

Martin Prchal  
Chair of the Board  
MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement



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Brussels, 16 December 2019

**Subject: Programme Quality Enhancement Review 2019**

Dear Colleague,

In 2019, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) engaged in a Programme Quality Enhancement Review with MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement in the framework of its collaboration with EQ-Arts. On behalf of the Board of MusiQuE, I am pleased to inform you herein about the outcomes of the review procedure.

**Stages of the procedure and review team composition**

The procedure for the review of the music programmes followed a three-stage process:

- ZHdK's Department of Music (DMU) prepared a *Self-evaluation Report (SER)* and supporting documents, for the six degree programmes under evaluation: Bachelor of Arts in Music, Bachelor of Arts in Music and Movement, Master of Arts in Composition and Theory, Master of Arts in Music Pedagogy, Master of Arts in Music Performance and the Master of Arts in Specialised Music Performance, based on the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review*;
- an international review team composed by MusiQuE in collaboration with EQ-Arts studied the *SER* and carried out a site-visit at ZHdK's DMU on 20-22 May 2019. The site-visit comprised of meetings with representatives of the ZHdK's DMU management team, teaching and support staff, students, alumni, employers and external stakeholders, and visits to classes and performances. The review team used the *MusiQuE Standards for Programme Review* as the basis of its investigations;
- the review team produced a Programme Quality Enhancement Review Report, structured along the *Standards* mentioned above.

The review team consisted of:

- Professor John Butler (Chair) - CEO EQ-Arts, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Henk van der Meulen (Review Team member) - Royal Conservatoire The Hague, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Mist Thorkelsdottir (Review Team member) - Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, United States
- Wiebke Rademacher (Student) - University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- Ester Tomasi-Fumics (Secretary) - University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria

### **Outcome of the procedure: review report**

The report of the review team, after being adjusted in line with the comments sent by ZHdK on the first draft of the report, have subsequently been scrutinised by the MusiQuE Board on 21 October 2019 to ensure their consistency with, and relevance to, the MusiQuE Standards. 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.

In the case of a Quality Enhancement Review, the result of the review procedure is the final report itself, which includes the list of the MusiQuE standards fully, substantially, partially and not met, highlights the institution's strong points, and provides advice and suggestions/recommendations for change. The report is attached herein and includes a summary of compliance with the MusiQuE standards and recommendations.

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 advisory and informative documents for the institution; they are 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 endeavours through the suggestions for further development.

### **Publication of the reports on MusiQuE website**

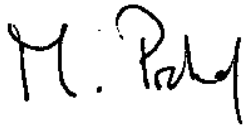
Please note, that the report will be published on the MusiQuE website under the section [Completed reviews](#), in full compliance with the [European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(Standard 2.6. Reporting\)](#).

## MusiQuE Follow-up Processes

Please note that, in order to assist 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 Quality Enhancement Reviews. The MusiQuE Office will therefore send you 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 of this opportunity of a follow-up process and fills in the second column of the template by December 2020, 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 May 2019 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Prchal', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of the MusiQuE Board

Martin Prchal, Chair