

Music lab assists learning

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Staff Writer

Among all the new technological advances on campus, one computer lab offers the integration of music with computer software.

The Performing Arts Technology Lab, located in Howard Auditorium, Center for the Performing Arts, recently opened for the first music technology classes taught at Tech.

Michael Rasbury, an instructor of theater, oversees the lab. "We want to try to incorporate more technology into this program," Rasbury said.

Other professors who work in the lab are Mel Mobley, an acting assistant professor of percussion, and Andrew Lankford, an acting assistant professor of low percussion and music education.

The new computer lab was added as part of the reaccreditation of the music program. Lankford said one of the main deficiencies of the old program was the lack of technology.

When setting up the lab, Rasbury said he first set up synthesizers and then connected them to the computers.

This allows performances on the synthesizer to be saved on the computer.

The student may then pull up the song he just played and change any wrong notes, allowing a perfect performance to be saved in the computer.

The goal of the Performing Arts Technology Lab is to teach music and theater students every-

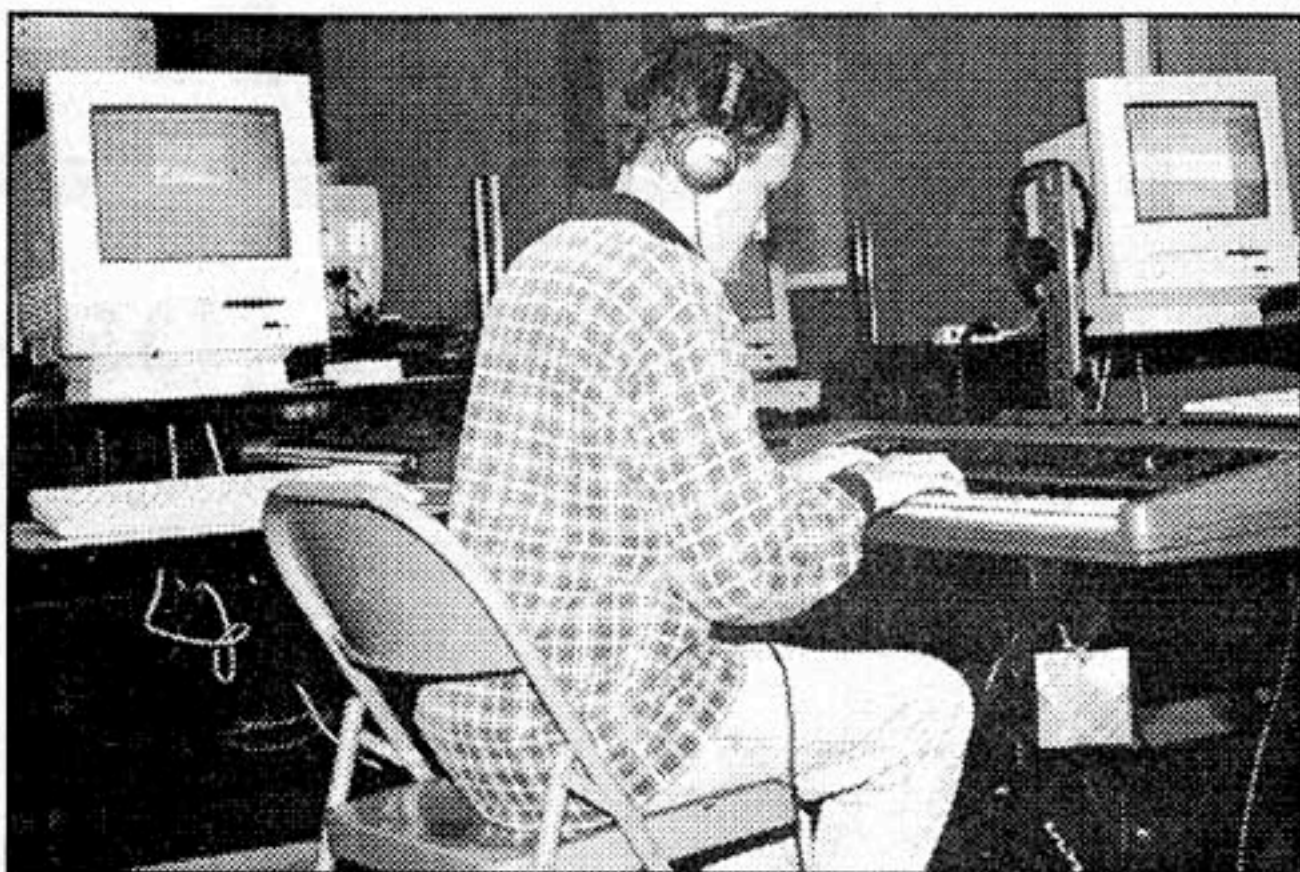


Photo by Tia Owens

Chris Morgan, a junior psychology major and music minor, takes advantage of the synthesizers and computers in the new Performing Arts Technology Lab.

thing from basic computer literacy to advanced music technology skills.

The music department has been teaching classes in a synthesizer lab since 1991, but the Performing Arts Technology Lab is the first lab that allows students to work with computers.

In the past, music and theater students had to go to other labs to learn computer literacy skills. The new lab allows students to stay in their own department to learn basic computer technology.

"We are teaching skills they will definitely be able to use," Lankford said.

The new computer lab is not only used for musical performances, but students also learn

skills such as word processing, Internet and e-mail basics. The programs can also be used to lay out brochures and design web pages.

"I think the technology lab will help everybody in all of the arts learn more about computers in their field," Gloria Tillman, a freshman music education major, said.

The next big goal of the directors of the lab is to buy synthesizers.

Five synthesizers are being leased to connect with the computers, but rather than lease the keyboards, Rasbury said he would like for the music and theater departments to own the synthesizers.