

Final Assessment Report

Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Review

Music Undergraduate Program

(Music and Music Cognition)

Date of Review: April 24 - 25, 2012

Review Team Members: Dr. Michael Kim, Brandon University
Dr. Richard S. Parks, Western University
Dr. David Earn, McMaster University

Summary:

The Reviewers' report highlighted a number of strengths of the music program, including the program's small size enabling more individual attention for students, the faculty's strong commitment to the program and to teaching, research, and music performance at a professional level, and graduates being highly successful in their applications for admission to Teachers College and graduate studies. Both the Reviewers' report and the department's response identify Music Cognition as a core strength of the McMaster Music program in terms of both resources and faculty research expertise. The Reviewers also noted McMaster's "excellent" and "unparalleled" Music Cognition lab and facilities.

The Reviewers offered some suggestions for improvements to the program which are outlined below.

The Department and the Faculty of Humanities were particularly pleased that the reviewers recognized the strong commitment of the Music faculty and effectiveness of the existing program given the limitations of the size of the complement and available program resources. The Faculty noted that the Music Program's Response to the IQAP Program Review indicates that the creation of a graduate program is the highest priority for the Music faculty. The Faculty agrees that this is in line with the strategic vision of the Faculty of Humanities to strengthen and expand its graduate programs and interdisciplinary collaboration. It also aligns with the University's research and teaching mandates emphasized in Forward with Integrity

Following a review of the IQAP Reviewers Report, the Chair's response and the Dean's response, the Quality Assurance Committee has no further recommendations. Program will be reviewed again following our normal quality assurance schedule.

Recommendation	Implementation Plan
Institute courses with appropriate fees to allow qualified students not enrolled in the program to take private lessons from McMaster faculty	Interest in reinstating fee based lessons based on appropriate studio space becoming available
Upgrade equipment and technology in teaching facilities	Currently compiling the data needed to make some realistic recommendations concerning equipment and infrastructure needs

<p>Update the Department of Music website to better highlight the strengths of the department and faculty to prospective students</p>	<p>The School of the Arts (SOTA) office staff have been looking at the SOTA website and working on ways to improve it</p>
<p>Creation of a keyboard performance lab</p>	<p>Underway with an estimated completion date of the end of 2012/13</p>
<p>Increase current course offerings in aural skills, keyboard harmony, and music theory</p>	<p>Consult further with Centre on Leadership and Learning on ways to consolidate and expand elective and non-program major offerings in the most effective manner</p>
<p>Establish a graduate (Master's) program in Music Cognition housed in the SOTA/Faculty of Humanities with collaborative support from the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior, and the Cognitive Science of Language program</p>	<p>Preliminary discussions and consultation are already underway</p>