between Lerner rooms or the layout of event and meeting space allocations would prevent noise disturbances. The architectural failings of the building

itself, however, severely limit available space. Contrary to original intent, E572 and E573 are not able to accommodate loud music practice from drums or amplified instruments. According to many student groups and despite recent efforts and renovations, E572 and E573 still do not fully contain acoustic or vocal practice noise. Noise from practice in regular rooms is even more problematic since they are even less able to hold in sound. As a result, noise from practice in one room impacts on the meeting or practice in the neighboring room.

According to officials under the Vice President for Student Services, Lerner room reservations are already approaching capacity and still growing. Consequently, Lerner administration does not have the luxury of simply leaving buffer rooms empty between noisy practices and other events. Music practice in E568 or E569, for example, disrupts events in the neighboring Satow room. Noise disturbance will only become more problematic as the number of students and student groups continue to grow unless new practice venues can be created. Even at present, sound disturbance of events in Lerner as a result of music practice is a problem.

The second floor ramp lounges could conceivably be utilized for music practice. The Main Lounge includes a piano, but it is not reservable and heavily used by individual students. The space is wide open and affords no privacy. The East and West Ramp Lounges do not have pianos and are not acoustically isolated. If the chairs are arranged carefully, the ramp lounges can be utilized as second-rate practice venues, but that certainly was not their intended purpose. All three spaces are under high demand by other users including students who utilize them for studying, meetings and socializing. Moreover, each of the lounges is reservable by other student groups for meetings and events.

The Lerner Hall Black Box theater, which is controlled by SDA, cannot be used for music practice by non-theatrical groups for several logistical reasons. This space requires heightened security due to props and expensive equipment. It is not reservable through Lerner Hall Administration and is open exclusively to the theater groups that depend upon on it as their key resource. Furthermore, demand for its use already exceeds capacity* and access to the theater is limited to recognized undergraduate groups, in compliment to the graduate student Schapiro Theater.

Lerner Hall has open areas that are by default often used by groups for performance rehearsals. Such activities are essential, but often crowd out other students. They can be noisy or otherwise disruptive and discourage people from utilizing large areas of the building. Were there greater opportunity to use proper space, particularly for non-recognized groups, the building as a whole could be more efficiently utilized.

*According to SDA personnel in charge of the theater. - The pattern for use of a theater venue is slightly different than that of practice space in that it reflects the use pattern of groups preparing for a production. While there are typically periods of lower usage toward the beginning of the semester, usage picks up and demand exceeds capacity after a few weeks. The reason is that a performance group cannot possibly be ready to perform

and in most cases ready to begin rehearsals until going through a basic organizational period at the beginning of the semester. While access to the space at those times might alleviate some short-term performance group needs, it would only serve as a temporary solution for the beginning of the semester. All music and performance groups tend to need the space at the same time, which is why the black box can be simultaneously under-used at the beginning of a semester and over-booked a few weeks later.

b.-URH Lounges

The URH Lounges with pianos are: East Campus, John Jay, Wallach, Hartley and Wien. McBain also has a piano but it is presently unusable and, according to URH personnel, not repairable. A large space formerly allocated to music practice in River has recently been replaced with a computer lab. Like other recent changes, this addition was much needed but nonetheless deleterious to student groups. No new or renovated lounge space has added pianos or music practice lounges to the general pool. Overall, there remains very little space available for large group rehearsals in residence halls.

What space is available is not private. Most URH lounge spaces cannot be locked and all are frequently used by students to study and by other groups for events and meetings. Removing other students who have unknowingly come to the lounges to study is problematic because, unlike Lerner, room managers do not prepare or secure the spaces in advance. The Hartley, John Jay, Wallach and McBain spaces are near areas of high student traffic and are separated by thin glass walls, which in the case of Hartley do not even go up to the ceiling. The Wien space is the bottom level of a two-floor space and the upper part cannot be closed off during music or performance group practices.

Access to lounge space is limited by policies that preclude reservations by student groups on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. The Office of Residential Programs uses the space on those days for their own programming.

Compounding the issue, many students prefer to study or hold meetings in their building lounges either because they find the libraries uncomfortable or because they want to study close to their rooms. As a consequence of insufficient practice or study space, the two concerns are forced to compete, leaving both needs unmet.

c.-Barnard Space

In addition to Dance Department practice rooms and the Minor-Latham Theater, there are five reservable piano-equipped classrooms on Barnard's campus that could function as large practice space. These rooms are: 405 Milbank (aka Krueger Room), 501 Milbank, the James Room (Barnard Hall), the Brooks Living Room (Brooks Hall, the Quad) and the Marianne Victor Studio (Milbank). Additionally, Sulzberger Parlor has a piano, but like the Lerner Piano Lounge, it is not reservable.

All CAO-controlled spaces (Krueger, James, and 501 Milbank) are available to recognized student groups when available, but off limits to informal groups.

The three Milbank rooms are inaccessible once the building is locked down after hours (after 9pm) and primary classrooms during the day. As a rule, they are unavailable during the week. 501 and Krueger cannot accommodate dance or performance practice.

- The Studio is already over-used and certainly never available to outside groups, recognized or not. The Theater Department functions as the single department for Columbia and Barnard and relies on the Studio and Playhouse as the only two resources controlled by the department. Consequently, the two spaces serve as classrooms, practice rooms, and performance venues for the department.
- The Krueger Room can be reserved through CAO, but primarily functions as a main lecture room, particularly for history classes.
- 501 is a Barnard Music Department classroom and, as with the Theater Department, they are heavily taxed for space. 501 is one of the department's only spaces and occasionally functions as a music practice room for the Theater Department because of its proximity to their other resources. Like the other two rooms, it is already over-used. Furthermore, 501 is terribly run down.

The Brooks Living Room and James Rooms are both mixed use spaces. They are reservable through the Barnard Office of Residential Life and CAO, respectively. Both are heavily booked and reservable for limited hours.

The Dance Department controls several dance practice rooms, but they are all used to capacity and entirely for department-related purposes. Studio 1 and the Streng (**strength?) Rooms are booked solid with classes from 9am until 7pm, Monday through Thursday. Additionally, Dance Department students have significant outside-of-class practice needs, for which the department must set aside space. Like the Theater Department, the Dance Department is a joint program for both Barnard and Columbia and is accordingly already severely restricted by present use demands and unable to accommodate outside groups.

There are additional dance practice rooms under the Physical Education Department, namely Studio 2 and the Barnard Gym. Outside of Minor-Latham, they are the only venues available for performance practice by outside groups on the Barnard campus. Both spaces are primarily available to dance groups and reservable by recognized student groups only. Space is very limited since the spaces function as primary departmental and recreation venues. According to the Physical Education office, the gym is almost never available and Studio 2 fills up immediately at the beginning of the semester.

5 - Other Spaces on Campus

Dodge Hall – Music Department Space: Dodge has some music practice space, but those venues are relatively few, available only through the Music Department and generally not allocated to groups without Music Department affiliation. There are already problems with noise within the building as well as with after-hours access. Dodge was not meant as

a student center and already is hard pressed to accommodate its own multiple needs, which include visual arts space, various departmental offices, and classes.

Theater Department Space: Although the space available for music practice in Music Department controlled facilities elsewhere is inadequate to current and certainly growing needs, performing arts groups do not even have the luxury of such limited facilities. There is no space on campus devoted exclusively to dance or theatrical rehearsal. Music groups do at least have facilities such as E572, E573, the Schapiro and Broadway practice rooms. Performance groups by contrast have nothing and must share space with other groups in E477, the Party Space, Roone Arledge Auditorium and URH lounges. With decreasing space stemming from loss of classrooms, they will be disproportionately impacted in coming years by virtue of having no exclusive space comparable to the music practice rooms. While music practice space is a huge problem, lack of any, much less adequate, performance group practice space is perhaps an even bigger one.

Classrooms: Music and performance practice can theoretically be held under poor conditions anywhere on campus. Practice in classroom space or in public areas of Lerner Hall and other buildings does happen, but classrooms are generally inadequate to groups' needs. Reservable classrooms are crowded with bolted chairs or tables and have poor acoustics. Furthermore, there are no pianos in Columbia classrooms. For obvious reasons, music practice is not an option near classes during the day.

Student Rooms: Music practice is often conducted in student rooms to the disruption of people living nearby. Hardly anyone at Columbia has not at some point lived within earshot of students that for lack of convenient or available space have decided to conduct music practice sessions in their rooms. Students living nearby often endure the disruption because they realize the difficulty that both recognized and particularly informal groups encounter trying to find practice space. Other neighbors simply prefer not to confront fellow students or do not want to get friends or regular acquaintances in trouble. Still others do not realize that they can complain to RA's or URH authorities or have tried that route with little success.

Music practice in dorm rooms is in any case highly disruptive to fellow students. Considering the abundance of talented individuals on this campus, the close proximity in which Columbia students live in residence halls, and the fact that nearly every Columbia student lives in university housing, the lack of suitable alternative practice space is a major problem affecting the entire community.

Graduate Student Theater Space: Although it is unfortunate that some campus performance and rehearsal venues are restricted to graduates or undergraduates, the allocations are often borne out of acute space or instructional needs. The graduate students need Schapiro for academic purposes as much as dance majors need Dance Department space and theater majors need Minor-Latham. The Schapiro Theater functions as classroom, practice and performance space and is already used at high capacity. Additional facilities at Teachers' College are in poor locations and in poor condition.

Earl Hall and St. Paul's: The Office of the University Chaplain, the Earl Hall Center and St. Paul's are obligated to attend to campus religious life as a first priority. Since 1969 and following affirmation of the University Trustees, Earl Hall must also provide for religious, spiritual, political and ideological student organizations. Religious programming obligations already use a large percentage of available space resources. Additionally, high non-reducible operating costs restrict building hours to 9am-11pm Monday through Friday and Sunday evenings. Although Earl Hall is open to reservations and use by all student groups, it cannot accommodate regular practices by non-religious music or performance groups.

Earl Hall and St. Paul's are very old and historic buildings. They cannot accommodate major renovations and are unsuitable for many unforeseen use demands. Sound travels very easily in both buildings constraining event scheduling.

Dodge Fitness Center: The athletic facilities are already heavily used. Individual students rely on the Dodge facilities as their primary fitness center and resource for informal sports competition. Athletics facilities are already over-crowded and not available for reservation by student groups besides Club Sports teams. Moreover, even Club Sports' access to the space is treated as a relatively low priority compared to the departments other obligations, and they frequently have to look elsewhere for space.

Summary: Lerner Hall and to a lesser extent URH residence halls are designed to accommodate the needs of student groups. There are personnel on hand to clean the spaces and to ensure that they are open and available for groups with reservations. Resources that students need are nearby. Classroom space, in addition to its other failings, cannot accommodate groups in the innumerable ways that a student center or even a residence hall does. As the primary student center, Lerner Hall features a concentration resources not duplicated elsewhere.

6 – Section Conclusion

There is a huge need at Columbia for music and performance practice space.

The demand far outstrips current resources. The fact that groups have to meet in classrooms far away from what should be the hub of student activity is in itself an unacceptable situation. Furthermore, requiring student groups to reserve space months in advance places severe restraints on student groups already struggling to balance academic demands with extracurricular interests. Practice in student rooms or next to other meetings is a serious problem that affects all students and student groups. In sum, the problem of having no more than a handful of suitable rooms anywhere creates conditions that foster antagonism both towards other students and towards administrators.

Accordingly, in accordance with the desires of student groups as expressed through their governing boards, we request that a significant part of the undeveloped sixth Floor of Lerner Hall be devoted to music and performance practice space. These areas could

conceivably also function as large meeting rooms, but should primarily be used for music and performance practice in order to free up other venues. Pressure could be taken off current mixed use and second-rate spaces in Lerner Hall, classrooms, and under URH, thereby increasing space for all groups and students looking for study space. At the very least, space being lost in classrooms can be made up under better conditions in Lerner. Furthermore, removal of noisy practices from unsuitable rooms in Lerner Hall itself will increase the quality of all available space in Lerner.

A combination of new practice space and independent student control of scheduling could address many mounting space needs and help all students and student groups.

If Lerner Hall is not yet a true focus of student activity then, considering current demands for new music and performance practice space, a sixth floor center for music and performance practice could go a long way toward rectifying the disgustingly abysmal current state of affairs.

B Conclusion

Columbia students want more student space. Poll numbers show near unanimous hostility to increased administrative space in Lerner Hall. Every student, regardless of their extracurricular activities, school affiliation, study habits, or personal needs, wants Lerner Hall to better address student needs. The proposed increase in student space would allow multiple student needs to be met at once. If the current trend of decreasing student space continues, further escalation of competing needs will ensure increased student hostility. There is already growing frustration toward Columbia as an institution that places many demands on students and gives them few means to meet them. The sixth floor of Lerner could either change that sentiment or reconfirm its validity.

Although many areas in Lerner Hall come under the jurisdiction of separate administrative divisions, students do not see different floors or sections of Lerner as “owned” by separate offices; Business Services’ Game Room, Student Affairs’ Club Resource Area, and Lerner Hall’s lounges are all equally part of what the average Columbia student sees as “student space.” Students feel welcome in these spaces because they are open to them to use as they see fit. They are places where students can go and feel that they are part of a shared community. They want more similar resources that are open to everyone on an equal basis.

Student polls conform to what observation and statistics tell us about student need. Students want group work space, student group storage space and music and performance practice space. Our thorough survey of available resources in Lerner Hall and around campus indicates that lack of such resources is approaching a crisis point for individual students and all student groups.

The lack of storage resources, work areas, and performance practice space constitute the three biggest problems that can be realistically addressed on the sixth floor of Lerner.

While there are certainly other pressing needs facing students and no shortage of new ideas of what students would like to see on campus, building codes, the small size of the space and practical constraints limit what types of facilities can go on Lerner's sixth floor. Nonetheless, even had there been greater latitude in what the floor could accommodate, the CCSC would still be compelled to press for the accommodation of these same three enormous and increasing student needs on the sixth floor.

Columbia draws its undergraduates from around the world to live together in perhaps the nation's most densely populated and diverse student community. In an environment where ample personal space is no longer possible and students are commonly far from home, it is important to both protect personal space where it already exists and provide additional room for undergraduates to share in an efficient and social manner. This proposal seeks to address the latter concern.

The CCSC strongly believe that Lerner Hall should be the hub of student activity, that a *student* center is essential to a vibrant campus life, and that the building presently falls short of its full potential. A student center is distinct from an administrative office center or student services center; it should be a place for the community to come together in a comfortable and safe environment. It should be a resource to students and student groups that enhances the quality of campus life and community. Its mission can only be achieved when student needs are the priority

C. Undergraduate Poll Results

In the fall 2002 semester, the following survey was administered to all undergraduate student bodies and facilitated by their respective student councils:

LERNER 6 POLL

Fellow student,

Currently, the 6th floor of Lerner is undeveloped, and soon proposals for construction will be considered. The undergraduate councils, CCSC, ESC, GSSC, and Barnard SGA, want to jointly advocate for the Lerner 6th floor space to be dedicated solely to students.

Do you support Lerner 6 space being dedicated to student use? (Mark with an X).

YES: _____ NO: _____

Earlier in the semester the councils asked for ideas on what should go on this floor. Responses have been tabulated and are presented below. From the 12 options, please answer the questions below regarding the future of Lerner 6. These prospective spaces would be an addition to current spaces, and would not change the current composition of other spaces on campus.

POSSIBLE SPACES:

- A administrative office: _____
- B dance practice space
- C debate hall
- D lounge
- E music practice space (specify large or small: _____)
- F non-reservable group and student working space with workstations
- G outside vendor/business: _____
- H recreational area
- I student group storage space
- J study carrels/booths
- K theater performance practice space
- L visual arts studio
- M other: _____

Which spaces do you feel are lacking and you'd like on the Lerner 6th floor? Please indicate by letter.

1st priority:

2nd priority:

3rd priority:

Which spaces do you feel are the least important spaces to go on the Lerner 6th floor? Please indicate by letter.

Lowest priority:

2nd lowest priority:

3rd lowest priority:

Feel free to give a more specific description along with your choices.

Barnard Student Government Association							
Options	1st	2 nd	3rd	lowest	2nd lowest	3rd lowest	Weighted priority values*
recreational area	20	15	12	2	1	5	89
lounge	15	21	11	2	7	0	78
non-reservable group and student working space with workstations	18	9	12	1	7	4	63
visual arts studio	6	10	10	2	3	0	36
music practice space	9	8	8	4	3	7	26
study carrels/booths	8	8	15	6	4	7	22
dance practice space	8	7	9	6	4	5	16
theater performance practice space	5	6	7	3	4	3	14
other	3	0	2	0	0	0	11
student group storage space	3	6	5	3	12	17	-24
outside vendor/business	2	5	3	14	13	15	-64
debate hall	0	2	2	4	24	14	-68
administrative office	0	0	0	48	11	10	-176

Other: Café w/student workers; student showcase, art, photo, projects; private study area.

Columbia College Student Council							
Options	1st	2 nd	3rd	lowest	2nd lowest	3rd lowest	Weighted priority values*
music practice space	167	128	54	3	9	10	774
non-reservable group and student working space with workstations	49	40	39	4	5	17	227
recreational area	20	31	38	8	15	20	86
student group storage space	28	17	26	9	25	20	47
study carrels/booths	12	25	36	5	16	28	47
theater performance practice space	6	15	17	3	5	16	30
other	8	2	20	2	6	10	20
visual arts studio	3	17	26	5	9	21	15
dance practice space	12	7	13	5	18	18	-6
lounge	11	27	34	16	38	35	-38
debate hall	6	9	6	11	28	27	-74
outside vendor/business	7	9	15	49	68	35	-264
administrative office	0	2	8	202	78	59	-809

Music: 91 small, 76 large (1st), 67 small, 61 large (2nd), 30 small, 24 large (3rd), 0 small, 3 large (lowest), 2 small, 7 large (2nd lowest), 2 small, 8 large (3rd lowest).

Engineering Student Council							
Options	1st	2 nd	3rd	lowest	2nd lowest	3rd lowest	Weighted priority values*
non-reservable group and student working space with workstations	46	45	30	3	9	2	229
recreational area	49	36	31	3	4	10	223
lounge	32	37	33	17	11	6	124
music practice space	27	27	13	6	14	13	89
study carrels/booths	23	33	28	11	12	17	89
other	16	4	10			2	64
student group storage space	12	11	23	7	26	17	-9
dance practice space	18	14	9	13	26	15	-15
theater performance practice space	5	5	15	7	16	21	-34
visual arts studio	6	10	9	8	14	29	-34
outside vendor/business	8	10	19	33	26	26	-114
debate hall	5	2	4	21	49	34	-172
administrative office	2	4	2	103	23	23	-362

music practice space: 10 large, 14 small, 2 piano (1st), 5 large, 6 small (2nd), 3 large, 2 small (3rd), 1 large (2nd lowest),

outside vendor/business: 1 barbershop/salon/bar, 2 KFC, 2 cafe, 1 game stop, 1 ice cream
1

study carrels/booths: 24 hours

other: 3 blank, 1 av facilities, 2 commuter areas, CUMB space, multicultural space, obstacle course, space where diff. clubs on campus would organize their events, strip club, student group workspace, swimming pool, 1 ballroom full of colorful of plastic balls, 1 build space for theater construction, 1 event space, 1 student businesses, 1 bar/restaurant, 2 computer labs, 1 group office space, 1 kung fu practice, 1 swimming pool, 1 vending machines, reserved space (3rd lowest)

administrative office: 1 for students

recreational area: 1 pool tables

General Studies Student Council							
Options	1sr	2nd	3rd	1st Lowest	2nd Lowest	3rd Lowest	Weighted priority values*
non-reservable group and student...	12	0	2	0	0	2	36
music practice space	6	7	6	1	1	0	33
recreational area	3	6	4	0	0	3	22

study carrels/booths	6	5	2	1	0	5	22
Lounge	4	5	10	1	3	2	21
theater performance practice space	0	5	3	0	0	1	12
Other	2	1	1	0	0	0	9
visual arts studio	0	2	5	2	2	0	-1
dance practice space	3	2	0	4	2	3	-6
student group storage space	0	4	1	2	5	4	-9
debate hall	1	0	2	2	3	2	-9
outside vendor/business	0	0	1	10	7	4	-47
administrative office	0	0	0	14	14	11	-81

* computer lab, ROTC office

Combined (CCSC, ESC, GSSC, SGA)	
Options	Weighted priority values*
music practice space	922
non-reservable group and student...	555
recreational area	420
lounge	185
study carrels/booths	180
other	104
theater performance practice space	22
visual arts studio	16
student group storage space	5
dance practice space	-1
debate hall	-323
outside vendor/business	-489
administrative office	-1428

**Weighted Priority Values are calculated by giving the 1st priority a value of +3, 2nd priority = +2, 3rd priority = +1, lowest priority = -3, 2nd lowest priority = -2, 3rd lowest priority = -1. A weighted average was then calculated.*

D. Explanation of Council Position and Affirmations of Council Support

The CCSC relied heavily on data and direct observation of how student groups and students use current campus space in determining our position. We incorporated feedback from student responses to an online poll conducted in cooperation with the other undergraduate councils. We also paid particular attention to responses from an email questionnaire sent to Columbia College students and follow up emails to music and performance groups. In both cases, that data reinforced what was already evident from feedback we received from student groups and the five governing boards who directly oversee and represent our undergraduate community's recognized student groups*.

Student groups are the key component of campus community. Many groups exist formally and with support of student life and activities fees. Many others are informal or unrecognized. Even more common are groups of friends looking for places where they can go to work together, talk, or pursue their collective interests. As a reflection of increased student enrollment and diversity, campus student groups are growing in number, strength, and size. Decreasing space, however, is creating new barriers to growth.

Student groups must meet and organize in order to function and by extension they need space conducive to assembly and activities. Students cannot always operate on Lerner Hall Administration's schedule and often need comfortable non-reservable space; they frequently have to leave Lerner Hall to find it.

The CCSC has been in direct contact with the student group governing boards throughout our investigation of this issue and we give considerable weight to their representation of recognized student group needs, particularly their joint position that music and performance practice space, group work space and some small scale storage space are the three greatest unmet needs of student groups as related to student space. Through the new Intergroup Caucus, which brings together representatives from each of the governing boards, the CCSC, Engineering Student Council (ESC) and General Studies Student Council (GSSC)**, we helped craft and, along with the GSSC and the governing board representatives, signed a letter to then-Executive Vice President for Administration Emily Lloyd stating our shared position regarding the top three needs that should be addressed in designing the sixth Floor.

All student groups, including IGC and Club Sports have meeting space needs. Community Impact and SGB have particularly acute needs as they currently cohabitate Earl Hall, along with the administrative offices for the University Chaplain and Campus Ministries. Earl Hall, which is a student center for the entire university, is already among the campus' most efficient buildings regarding space use. Moreover, its relatively small staff does a tremendous amount of work in very little space, leaving no doubt that the student space potential in that building is being realized. There is no possible means of expanding or significantly renovating the building to meet SGB or CI's growing needs, much less those of Columbia's countless other formal and informal organizations that can

access the building. In Lerner Hall, ABC, which formerly had access to most of the 5th floor, has lost nearly half of their space because of expansion of Student Development and Activities (SDA)*** offices over the summer into the floor's "back bay." The remaining area is now significantly more crowded. While SDA and the Office of Student Affairs certainly had ample need for the expansion, the significant loss of student space added to an already pressing problem.

Every night, recognized and unrecognized student groups and individual students who prefer a busier work environment for studying utilize the very limited space on the 5th floor. The success of the redesigned albeit smaller and still incomplete Club Resource area highlights the tremendous need for more and larger areas on that model of mixed lounge, meeting and working environments. With student space already dramatically reduced from last year, the CCSC views the undergraduate community's space needs as our highest priority.

* The Governing Boards are: Activities Board at Columbia, Club Sports, Community Impact, Inter-Greek Council, and the Student Governing Board of Earl Hall.

** Barnard Student Governing Association (SGA) has since become a full member of the caucus as well.

*** SDA is a division of the Office of Student Affairs for Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Among other responsibilities, SDA oversees and advises the ABC and their student groups.

E. Appendix

1. Notes and Definitions for Music and Performance Practice Space

Definitions:

Acoustically Isolated: Sound proofed, both from outside noise coming in and inside noise going out.

Lerner Hall Administration: The office that controls student group space reservations for undergraduates in Lerner Hall, Hamilton Hall, Kent Hall, the International Affairs Building, Low Plaza, College Walk, and University Residence Hall (URH) lounge space. Classroom building space can also be reserved through various departments. The Lerner Hall office is only directly responsible for space in Lerner Hall itself although it is the processing point for the other space reservations, subject to several additional considerations discussed later.

Music Group: Any group that uses instruments, mixing devices, amplifiers, vocals or any combination for musical purposes. These groups include students preparing for performances at Columbia and elsewhere as well as those who simply want to play or rehearse for its own sake. For purposes of this discussion, the needs of small comedy and improv. groups will be considered encompassed under music and performance group needs

Performance Group: Any group preparing for a staged performance. Dance and theatrical, groups are the most common examples. For purposes of this discussion, martial arts groups will be considered encompassed under performance groups.

Recognized Student Group: Any student-run organization recognized by one of the five governing boards or the Barnard Student Government Association (SGA).

2. Supporting Proposal Documents

*[Link to Letters](#)