



Professor Helena Gaunt  
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Brussels, 15 April 2021

**Subject: Outcome of the institutional quality enhancement review of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

Dear Professor Gaunt,

In January 2020, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) engaged in an institutional quality enhancement review with MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement. Due to the pandemic the procedure has been postponed and conducted in the autumn of 2021. On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I am pleased to inform you about the outcomes of the review procedure.

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

The review procedure followed a three-stage process:

1. The College prepared a *Self-evaluation Report (SER)* and supporting documents, based on, and structured according to the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*.
2. An international Review Team studied the *SER and its annexes*, and carried out a site visit on 17 – 19 November 2021. The visit comprised of meetings with representatives of RWCMD's management team, teaching and support staff, students, alumni, employers and external stakeholders. The Review Team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review* as basis of its investigation.
3. The Review Team produced the review Report that follows, in English, structured along the *MusiQuE Standards for Institutional Review*.

The Review Team that conducted the visit was composed of:

- **Mist Thorkelsdottir** (Chair of the review team), Senior Advisor for International Relations, University of Southern California – Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles (USA)
- **Christopher Caine** (review team member and Secretary), Lecturer - Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London (UK)
- **Broderic Chow** (review team member), Reader and Director of Learning, Teaching and Inclusion - Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London (UK)

- **Helen McVey** (review team member), Director of Business Development and Interim Head of Drama - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow (UK)
- **Siri Storheim** (review team member), Masters Student - Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo (Norway)
- **Marlon Titre** (review team member), Head of the Classical Music Department, Royal Conservatoire, The Hague (The Netherlands)

### **Outcome of the procedure and consideration of the Report by the Board**

The Board scrutinised the Report produced by the Review Team, during its meeting in March 2022 to ensure its compliance and consistency with the MusiQuE procedures. Following this scrutiny, and, following further adjustments to the Report requested by the Board, the Report has been sent to the institution for check in the factual accuracy. The Review Team worked on further adjustments of the Report based on the factual comments by the institution and submitted the final Report to the Board of MusiQuE for final endorsement. I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied that the review procedure has been undertaken in line with the MusiQuE rules and regulations as described in the MusiQuE's Internal Regulations and Guidelines for Institutions.

In the case of a Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final Report itself. 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 endeavors through their suggestions for further development.

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

In order to assist the visited institutions in the post-site-visit process and to enable MusiQuE to assess its impact, a peer-reviewed follow-up process is provided to institutions and programmes in the framework of the MusiQuE Review procedures. 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 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 30 April 2023, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation. One or more members of the Review Team 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.

## **Publication of the Report and usage of the MusiQuE logo for reviewed institutions**

Please note, that the Report will be published in full version on the MusiQuE website under the section [Reports](#) and on the [Database of External Quality Assurance Results](#) (DEQAR). In addition, the present letter entitles you to publish on your website the attached MusiQuE logo together with the text: “*The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama has been reviewed by MusiQuE-Music Quality Enhancement in November 2021.*” As the periodicity of MusiQuE review procedures is six years, the logo and text above may be published until 30 April 2028.

I would also like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in relation to the formulation of the self-evaluation report as well as for your hospitality during the site visit by the review team.

Please accept my congratulations on the outcomes of the review procedure on behalf of the entire MusiQuE Board.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Jacques Moreau, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Moreau', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.