

## Accreditation of the Bachelor of Music Programme (B.M.)

### College of Music, Mahidol University, Thailand

Site visit dates: 22-24 November 2018

#### Conclusion

After a careful review of the documentation provided and the site visit, the RT has found clear evidences that the Bachelor of Music programme of the College of Music, Mahidol University, fully complies with MusiQuE's quality standards.

The strong points of the programme described below, demonstrate that the CoM has been able to review the programme and respond to the needs of its students and Thai society. Building upon what the CoM has already achieved, there is great potential for developing the quality of the programme, its international position, the level of its applicants, its impact on the creative industries and its role as a key cultural agent in Thailand. The suggested areas for further development that the RT highlights should be considered by the management of the CoM and the Mahidol University as recommendations that will help in achieving this.

#### Summary of strong points and recommendations

This section offers a summary of the institutional attributes which stand out as being strong relative to the MusiQuE standards for programme review, as well as an outline of the areas in which potential for further development emerged.

##### Strong points

###### *Standard 1*

- Strong programme goals aligned with the vision and mission of the College and the University, backed by data and seeking to engage a wide cross section of Thai society.

###### *Standard 2.1*

- The curriculum review is promising and has been embraced by teachers and students. It answers the learning and professional development requirements of students and the needs of Thai society. It is a good practice to review the curriculum regularly.
- The Horizontal links between subjects/disciplines are encouraged.

###### *Standard 2.2*

- Internationalisation is embedded in CoM's DNA. The International composition of faculty is well balanced with Thai tutors.
- Encouragement and funding for international opportunities of tutors, which is strengthened by a leadership position within SEADOM and the ASEAN nations.
- Regular high-quality masterclasses with distinguished international musicians.
- The emphasis on English is a critical strength.

### *Standard 2.3*

- Assessment methods are clearly defined and demonstrate LOs and achievement.
- There are good opportunities for student-teacher feedback, both face-to-face and through the use of COMMAS.
- The “Curriculum Map” clearly describes which LOs of the TQF are achieved in each module or course of the BM programme.

### *Standard 3.1*

- Clear admissions criteria and feedback. TIME is a potential strength.
- The Pre-college facilities and its nurturing approach are strengthening the quality of the BM.
- The programme has a good student retention rate.

### *Standard 3.2*

- Very good and thorough monitoring of students, including support and advice from tutors, advisors and heads of department.
- BM graduates have good employment perspectives, and their CoM background is an advantage point.

### *Standard 4.1*

- Mutually supportive Thai and international faculty and good staff communication.
- Teaching staff development fund available and well used.
- The support for research activities is good and growing.

### *Standard 4.2*

- Well balanced and qualified Thai and international teaching staff.
- Good staff growth and re-employment.

### *Standard 5.1*

- The facilities and resources are excellent and surrounded by an inspiring environment. They are totally appropriate to deliver the programme and incorporate a world-class performance space, the Prince Mahidol Hall.

### *Standard 5.2*

- The CoM has enough financial resources to deliver the programme and a strong commitment by the Dean and the Administrative team to continue securing its sustainability.
- The link with the University is helping to unlock funding streams for the College.
- The new transparency approach to the budget is welcomed by the staff and helping them to engage strongly with the project.

### *Standard 5.3*

- Thoughtful policies to engage supporting staff. It is refreshing to see all staff integrated into the vision and mission.

### *Standard 6.1*

- Effective channels of communication between chairs, full-time, part-time tutors and students.
- Easy access of students to tutors and senior leaders.
- Students feel their voice is heard.

### *Standard 6.2*

- Staff responsibilities and decision-making processes are clearly defined.
- During the transition and under the new leadership the College has maintained and strengthened its structure.

### *Standard 7*

- Getting outside QA reviews like MusiQuE keeps the CoM in line with international subject-specific practices.
- The use of COMMAS is very effective for QA purposes.

### *Standard 8.1*

- Built into the DNA of the programme is the mission to support the cultural, educational and artistic development of the country and its people.
- The CoM and its BM programme are changing the perspective of Thai families and society about music and musical careers. The College is also promoting the idea that all professional musicians need to get paid for their work.

#### *Standard 8.2*

- The CoM and its BM have contributed to the development of many professional music roles through its graduates.
- Internships and the participation in competitions and festivals of BM students are supporting their future careers perspectives.

#### *Standard 8.3*

- Decisive commitment to communicate and engage with the public.
- Creation of the research journal and willingness to develop it.

### **Suggested areas for further development**

#### *Standard 1*

- Encouragement to continue and deepen the dialogue and collaboration with the University.

#### *Standard 2.1*

- Incorporate interdisciplinary work, project work (e.g. Jazz Festival) and outreach activities into the curriculum.
- Change the name of the Entertainment Department to Popular Music in line with international norms.
- Encourage more teachers to engage in cross-departmental and cross-subject academic links with their students.

#### *Standard 2.2*

- A more strategic approach to masterclasses: less on the receiving end and more aligned with the teaching and learning processes.
- In line with the ambition to grow the number of international students, more documentation in English should be available, including a Diploma Supplement.
- Students with strong English skills to be able to test out of English lessons and use the time for electives.
- Widen benchmarking horizons, including China, Seoul, etc.
- Promote more student placements and interchanges with other international institutions of the region.

#### *Standard 2.3*

- Consider developing student capacity for constructive feedback and peer-to-peer assessment.

#### *Standard 3.1*

- Use the data that is been collected about applications and admissions in the different majors to plan future recruitment strategies.

#### *Standard 3.2*

- Systematise Alumni surveys after they graduate (e.g. after 3, 5 and 10 years) to inform the development of the curriculum. Obtain both quantitative and qualitative data. It will become even more important as the CoM increases its number of international students.

#### *Standard 4.1*

- Warmly encourage mentoring for research purposes.
- To continue to deliver the BM effectively, Mahidol must continuously develop its faculty to help retain them. It will be helpful to achieve a better understanding of artistic research (practice-based research) and to better support faculty applicants in the promotion process.
- Widening benchmarking horizons in Asia [see 2.2] can also help to get a clearer perspective on artistic research.
- Increase funds for teaching staff development by joining 2 or 3 years of funding, offering more international opportunities.

- Improve professional development opportunities for part-time tutors.

#### *Standard 5.1*

- Create more dedicated and soundproofed rehearsal rooms for ensembles, which will also support student projects (bands, small orchestras...)
- Due to the success of the musical theatre, more large rooms with mirrors will be required.
- Recommend using more resources to provide performance opportunities to students in downtown Bangkok.
- Continue the plans to offer on-line courses.
- Present more concerts of student ensembles (small, mixed, etc.) that are easier to take to Bangkok and further afield.

#### *Standard 5.2*

- New funding and more scholarships are needed to increase the support for students from less privileged backgrounds and make the BM accessible to a wider range of students.

#### *Standard 6.1*

- Develop a more consistent approach to the communication with part-time tutors.

#### *Standard 6.2*

- Consider inviting student representatives and/or the president of the student council to appropriate curricular and managerial meetings.
- The programme is substantially compliant with standard 6.2 and would reach full compliance with more systematic and active involvement of students in key committees.

#### *Standard 7*

- Use the MusiQuE process to substitute for some of the procedures (quite labour intensive) that are not so well suited for artistic programmes.

#### *Standard 8.1*

- Continue developing the curriculum to empower entrepreneurial graduates to spread the CoM's mission in Thailand.

#### *Standard 8.2*

- The CoM is in a very good position to have a stronger impact on the creative economy by strengthening its links, partnerships and collaborations with the music and creative industries in Thailand and SE Asia.
- Expand internships and similar programmes to all disciplines and Develop initiatives to support the professional development and lifelong learning of the CoM's graduates.

#### *Standard 8.3*

- Student performances in Bangkok (as recommended in standard 5.1) will increase the visibility and engagement of the CoM and its students with wider audiences.
- Translate more material to English, including academic info and research articles.