

## Quality Enhancement Review of the Bachelor and Master of Arts in Music programmes

### Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel

Site visit dates: 16-17 May 2018

The KCB music programmes succeed in producing students that develop into good musicians. The review team witnessed that KCB's graduated musicians are of an excellent quality. High-qualified teaching staff teaches them. The review team commends this extremely high artistic level that is intended, involving the high quality of teachers and based on a long tradition.

The review team commends also the international environment that is created in the BA and MA programme. The programmes attract many international students. In addition, a lot of international teachers deliver masterclasses and the local staff shows great language knowledge to support all students.

The programme leaders have a clear view on the kind of musicians they want to produce. The institutional management and programme leaders are very eager to achieve their goals and reach their ambitions. It is, nevertheless, important that they choose and prioritise targets they want to develop in a structural way.

The teachers of the BA and MA programme are the driving forces behind the programmes. Almost all initiatives come organically from teachers. The review team perceived 'leadership on distance'. On the one hand, this bottom up approach can be very stimulating and innovative. On the other hand, the review team strongly recommends a more proactive managerial approach.

This is considered necessary to achieve the goals faster with long term strategical planning. The review team recommends going through all recommendations and to discuss in the management which of them could be achieved faster by applying a more proactive managerial approach.

The programme leaders have to establish policies that stimulate the professional development of the teaching staff such as research skills, knowledge on new teaching methods and entrepreneurial education. An advantage can be obtained by having the teaching staff share good practices. The implementation of SEQUENS is a good practice that shows that the programme leaders implement effective improvement measures to the benefit of both students and teachers.

The review team invites the BA and MA programme to play a bigger role in the local community, as stated in the learning outcomes about the musician's artistic-societal positioning. This awareness for the wider public has to be embedded in the curriculum so that the students can acquire entrepreneurial and social skills. Currently, the societal role of the musician remains underexposed.

In their communication to society, the programmes should show more what they achieve. They can be proud of what they realised, but this remains (too) unknown to the wider public.