



BLADE PHOTO BY JEREMY WADSWORTH

Andrew Elias, 23, of Helena, O., works on his song, 'Grunt Muffin,' in the music lab at Terra Community College in Fremont. Mr. Elias is one of five students enrolled in the new music technology major program.

# Terra students learning technical side of music

BY MIKE TRESSLER

BLADE STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — Andrew Elias doesn't want to be a rock star.

He wants to be the guy who flicks the switches, pushes the buttons, and bends the music that turns a musician into a star.

"I want to be the man behind the board, the engineer for major record labels," he said yesterday.

To do that, Mr. Elias, 23, is one of five students enrolled in a new music technology major program at Terra Community College. After partici-

pants successfully complete two years of course work, the college will award associate degrees of applied science in music technology.

Terra started the degree program this year with a small staff and a room full of sophisticated electronic sound equipment.

Students will learn to make music, record it, mix it, and turn out full-blown sound productions, Terra spokeswoman Jill Fick said.

The arrays of computerized machinery are their tools — hardware and software to tug and tweak music into finished sounds. It suits Mr. Elias just fine. The Woodmore High School

graduate has worked at a recording studio in Toledo, which he considers an internship, and he has composed musical arrangements for bands.

"When I first walked into Terra, I felt like a 5-year-old at Christmas time. There is so much equipment," Mr. Elias said. "Half the problem usually is getting things to work. Not here. Everything works. I was able to start composing right away."

The lab's 14 work stations feature Macintosh computers, the newest hardware crammed with music-production software. "It's like having one

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musical instrument to play and all of a sudden being given an entire orchestra," Mr. Elias said.

"It is rare for a two-year school to offer this program," Richard Repp, assistant professor of music, who oversees the studies, said. "The more usual degree [at other colleges] is in recording techniques, but we're very broad-based and students will [learn] a much wider range of skills."

At Terra, music-tech students will study such topics as computer-and-music technology, sequencing,

digital audio, composition for electronic majors, music notation, and business skills, as well as recording techniques - how to be a studio engineer.

Studies will provide a foundation in music history, theory, and performance, Dr. Repp said. "Students will combine traditional music skills and technology."

All music-tech students play in a band - the Electronic Music Ensemble. It's part of the curriculum. One of the ensemble's numbers: "C in the Light," by Andrew Elias. "I play a Roland guitar synthesizer," Mr. Elias said.

Other "instruments" are electronic drums and wind controllers - a very interesting-looking beast, Dr. Repp said with a smile.

The ensemble performs away from the Terra campus, traveling to entertain at high schools. "It's our recruiting tool," Dr. Repp said. "We play a lot of popular music and some classical stuff."

The music technology degree could lead a graduate to more degree work at a four-year university but also is designed as a terminal degree. "Students could go out from here and get a good job," Dr. Repp said.

Terra began classes this year for an Associates of Arts degree with a concentration in music.

That more traditional study has some overlap with the music technology program, but is mainly for students who will go on to further studies.