

Report Development meeting Dutch National Opera Academy (DNOA) - M Opera

Date: January 16, 2020

Present: full panel, board and management of the study program

In the assessment framework for accreditation in higher education (NVAO 2018), the development interview is included as a mandatory part of the accreditation of a study program. The program management conducts this discussion with the assessment panel with the aim of discussing ideas and improvements from a development perspective.

The development interview for the M Opera course, provided by DNOA, took place on January 16, 2020, prior to the discussions in the context of the actual accreditation. This was chosen for reasons of availability of both panel members and program representation.

The following two themes have been discussed:

1. The positioning of this M Opera in an international context.
2. The possibilities that the new building in The Hague (*Amare*, house for the performing arts) will offer.

These two themes have been the subject of widespread discussion.

In relation to the positioning, a large number of other programs have been discussed in terms of similarities and differences. With regard to *Amare*, the focus was mainly on options and possibilities.

The key point that the study program takes from this conversation, and that also connects both themes, is the following. The DNOA education program is quite unique in the world; there is only a very limited number of courses that offer a comparable program. However, the balance differs to either a more academic component or a more performative one.

DNOA first and foremost offers a learning environment in which students can develop their artistic "voice", both literally and figuratively. According to the panel, this is a valuable position in the field. Especially because the current trend: studios as a gateway to an opera company mainly has an economic motive, where the student / artist is trained strongly role-oriented. DNOA sees itself strengthened in its mission by the panel and will do everything in its power to maintain its unique position as a learning and experience place in the future. Especially consolidating and expanding the collaboration with the various performance venues and musical partners, the program management sees as a possibility for this.

In connection with the above, the program sees the new location *Amare* as an opportunity to intensify the cooperation with the Residentie Orkest (RO), together with the Royal Conservatoire, both future residents of *Amare*. Whereas in the past this collaboration took place once every two years, from 2021 onwards, the RO will accompany a DNOA production or concert once a year.

Both partners intend to look in the future in the field of education and participation to find ways to strengthen each other. This could include the participation of DNOA singers in, for example, school performances and series of lessons for education.

In addition to the above points, in the coming years attention will be paid to the recommendation of the assessment panel to continue to involve alumni in the activities and further development of the program. A form of contract education is currently being looked into, whereby graduates can participate in group components of the program for another year. This may concern, for example, the Auditioning & Professional Study module, but also the opera productions, if this is desirable and possible in view of the casting. In this way, DNOA wants to take concrete responsibility, where the transition from training to the professional field requires additional guidance.