SOUTHWESTERN MUSIC BUILDING — A new million-dollar music building is in use at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette. The building includes an auditorium, classrooms, service rooms, teaching studios, practice rooms, administrative offices and a record listening room.

New Music Building Now In Use at Southwestern

LAFAYETTE — The million-dollar University of Southwestern Louisiana Music Auditorium and classroom building, constructed with funds provided by the State Bond and Building Commission, was completed in time for occupancy and use with the opening of the fall semester at USL.

Still to be completed is installation of the sound system, lighting, stage curtains and rigging in the theater section of the building.

The air-conditioned functional building is located on the corner of St. Mary Boulevard and McKinley Street.

Lou Doiron, A.I.A., architect, Lafayette, designed the building, which was constructed by Weill Construction Co., Lafayette.

"USL's Music Department has gained national attention through activities of her majors and her faculty," Dr. Joel L. Fletcher, president, said, "We are happy that the department is now properly housed and will be able to give even more to their students and achieve even greater stature."

The building is in use from 8 a.m. until past 9 p.m. according to Willis Ducrest, professor and head of the USL Music Department.

Because of the high enrollment and congested classroom conditions at USL, the classroom section of the building is being used also by classes in economics, French, biology and animal husbandry.

Facilities in the building, whose general architectural styling conforms to that of the existing campus academic building, includes a 100-seat auditorium with necessary accommodations for full size opera, orchestra and band productions.

The classroom section of the building includes administrative offices, teaching studies, practice rooms and classrooms.

There is also a faculty lounge with a small kitchen located near the 200-seat recital hall and choral room that can also serve as a reception room.

This area of the building is in a separate but adjacent wing that houses an orchestra rehearsal room and a band rehearsal room, each of which have service and storage areas.

Included in this wing is the organ studio.

"The building is extremely functional," Ducrest said, "and in spite of the increase in the enrollment of music majors should take care of our needs for the time being because of its adaptability."

In pointing out special features of the building, Ducrest said the 27 applied music teaching studios, which are occupied all day long, serve also as offices for the faculty and provide for private counseling of students.