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Chair of the Board  
MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement

Prof. Filip Rathé  
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Brussels, 18 January 2023

**Subject: Programme Quality Enhancement Review of the Music Programme 2022**

Dear Colleague,

In 2022, KASK & Conservatorium, the School of Arts of HOGENT and Howest, engaged in a Programme Quality Enhancement Review of its Music Programme with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement. On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I have pleasure in writing to you concerning the outcomes of the review procedure.

**Stages of the procedure and Review Team composition**

The review followed a three-stage process:

1. KASK & Conservatorium wrote a self-evaluation report (SER) based on, and structured according to, the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* (see [MusiQuE Standards](#)).
2. An international Review Team studied the self-evaluation report and conducted a site-visit at KASK & Conservatorium from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This comprised of meetings with Filip Rathé, Dean and Head of the Classical Music department, Joris Blanckaert, Chair of the Training Programme Committee, Senne Guns, Head of the Jazz and Pop and Music Production departments, Senior Administrative Officers from Academia and Administration, Students, Teachers, former Students, Representatives from the Profession and Regional Partners from the sector, as well as a guided tour on campus, several music performances and a concert. The Review Team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* noted above as the basis of its investigations.
3. The Review Team produced a report, structured following the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*.

The international Review Team was composed of Mist Thorkelsdottir, Head of International Programs in the Performing Arts, University of Southern California (Review Team Chair); Camilla Overgaard, Royal Danish Academy of Music Aarhus/Aarborg (Review Team Secretary), Helen McVey, Director of Business Development, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Ricardo Pinheiro, Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa, Instituto Técnico de Lisboa and Jan Rademakers, retired as Dean of the Conservatorium Maastricht. All Review Team members have filled in and signed a questionnaire to avoid any conflict of interest.

### **Outcome of the procedure: review report**

The report of the Review Team, after being adjusted in line with the comments sent by the KASK & Conservatorium on the draft of the report, has subsequently been scrutinised by the MusiQuE Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 to ensure its consistency with, and relevance to the MusiQuE Standards. I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied that the review has been undertaken in compliance with the MusiQuE standards and procedures as described in the MusiQuE Standards.

In the case of a Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final report itself, which includes the list of the MusiQuE standards met, substantially met and not met, highlights the institution's strong points, and provides advice and suggestions/recommendations for change. This report is attached and includes, on page 48-52, a summary of compliance with the MusiQuE standards.

The main aims of the MusiQuE Quality Enhancement Reviews are to provide an opportunity for institutions to engage with quality enhancement issues outside the constraining framework of a formal review; to stimulate the process of internal reflection on quality issues and, where relevant, to assist institutional leaders in implementing quality-related reforms; and to bring fresh ideas and wider perspectives into institutions, encouraging the principle of 'many correct answers' to questions concerning the pursuit of quality in higher music education.

The attached report can therefore serve as an advisory and informative document for institutions; it is not a substitute for existing national legal requirements for external quality assurance. Nevertheless, we hope very much that the observations and recommendations included in the report will be of assistance to your institution in its quality enhancement activities, confirming the strengths of your current achievements by their recognition of good practice and guiding your future endeavours through their suggestions for further development.

### **Publication of the report on MusiQuE website and MusiQuE logo for reviewed institutions**

Please note, that the report will be published in full version on the MusiQuE website under the section [Completed reviews](#). In addition, the present letter entitles you to publish on

your website the attached MusiQuE logo together with the text: *“The Music Programme delivered by KASK & Conservatorium has been reviewed in 2022 according to the internationally recognised standards of MusiQuE.”* As the periodicity of MusiQuE review procedures is six years, the logo and text above may be published until 18<sup>th</sup> January 2029.

### **MusiQuE Follow-up Processes**

In the framework of the MusiQuE Quality Enhancement Reviews, a peer-reviewed follow-up process is provided to institutions and programmes in order to assist them in the post-site-visit process and to enable MusiQuE to assess its impact. You will therefore find attached the *Template for MusiQuE Follow up Procedures*, which lists in its first column the issues pointed out by the Review Team as elements to be developed/ further developed.

We would like to recommend that your institution makes use of this opportunity of a follow-up process provided by MusiQuE and fills in the second column of the template by 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation. One or more members of the Review Team which visited your institution in 22<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 will then be asked to study the template filled in by the institution, as well as the evidence provided, and to fill in the third column of the *Follow-up Template* with comments and, if appropriate, further recommendations.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in relation to the formulation of the self-evaluation report and the excellent organisation of the site-visit. Please accept my congratulations on the outcomes of the procedure on behalf of the entire MusiQuE Board.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Moreau', written over a horizontal line.

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Jacques Moreau, Chair