

# Executive summary

## Report

### Institutional Quality Enhancement Review

### College of Music, Mahidol University

### (Salaya, Thailand)

**Site-visit: 15 – 17 June 2017**

#### Introduction

In January 2017, the College of Music, Mahidol University (CoM) requested an institutional quality enhancement review with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement in order to engage in a quality enhancement process that is musician and music educator centered, as music and music education in Thailand grapples with the challenge of being viewed equally with other “hard science” fields. Moreover, the institution’s leadership was interested in getting feedback about their work and processes from an international perspective.

The review followed a three-stage process:

1. CoM wrote a self-evaluation report (SER) based on, and structured according to, the *MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review* (see MusiQuE Standards for Institutional, Programme and Joint Programme Review, pp. 18-29).
2. An international Review Team studied the self-evaluation report and conducted a site visit at CoM from 15<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This comprised of meetings with the CoM Dean, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, Program Chairs, members of the Board of Directors, 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 and to a campus for the general public, several music performances and a concert of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. The Review Team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review* noted above as the basis of its investigations.

3. The Review Team produced the report that follows, structured following the *MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review*.

The Review Team consisted of:

- Mist Thorkelsdottir, Expert/consultant in higher music education, former Dean of Music of the Iceland Academy of the Arts, former Head of Academy of Music and Drama Gothenburg (Review Team Chair)
- Tuomas Auvinen, Founder, CEO Creader Ltd, former Rector of The Sibelius Academy, Helsinki
- Melissa Mercadal, Coordinator of research and master programs, ESMUC, Barcelona
- Ankna Arockiam, Master student and former Students' Union President at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom
- Ester Tomasi-Fumics, Advisor on curriculum development and study law, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna University (Review Team Secretary)

## Summary of the compliance with the Standards and recommendations

The review team concludes that the College of Music, Mahidol University complies with the *Standards for Institutional Review* as follows:

1. Institutional mission, vision and context	
<b>Standard 1.</b> The institutional mission and vision are clearly stated.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
2. Educational processes	
<b>Standard 2.1.</b> The goals of the institution are achieved through the content and structure of the study programmes and their methods of delivery	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 2.2.</b> The institution offers a range of opportunities for students to gain an international perspective.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 2.3.</b> The assessment methods are clearly defined and demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes.	<b>Fully compliant</b>



<b>3. Student profiles</b>	
<b>Standard 3.1.</b> Clear admission criteria exist, which establish artistic/academic suitability of students.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 3.2.</b> The institution has mechanisms to formally monitor and review the progression, achievement and subsequent employability of its students.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>4. Teaching staff</b>	
<b>Standard 4.1.</b> Members of the teaching staff are qualified for their role and are active as artists/pedagogues/ researchers.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 4.2.</b> There are sufficient qualified teaching staff to effectively deliver the programmes.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>5. Facilities, resources and support</b>	
<b>Standard 5.1.</b> The institution has appropriate resources to support student learning and delivery of the programmes.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 5.2.</b> The institution's financial resources enable successful delivery of the study programmes.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 5.3.</b> The institution has sufficient qualified support staff.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>6. Communication, organisation and decision-making</b>	
<b>Standard 6.1.</b> Effective mechanisms are in place for internal communication within the institution.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 6.2.</b> The institution has an appropriate organisational structure and clear decision-making processes.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>7. Internal quality culture</b>	
<b>Standard 7.1.</b> The institution has a strong internal quality culture, supported by clear and effective quality assurance and enhancement procedures.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>8. Public interaction</b>	
<b>Standard 8.1.</b> The institution engages within wider cultural, artistic and educational contexts.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 8.2.</b> The institution actively promotes links with various sectors of the music and other artistic professions.	<b>Fully compliant</b>
<b>Standard 8.3.</b> Information provided to the public about the institution is clear, consistent and accurate.	<b>Fully compliant</b>

## Conclusion

The College of Music, Mahidol University is a truly exceptional institution. It fully complies with all MusiQuE standards. The Review Team found that the College of Music's strongest points are the vision that permeates the whole teaching and learning environment and that strongly addresses the needs of country and region. All the measurements taken from this vision guide the still developing institution safely and brilliantly through this process and surely far beyond it.

It is commendable how the CoM succeeded already in transforming the local and regional cultural environment and how it has taken a leadership role within ASEAN. The Review Team finds it truly exceptional how the institution has the vision of developing culture and life in general in the country and the region.

- The campuses for the general public, which are ingenious and remarkable,
- The ability to attract and maintain partnerships, even amongst competitors and
- The creation of TPO

are but a few manifestations of this.

The College manages to be embedded in the region and at the same time to look beyond, which it aspires as well. Faculty, staff and students benefit from the clear dedication to internationalisation and at the same time to honouring the roots of Thai art. The facilities in which the College is situated mirror the beautiful idea of literally connecting to the environment with trees from Thai forests being planted in open spaces giving at the same time room to musical practice under the open sky.

Financially and structurally stable, the institution thrives. The communication in the CoM runs smoothly, students call the institution their “home” and graduates enjoy coming back to the College. Teachers and students feel very well supported in their work and continuous professional development.

Internal quality assurance is in place and its value shared by all members of the institution who are openly reflecting on their strengths and further needs.

The frequent internal meetings that have a focus on curriculum development are very effective. The way the curriculum is continuously being revised and developed ensures that it will always follow the changing needs of the profession and will not become stagnant



and obsolete. It is impressive how students and faculty all feel they can impact evolutions and discussions.

The Review Team supports the central need expressed by the institutional representatives met during the site-visit and believes that, in order for CoM to fully achieve the international ambition; national recognition of artistic merit in professional development is a necessary requirement. The Review Team therefore recommends that the CoM continue its efforts to making fostering and developing the arts recognisable as equivalent to scientific research by public authorities. In institutions with similar missions, especially in Europe, this is a fundamental prerequisite for recruiting the best possible artists and teachers.