

Gordon Munro
Secretary and Treasurer of the Board
MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement



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Brussels, 9th April 2018

Subject: Quality Enhancement Review of the research policy and activities of the Royal Conservatoire,
University of the Arts, The Hague

Dear Colleague,

In October 2016, the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague (KC) commissioned MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement to conduct an evaluation of its research policy and activities. The review took place in the framework of the Branch Protocol Quality Assurance Research ('Brancheprotocol Kwaliteitszorg Onderzoek, BKO') 2016-2022. A joint set of standards was prepared for this quality enhancement procedure, including both the five standards of the *Branch Protocol for Quality Assurance in Research* and the MusiQuE Domains and Pillars listed in the *MusiQuE Framework for the External Evaluation of Research Centres*.

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 three-stage process:

1. The Royal Conservatoire prepared self-evaluation documentation - including a self-evaluation report structured according to the merged set of standards mentioned above, and material such as samples of student and staff research projects, videos of research presentations, etc.
2. An international Review Team studied the self-evaluation report (SER) and documentation provided by the institution and conducted a site visit in The Hague on 15-17th February 2017. This comprised meetings with Lectors and management, Master's supervisors, Master's circle leaders, students and faculty researchers. The Review Team used the merged set of standards noted above as the basis of its investigations.
3. The Review Team produced a report, using the merged set of standards. The report is structured according to the five BKO standards (each with its short generic description) and the MusiQuE Domains and Pillars are mapped to these standards.

The international Review Team was composed of Darla Crispin, Director of the Arne Nordheim Centre for Artistic Research (NordART), Norwegian Academy of Music (Review Team Chair); Celia Duffy, Former Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Review Team member and Secretary); Dinko Fabris, Professor of the History of Music, University of Basilicata at Matera and Conservatorio di Musica San Pietro a Majella, Naples and President of the International Musicological Society 2012-2017 (Review Team member); Henrik Frisk, Associate Professor, Royal College of Music in Stockholm (Review Team member); and Giuliano Bracci, composer, PhD Student in Composition at docARTES - Orpheus Institute, Ghent / Leiden University / Conservatorium van Amsterdam (Review Team member). All Review Team members have signed a statement of independence.

Outcome of the procedure: review report

The report of the Review Team, after being adjusted in line with the comments sent by the Royal Conservatoire on the first draft of the report, has subsequently been scrutinised by the MusiQuE Board on 22-23 May 2017 to ensure its consistency with, and relevance to, the MusiQuE Standards. To avoid any potential conflict of interest, the Chair of the Board, Martin Prchal, was not in attendance when the report was considered and discussed.

I can confirm that the MusiQuE Board is satisfied that the review has been undertaken in compliance with the MusiQuE standards and procedures as described in the MusiQuE Framework Document and in the *Framework for the External Evaluation of Research Centres*.

In the case of this Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final report itself, highlighting the attributes of KC research which stand out as being strong relative to both the BKO and MusiQuE standards and areas which could be further developed. This report is attached and includes, on pages 20 and following, a summary of the above-mentioned attributes.

The main aims of the MusiQuE Quality Enhancement Reviews are to provide an opportunity for institutions to stimulate the process of internal reflection on quality issues, to assist institutional leaders, where relevant, 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. We hope very much that the observations and recommendations included in the report will be of assistance to your institution in its quality enhancement research 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 has been 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 research activities and policy of the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague have been reviewed in 2017 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 1st April 2024.

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 in its first column 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 if this opportunity of a follow-up process provided by MusiQuE and fills in the second column of the template by 9th April 2019, with short reports of the actions undertaken for each element of improvement and each recommendation. One or more members of the Review Team which visited your institution in February 2017 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.

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,

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gordon Munro,

Secretary/Treasurer of the Board