

Jacques Moreau
Chair of the Board
MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement

Piet Menu
Dean
Royal Conservatoire Antwerp
Desguinlei 25,
2018
Antwerp, Belgium

Brussels, 31 July 2025

Subject: Critical Friend (Programme) Review, 2025

Dear Colleague,

In 2020, the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp requested a Critical Friend Review, including a quality enhancement review of the Music programmes to 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 four-stage process:

1. Four international Critical Friends studied the background documentation and conducted one Critical Friend visit each to the Keyboard, Winds & Brass, Jazz & Pop, Composition & Conducting and Music Theory departments between 2021 and 2022. Each Critical Friend wrote a report including the strengths, areas for further development and recommendations in line with the MusiQuE Guidelines for Critical Friends.
2. In 2024, the Music programmes of the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp wrote a self-evaluation report (SER) based on, and structured according to, the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* (see [MusiQuE Standards](#)) and taking to account the Critical Friend reports produced during the visits conducted in 2021 and 2022..
3. An international Review Team studied the self-evaluation report and the Critical Friend reports and conducted a site visit at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp on 4-6 February 2025. This comprised of meetings with the management of the institution (Dean, Artistic staff, Heads of programme, sections Chairs), senior administrative officers/QA office, teachers and lecturers, students, alumni and representatives from the music profession, as well as a guided tour on campus, several music performances, classes and a concert. The Review Team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* noted above as the basis of its investigations.

4. The Review Team produced a report, structured following the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*.

The international Review Team was composed of Henk van der Meulen, former Director, Royal Conservatoire The Hague (Review Team Chair); Brian Weir, Director of Academic Administration and Student Experience, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Review Team Secretary); Julia Peters, Research Associate in Music Education and Quality Management, Musikhochschule Lübeck (Peer Reviewer); Ricardo Pinheiro Associate Professor, Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa, Polytechnic University of Lisbon (Peer Reviewer) and Sara de los Campos, Bachelor in Vocal Studies (Classical Music), Royal Conservatoire The Hague (Peer Reviewer - student representative).

All Review Team members have filled in and signed a questionnaire to avoid any conflict of interest.

Outcome of the procedure: review report

The MusiQuE Board scrutinised the review report produced by the Review Team to ensure its compliance and consistency with the MusiQuE standards and procedures. Following this scrutiny, the Board can confirm that the procedure has been undertaken in line with the standards and procedures as described in the MusiQuE Internal Regulations.

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, partially 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 39-43, 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 programmes of the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp have been reviewed in 2025 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 July 2031.

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 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 section under each standard in the template **by January 2027**, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation / suggestion for enhancement. One or more members of the Review Team which visited your institution in February 2025 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 section of the *Follow-up Template* with comments and, if appropriate, further recommendations / suggestions for enhancement.

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', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Jacques Moreau, Chair