

Gordon Munro  
Secretary and Treasurer  
MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement



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Brussels, 30 October 2019

**Subject: KC's Bachelor of Dance Programme Review / NVAO limited programme assessment framework**

Dear Mr. Van Der Meulen,

In June 2018, the Koninklijk Conservatorium (KC) of the University of Arts The Hague commissioned MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement to perform the review of the Bachelor of Dance degree programme. The assessment was undertaken according to the *Assessment framework for the higher education system of the Netherlands of NVAO* (September 2018). The NVAO standards for limited programme assessment have been mapped against the MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review. On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I am offering below a brief summary of the outcomes of the review procedure.

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

The review followed a three-stage process:

1. The Bachelor of Dance study programme prepared a self-evaluation report (SER) based on the requirements of the *NVAO limited assessment framework* and the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*.
2. An international Review Team studied the self-evaluation report and conducted a site visit at The Hague KC on 17 and 18 June 2019. This comprised of meetings with the management teams of the KC and of the Dance Department, Students, Teaching and Support Staff, Alumni, and Representatives from the Profession, as well as a guided tour on campus and visits to scheduled classes.
3. The Review Team produced a report, structured following the *NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment* mapped against the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*. As a result, the MusiQuE standards and areas of inquiry have been added under each NVAO standard in order to both express and reinforce the correspondence between both sets of criteria and to complete the NVAO framework with criteria relevant for music and performing arts programmes.

The international Review Team consisted of:

- Mrs Pascale De Groot (Chair) – Principal Artesis Plantijn University College Antwerp, Belgium
- Mrs Amanda Bennett – director Ballettschule Theater Basel, Switzerland
- Mr Gianni Malfer – operative program director BA/MA Dance Zürich University of the Arts, Switzerland
- Ms Rosie Mackley (Student member) - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, United Kingdom
- Mr Quinten Bunschoten (NVAO certified Secretary) – Qultura Management & Kwaliteit, The Netherlands

## Outcome of the procedure: review report

The report of the Review Team, has been scrutinised by the MusiQuE Board on 5 September 2019 to ensure its consistency with, and relevance to the MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review. Comments and suggestions for improvement by the MusiQuE Board were implemented by the Review Team and the resulting Draft Report has been submitted to the institution on 18 September for the factual accuracy check. The feedback by the KC, provided on 27 September 2019, consisted of: (i) comments by the programme to the review report, (ii) an expression of concern by the institution regarding the judgements of the panel, and (iii) a formal complaint by the KC with regards to deviations from MusiQuE's guidelines and code of conduct applicable to the procedure that may have had a direct impact on the outcome of the review visit.

During its Skype Meeting on 9 October, the MusiQuE Board decided to accept the complaint filed by the KC, and to approach the said complaint and the completion of the review report as two separate procedures. In this regard, during a series of Skype meetings organised throughout the month of October with the logistic support of the MusiQuE Office, the panel has taken on board the comments provided by the programme and the KC, and revised the report.

The amended report was submitted on 28 October 2019 for a new scrutiny by the MusiQuE Board to ensure its compliance and consistency with the MusiQuE and NVAO standards and procedures applicable in the framework of this review. Following this scrutiny, and, following further adjustments to the report requested by the Board, the Board can confirm that the procedure has been undertaken in line with the standards and procedures as described in the MusiQuE Framework Document and in the *Assessment framework for the higher education system of the Netherlands* of NVAO (September 2018). Consequently, based on the proposal of the review team as expressed in the review report, the Board has unanimously decided **to support the weighted and substantiated final conclusion of conditionally positive to the following programme:**

- *Bachelor of Dance*

The programme will be accredited by NVAO when the conditions are met. The conditions for accreditation by MusiQuE are listed in the Summary of compliance and recommendations at the end of the accreditation report.

## Follow-up process

### Implementation of the conditions for accreditation

The final conclusion of conditionally positive implies that the Review Team considers it feasible for the programme to demonstrate within a period of two years its realisation of the improvements deemed necessary in this report.

In order to assist the programme in implementing the conditions formulated in the report, a follow-up process will be offered by MusiQuE once it has explored the possible pathways for an integrated and jointly organised follow-up procedure with NVAO.

## **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 (<http://www.musique-ge.eu/completed-reviews>) and on the EQAR database of External Quality Assurance results (<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/>).

## **Next steps with regard to the complaint procedure submitted by the KC**

After having accepted the formal complaint filed by the KC, the MusiQuE Board will nominate an External Complaint Advisor assigned to investigate the case and produce a relevant report. Based on this report, the MusiQuE Board will issue a decision which will be officially communicated to you as the complainant.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues, on behalf of the entire MusiQuE Board, for your hard work in relation to the formulation of the self-evaluation report and the excellent organisation of the site-visit. We value your feedback in relation to our commitment to quality enhancement, both internally and externally.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Munro', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Gordon Munro, Secretary and Treasurer