

Ontwikkelgesprek Master Muziek / Follow up conversation Master Music

Date, place: June 22nd 2021, on Zoom

Participants from the panel: Raoul van der Aalst, Keller Cooker, Robert Ehrlich

Participants from the CvA: Janneke van der Wijk, Edo Righini, Okke Westdorp, Daphne Wassink

Accreditation and site visit

In January 2020 the visitation for the renewal of the accreditation of the Master of Music of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam took place. The panel visited the Conservatorium, attended some performances, and held interviews with students, teachers, alumni, representatives of the music sector, members of the participation council, education committee and exam committee and with the management. The follow up conversation took place on June 2021 online, with over a year into the pandemic. The chair and two members of the panel joined the meeting with the board of directors of the CvA. The meeting was online on Zoom.

The panel found the Master of Music to be of excellent quality and concluded that 'studying at the CvA must be a very special experience'. The CvA provides a learning opportunity with a great variety of (individual) pathways, while at the same time working with an outstanding faculty. In the recommendations, the panel encouraged the CvA to be more explicit in the distinctiveness of both the CvA and the programme in the learning outcomes and programme framework. The panel also encouraged to communicate more on the available opportunities and services and to do so in a way that it reaches all students.

Follow up

Since the visitation and accreditation process, the pandemic hit societies and the music, including the CvA. Of course, besides the follow up of the conversations started at the visitation, the pandemic and related developments were part of the conversation. The general feeling is that the pandemic accelerated certain trends, but at the same time it is not yet clear what developments will sustain: what will remain, both in teaching, in the workfield and in the attitude, skills and needs of the students. For example, the digital means enable different opportunities in education and communication. What will remain? And what do students expect to remain? Future will tell, but it will demand a certain agility from institutions like the CvA.

All participants in the meeting recognise an increased competition among the institutions both in the US and in Europe, and shifting demands of the students. With students evaluating their choices extensively. The demands are directed towards a more diverse perspective on education and touch upon the full package in education: not only the principal subject, but also the subsidiary subjects,

the facilities, the organisational culture and the administrative support. It becomes more important to stand out with a certain profile and align the audition process accordingly.

Institutions are challenged to provide more individually tailored education, while maintaining the high standards of the degree level. The scalability of tailored solutions, also from the administrative and communication side becomes more important to consider. The panel expressed to be impressed about how the mentorship of the students is shaped in the masters as an example of response to other needs, and wonders if this is elaborated in a similar way in the bachelor.