## 'Professor' Sting wows BSU students

orld-famous musician Sting took time out of his busy "Broken Music" tour to give a master class to composition students at Boise State on April 9.

The bassist, singer and songwriter played the Idaho Center in Nampa that night, but devoted his afternoon to Boise State students. The musician's tour took him to college campuses and smaller venues around the country, and he asked several universities if he could teach classes on their campuses.

Sting, joined by his guitar players Shane Fontayne and Dominic Miller, lectured in front of 32 students and five faculty members for a little more than an hour at the Morrison Center.

Music department chair James Cook says Sting talked about composition, his own music and the importance of learning the classics.

"I'm a little nervous," Sting said to

the class, as reported by The Arbiter, Boise State's student newspaper. "I played at Shea Stadium in front of thousands, but in front of you guys I'm a wreck."

Cook said that a member of Sting's management group called Boise State a couple of months before his appearance with the master class

idea. Before coming to BSU, Sting spoke to students at San Jose State and the University of Oregon.

Cook says that Boise State has many guest music lecturers, and that it was good for students to come in contact with a successful musician. "He was a very cordial, very nice person and he answered the students' questions with respect," Cook says.

Kirstie Williams, a senior majoring in composition, says she initially

> wasn't overwhelmed with the idea of a pop star visiting campus, but Sting's knowledge won her

> "I was quite impressed with the way he ran it,"



Left: Sting addresses a BSU master class of music students. Below: The British pop star (right middle) and band members interact with the class.

she says.

Williams says the British star was "very, very well informed" about classical performers and showed an enthusiasm for continuing his musical education.

Other students have been Sting fans for years. Recent graduate Jeremy Schrepple (BA, composition, '05) said that he told all of his friends about Sting's upcoming appearance, but he was still a little awestruck when the musician arrived.

"It was kind of surreal when he came in the room because he's such a huge icon," he says.

"I became some typical fan, like, 'Oh my gosh, Sting just walked into the room!' It took me about 10 minutes before I realized, 'Hey, he's saying something.""

Julie Hahn



## University welcomes first class of Capital Scholars

hirty-nine Idaho high school juniors from Bonners Ferry and Salmon to Pocatello and the Treasure Valley were honored for their academic achievements and received \$1,000 scholarships as members of the inaugural class of Boise State Capital Scholars.

The Capital Scholars program includes students statewide in the top 10 percent of their classes, with college entrance exam scores of 27 on the ACT or 1,220 on the SAT.

More than 350 students were identified as Capital Scholars, but they had to

attend the program in April to receive the one-time scholarship for use at Boise State.

With an all-time state fall enrollment record of 18,456 students in 2004, Boise State has a student body that has met the highest admissions standards among public universities in Idaho.

The Capital Scholars program is part of an effort to keep high-ability students in state with an introduction to Boise State's more than 190 academic offerings, convenience of residence hall living and availability of financial aid.