



Attn. of Lies Colman, Director
Royal Conservatoire The Hague
Amare – Den Haag, Spuiplein 150
2511 DG The Hague, The Netherlands

Brussels, 18 October 2023

Subject: Outcome of the programme accreditation procedure for the KC's Bachelor of Music Programme

Dear Professor Colman,

The Koninklijk Conservatorium (KC) of the University of Arts The Hague commissioned MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement to conduct the review of its Bachelor of Music degree programme. On behalf of the MusiQuE Board, I am pleased to inform you about the outcomes of the review procedure.

Context and phases of the procedure

In June 2023, a MusiQuE review team assessed the Bachelor of Music programme offered by the Royal Conservatoire of the University of the Arts The Hague, based on a framework of assessment that mapped the MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review against the NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment. The procedure was conducted in the context of NVAO's pilot *'Experimental Institutional Accreditation with a Lighter Programme Accreditation'*, introduces the concept of **'lighter programme review'**. As such, for accreditation processes in the national context, the Bachelor of Music programme was required to demonstrate compliance with only two of the four NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment, namely NVAO standard 1 (intended learning outcomes) and NVAO standard 4 (achieved learning outcomes), and the related MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review.

However, given the Conservatoire's high international profile and strong focus on enhancement, the review team was asked to go beyond national requirements for accreditation, and provide the programme and the Conservatoire with an enhancement-oriented Advisory Report that takes into account all MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review organized along the four NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment.

The review procedure followed a **three-stage process**:

1. The Bachelor of Music study programme prepared a self-evaluation report and related documentation based on NVAO Standards 1 and 4, and related MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review. The programme also made available online a representative sample of twenty student final projects for the panel assigned to conduct this review.
2. An international Review Team studied the *Self-evaluation Report* and the related documentation provided, and carried out a site visit between 5 and 8 June 2023. The visit comprised of meetings with representatives of the KC's and the Music Department's management team, teaching and support staff, and students. The Review Team also attended four live student final performances during this site visit, in addition to the twenty final projects they reviewed as part of the material provided beforehand.

3. The Review Team produced the Advisory Report that follows, focusing on the programme's compliance with MusiQuE's Standards for Programme Review mapped against the four NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment.

Review Team composition

The review team was composed as follows:

| Name of panel member | Brief description |
|----------------------|--|
| Don McLean (Chair) | Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto (2011 – 2022). |
| Mist Thorkelsdottir | Head of International Programs in the Performing Arts at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music |
| Finn Schumacker | CEO and Artistic Director of Odense Symphony, Denmark. |
| Claus Finderup | Programme Coordinator and Associate Professor at the Rhythmic Music Conservatoire, Denmark |
| Miranda Harmer | Master student in cello performance and composition at Leeds College of Music |

The review team was assisted by Mark Delmartino, an NVAO-certified secretary.

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 on 18 September 2023 to ensure that the programme's compliance with the framework of assessment are well substantiated, and the panel's judgement is well justified. Following this scrutiny, and, following further adjustments to the Report requested by the Board, the Report has been sent to the institution for factual accuracy check on 28 September 2023. Following the factual accuracy check, and the further amendments implemented by the review team, the Board endorsed the report without further amendments. I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied with the quality of the report and with the fact 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.

We also take the opportunity to congratulate the KC and its Music Department for all the effort invested in setting the Programme on a trajectory of change that maintains the Bachelor of Music above and beyond the quality standards it already fulfilled, and makes of the Conservatoire a highly desired institution among students both nationally and internationally.

We hereby certify that the programme fully demonstrated compliance with the MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review and the four NVAO Standards for Limited Programme Assessment. The report enclosed herein stands as evidence in this regard.

Further, we hope that the additional observations and recommendations included in the Report will be of assistance to the programme in its quality enhancement activities, confirming the strengths of its current achievements and good practice and stimulating its continuous enhancement.

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 Koninklijk Conservatorium of the University of Arts The Hague has been reviewed by MusiQuE-Music Quality Enhancement in June 2023.*” As the periodicity of MusiQuE review procedures is six years, the logo and text above may be published until 30 October 2029.

I would also like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work, and for the preparation of clear and relevant documentation that supported the review team to reach its positive conclusion. Please accept my congratulations on the outcomes of this 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.