

UT BUTLER SCHOOL OF MUSIC – STATEMENT ON CAMPUS CARRY LAW

OCTOBER 25, 2015

The undersigned faculty and staff of the Butler School of Music are extremely alarmed by the Campus Carry law passed by the Texas Legislature and oppose the presence of concealed firearms in our classrooms, offices, social spaces, and concert halls. We consider this law to be an existential threat to our core mission of “making profound contributions to the future of music” and preparing “students for productive careers as performers, teachers, composers and scholars, and for satisfying lives as informed and responsible members of a democratic society.” Guns on campus are a direct threat to the freedom of speech which is a fundamental cornerstone of academic discourse; the atmosphere of fear derived from the presence of guns directly conflicts with UT’s mandate for “creating a community working together to solve challenges facing society, blending research and discovery with learning.”

None of us believes that allowing more guns into our facilities will increase the safety of our faculty, students or staff; on the contrary, this legislation puts at risk hundreds of UT students present in our building on any given day. Moreover, our school also functions as a major community outreach resource. Carrying concealed weapons creates physical and psychological risks for the many children who are taking lessons in our building on a daily basis (two nationally recognized outreach programs, the Piano Project and the String Project, have about 300 students regularly enrolled every semester) and to high school students who attend the events of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Since the announcement of the law, some community outreach events have been cancelled due to perceived risk. With its more than 600 annual concerts and other public events that are attended by hundreds of people from around Austin and beyond, we cannot entrust security to anyone other than trained officers of the peace.

- 1) Donnie Ray Albert, Senior Lecturer
- 2) Gregory Allen, Professor
- 3) Byron Almén, Associate Professor
- 4) Elliott Antokoletz, Professor; Alice Mackie Scott Tacquard Endowed Centennial Chair
- 5) Charles Ball, Head Piano Technician
- 6) JJ Barrera, Specialist – Conjunto

- 7) Sarah Borshard, Assistant Director, Admissions
- 8) James Buhler, Associate Professor
- 9) Carlos Capra, Lecturer
- 10) B. Glenn Chandler, Professor; Fellow to the Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in Fine Arts
- 11) Kevin Crook, Executive Assistant
- 12) Charlotte Daniel, Program Assistant
- 13) Andrew Dell'Antonio, University Distinguished Teaching Professor
- 14) Robert DeSimone, Professor
- 15) Chuck Dillard, Lecturer
- 16) Dennis Dotson, Specialist – Jazz
- 17) Eric A. Drott, Associate Professor
- 18) Veit Erlmann, Professor; Endowed Chair of Music History
- 19) Jeff Farris, Piano Technician
- 20) William Fedkenheuer, Senior Lecturer
- 21) John Fremgen, Associate Professor
- 22) Marianne Gedigian, Professor
- 23) Sophia Gilmsen, Associate Professor
- 24) Joshua Gindele, Senior Lecturer
- 25) Donald Grantham, Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Centennial Professor of Music
- 26) Jeffrey M. Grimes, Graduate Program Coordinator
- 27) Anne Hall, Administrative Associate
- 28) Robert Hatten, Professor
- 29) Jeffrey Hellmer, Professor
- 30) Martha Hilley, Professor; Director of undergraduate studies
- 31) Adam Holzman, Professor
- 32) Patrick Hughes, Associate Professor
- 33) Rastko Jakovljevic, Visiting Professor, Harrington Fellow
- 34) Judith Jellison, Mary D. Bold Regents Professor; University Distinguished Teaching Professor
- 35) Kristin Wolfe Jensen, Professor
- 36) Jerry Junkin, Vincent R. and Jane D. DiNino Chair; University Distinguished Teaching Professor
- 37) Joanna Kaminski, Assistant to the Director
- 38) Ryan Kelly, Lecturer
- 39) Kelly Kuo, Lecturer

- 40) Sonja Larson, Scheduling Assistant
- 41) Delaine Leonard, Senior Lecturer
- 42) Brian Lewis, Professor; David and Mary Winton Green Chair
- 43) Matthias Maierhofer, Assistant Professor
- 44) Hunter Marsh, Professor Emeritus
- 45) Eric Mellenbruch, Lecturer
- 46) John Mills, Associate Professor
- 47) Robin Moore, Professor
- 48) Raine Munkens, Development Associate
- 49) Luisa Nardini, Associate Professor
- 50) Guido Olivieri, Senior Lecturer
- 51) Stephen Page, Assistant Professor
- 52) Suzanne M. Pence, Associate Professor 53) Bruce Pennycook, Professor
- 54) Russell Pinkston, Professor
- 55) Mary Ellen Poole, Professor
- 56) Gary Powell, Senior Lecturer
- 57) David Renner, Associate Professor
- 58) Linn Roath, Assistant Piano Technician
- 59) Rick Rowley, Senior Lecturer
- 60) Wayne Salzman II, Specialist – Jazz
- 61) Tamara Sanikidze, Lecturer
- 62) Ray Sasaki, Professor; Frank C. Erwin Centennial Professorship
- 63) Laurie Scott, Associate Professor
- 64) Sonia Seeman, Associate Professor
- 65) Daniel Seriff, Graduate Admission and Community Outreach Coordinator
- 66) Yevgeniy Sharlat, Associate Professor
- 67) Frank Simon, Technical Services Manager
- 68) Stephen Slawek, Professor
- 69) David Small, Associate Professor
- 70) Claire Spera, Publicity Coordinator
- 71) Page Stephens, Operations Manager
- 72) Bion Tsang, Professor of Cello
- 73) John Turci-Escobar, Assistant Professor
- 74) Michael C. Tusa, Professor
- 75) Colette Valentine, Lecturer
- 76) Charles Villarrubia, Associate Professor

- 77) Dan Welcher, Professor
- 78) Andrew West, Director of Development
- 79) Marianne Wheeldon, Associate Professor
- 80) Darlene Wiley, Professor
- 81) Timothy Woolsey, Lecturer
- 82) Stephen Wray, Senior Administrative Associate
- 83) Tony Zapata, Finance Manager
- 84) DaXun Zhang, Associate Professor