



# Four Year Report (2020)

## Music Undergraduate Programs (reviewed 2015/16)

### A. Summary of Review

This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 6, 2011.

1. The academic programs offered by the Department of Music which were examined as part of the review were:

Bachelor of Music  
BA in Music

2. The Review Committee consisted of: Philip Adamson (University of Windsor), Bob Pritchard (University of British Columbia) and Doug Bruce (Brock University).
3. The site visit occurred on February 7-9, 2016.
4. The Final Assessment Report was approved by Senate on October 5, 2016.
5. The reviewers assigned the programs an outcome category of "Good Quality".

Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
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6. The next review of the undergraduate programs in the Department of Music will be in 2023/24.

## B. Recommendations

### Recommendation #1

Hire a marketing and publicity officer for the School of Fine and Performing Arts, to coordinate and develop materials that represent the “public face” of the School, from concert programmes and publicity to informative and attractive web pages, with up-to-date news items and video clips. The position would also be the point of contact with the University’s secondary school liaison office, and would be pivotally involved in the sub-recommendations that follow.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be completed as the position of Communications Officer for the School of Fine and Performing Arts has been filled. The Department is encouraged to work with the Communications Officer to ensure that the profiles of music programs and activities are communicated internally and externally.

#### Implementation Plan

Implementation completed.

### Recommendation 2

Increase communication with music teachers in area high schools and middle schools. Solicit invitations from these teachers to send out Brock students (performance, Q & A).

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to describe current practice. ARC encourages the Department to continue with these efforts.

#### Implementation Plan

No further action required.

### Recommendation 3

Mail out promotional material to all area secondary schools.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to describe current practice.

#### Implementation Plan

No further action required.

**Recommendation 4**

Designate one day each semester as an “open house” day: invite high school students to attend classes and rehearsals.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to describe current practice and to be linked with Recommendation #3. The Committee encourages the department to include the invitations regarding rehearsals in their correspondence as appropriate.

**Implementation Plan**

No further action required.

**Recommendation 5**

Liaise on a continuing basis with the local branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers’ Association. Explore ways in which some measure of mutual benefit might be achieved, such as a reduced rate for the rental of Cairns Hall.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to describe current practice with regards to liaising with ORMTA. The Committee understands that the rental of the Cairns Hall is not within the control of the Department or University.

**Implementation Plan**

No further action required.

**Recommendation 6**

Explore possible areas of mutual interest with the Shaw Festival, in particular, opportunities for Brock students to perform at Festival events.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that the recommendation is not viable exactly as stated, but recognizes that the Department’s initiatives to provide students with other performance opportunities address the intent of the recommendation.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 7**

Consider streamlining the name of MIWSFPA, to boost recognition and visibility.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that the re-naming of a school is not within the scope of the Department.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 8**

Understanding that the next “hire” may be critical to the success of the Music programme, advocate strongly and actively for this position, keeping in mind that a growing enrolment will be your most persuasive argument. In the meantime we are encouraged to learn from the Interim Dean that a limited term appointment in choral ensembles and music education has been approved for the 2016-17 academic year. Continue to work for permanence for this position.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that a probationary position is already under consideration.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department/Dean of Humanities
Responsible for resources:	Department/Dean of Humanities
Responsible for implementation:	Department/Dean of Humanities
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2016/17

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 New hire search carried out and completed	2016	2017

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

A BUFA tenure-track hire in the area of Choral Music/Music Education was made in 2017. The incumbent starting working at Brock on July 1 2017.

**Recommendation 9**

Encourage and support the new hire's efforts to establish additional courses in music education, such as seminars in elementary and secondary music education.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department/Dean of Humanities  
 Responsible for resources: Department/Dean of Humanities  
 Responsible for implementation: Department/Dean of Humanities  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2016/17

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 New hire has revised and restructured music education courses	2017	2019
Action #2 New hire has restructured choirs.	2017	2019

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

As part of a more general curriculum review, the new faculty member has revised MUSI 2P45 Foundations of Music Education, and MUSI 3P94 (now called) Choral Pedagogy. The new faculty member has restructured the choirs such that non-student members of the wider community are now encouraged to join. The community-member complement of all the ensembles, not just choirs, has increased since this initiative was implemented.

**Recommendation 10**

Standardise the learning outcomes format for all courses, calling on the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation for assistance in developing active descriptors.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee believes that both the Self Study and the Reviewers' Report contain statements recognizing the need for further curriculum review and the clarification of learning outcomes that map to degree level expectations. The Department is encouraged to use the assistance of the Centre for

Pedagogical Innovation and to undertake an ongoing process of curriculum review and revision.

#### Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2017/18

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Curriculum review meetings held with CPI	2017	2018
Action #2 Course outline template sent to all instructors with direction on learning outcomes	2017	2018

#### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

The Department constantly strives to keep its programs relevant and up-to-date, and carries out ongoing curriculum review. The learning outcomes are standardized as much as is feasible across the different kinds of course we teach (academic and practical).

#### Recommendation 11

Hold an annual “meet the librarian” day on the main campus.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee understands that the intention of the recommendation is to enhance interaction with the library and that the Department response is the initial step in this process. The Committee suggests that the Department is best positioned to determine subsequent steps to move forward with this issue.

#### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department/Library  
 Responsible for implementation: Department/Library  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2016/17

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 The Department invites the liaison librarian to our student orientation meeting	2017	2017

### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

The action, to invite the liaison librarian to our annual student orientation, is easily accomplished. This now happens every year and is an ongoing practice.

### Recommendation 12

Develop the initiative in Music Cognition by seeking collaborative opportunities with the Department of Psychology.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Department will consider this recommendation as part of the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #10.

#### Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2017/18

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Curriculum review of Music Cognition and related courses.	2017	2018
Action #2 Get Music Cognition lab in operation	2017	2020

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

In the absence of any faculty member in Psychology who specializes in music cognition, we instead chose to follow the actions outlined above. As regards action #1, the Music Cognition course, MUSI 3P64, is now cross-listed with PSYC, and this is a core course in our newly developed concentration in Music Therapy Foundations. The concentration also requires PSYC 1F90, 2P12 and 2P15, as well as a new MUSI 2P62 Theory and Practice of Music Therapy which is cross-listed with RECL. As regards action #2, the music cognition lab was used for an undergraduate thesis in 2018-19, and will be operational for faculty research in 2020.

**Recommendation 13**

Consider opening up the second language requirement to include other languages offered by Brock University.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that the Department's pedagogical rationale for the existing language requirements is valid and that students have freedom within their electives to take courses in other languages if they wish.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 14**

Devise a multi-year cycle of offerings in Musicology and Methods and communicate this information to students, so that they may plan their year-by-year curriculum.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that there are many factors which limit the Department's ability to plan multi-year offerings and that these factors are common to all Departments. The Committee understands that the Department of Music is already doing this to the best of its ability.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.



**Recommendation 15**

Consider a stronger degree of differentiation between the B.Mus. and the B.A. degrees.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that the Department has at its disposal the means of discerning each program's cohort through present content and assessment. The flexibility of the two programs serves the needs and abilities of present students and is attractive to potential students.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 16**

Consider discontinuing the B.A. "Pass" degree.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that the value of the Pass degree is supported by the Department, Dean and UPC.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 17**

Consider establishing a specific transfer protocol with Mohawk College.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that the Department has an existing process which is working well and will re-visit the issue if it becomes expedient.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 18**

Incorporate into the Computers in Music courses a significant unit on composing and arranging.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee understands that collaboration with the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture to offer a Sound Studies concentration may be one way to facilitate this recommendation. The Committee expects that the Department will consider this recommendation as part of the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #10.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department

Responsible for implementation: Timeline:	Department Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2017/18
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Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Hold curriculum review meetings on music and computing courses	2017	2018

### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

As per recommendation 10, the Department is constantly reviewing its music technology offerings. However, our capacity to revise these offerings in any significant way is mitigated by the absence of a full-time BUFA faculty member in this field.

### Recommendation 19

Add beginning and advanced courses in computer music.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee expects that the Department will consider this recommendation as part of the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #10.

#### Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2017/18

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Hold curriculum review meetings on music and computing courses	2017	2018

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Please see response to recommendation 18.

**Recommendation 20**

Develop a series of graduated achievement levels in all instruments and in Voice, to align with and support the respective learning outcomes.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted. The Committee suggests that the Department explore the possibility of implementing graduate achievement levels using a model appropriate to its needs.

**Implementation Plan (3<sup>rd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2018/19

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Review practices at a comparator institution	2017	2019

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

The document from the comparator institution only dealt with piano lessons. Taking into account the number of studio teachers who give lessons in widely different instruments, using contrasting teaching styles, the Department deemed it unwise to impose in a top-down fashion year-by-year requirements for each instrument and voice type. Instead, in the interests of setting standards and maintaining consistent logical progression through the years, the Department now employs a single full-time faculty member to deliver all three performance seminar (masterclass) sections. This is, in the Department's opinion, the most efficacious way to balance standardization and flexibility.

**Recommendation 21**

Establish more consistency between the statutory entrance requirements and the actual entry level of B.Mus. candidates.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that the reviewers seem to have based this recommendation on a misunderstanding of the entrance requirements.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 22**

Create and staff a course in chamber music performance.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that there is a lack of resources and student numbers needed to implement this recommendation. The Committee recognizes that there are opportunities for students to perform chamber music in the Music Ed Plus program.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 23**

Encourage the use of original print scores in performance.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that while original print scores are to be encouraged, recent changes to copyright laws and the availability of electronic formats allow for greater flexibility and cost-effectiveness in many cases.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 24**

Investigate opportunities for additional research funding.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee recognizes that research/scholarly activity and creative work are consistent with the normal faculty workload and expects that faculty will seek additional financial support for research as appropriate.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 25**

Determine whether there may be alternatives to what the reviewers consider to be onerous ancillary charges to the students.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted. The Committee understands that ancillary fees are charged according to normal university operating procedure and that the Department does not consider them to be unusually high in comparison to programs at other universities.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 26**

Monitor the issue of sound transmission between floors, to determine whether remediation might be considered.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Department will proceed through normal avenues to address the issue of sound transmission between floors.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 27**

Ease the administrative burden on full time faculty by transferring organisational responsibilities [of Music Ed Plus] to administrative support staff, such as the new marketing and publicity officer.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department/Dean of Humanities
Responsible for resources:	Dean of Humanities
Responsible for implementation:	Dean of Humanities
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by end of academic year 2016/17

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Hire a support position for Music Ed Plus	2016	2017

### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

The co-curricular program Music Ed Plus no longer ran after 2016-17. Instead, the student volunteer placement part of that program has been replaced by the for-credit course, MUSI 2-3-4P75 Music Practicum. The career-exploration component of Music Ed Plus is now replaced by occasional career evenings and workshops.

## C. Unit Summative Analysis and Evaluation

### 1. To what extent has the Unit achieved the improvements suggested by the reviewers?

The Department has implemented all the suggestions of the 2015-16 report that passed ARC, with 3 exceptions. Recommendations 18 and 19 regarding the initiation of further computer-courses could not be implemented in the absence of a new full-time faculty member in that field. Recommendation 20 to establish a series of graduated achievement levels for all lessons has not been implemented as such. The comparator institution only had these levels for piano lessons. Given the variety of pedagogical approaches across instrument types, we instead opted for increased consistency in our performance seminars (group masterclasses). This allows individual music teachers the academic freedom to manage the content of their own lessons, but, at the same time, exposes students to common performance goals, values and practices in a group setting.

### 2. What overall impact has it had on the Unit's programs?

The primary impact of the review, following Recommendations 8 and 9, is in the hiring of a Choral/Music Education specialist, and the accompanying retooling of our choral and music education course offerings. The new hire has implemented wholesale changes in the composition of the choirs, such that they now include community members as well as students. In the same spirit, since the review, we have also initiated two new ensembles, the String Orchestra in 2017 and the Jazz Ensemble in 2019, both of which encourage and enjoy the participation of performers from the wider Niagara community. The new hire in Music Education has also developed and improved key offerings in this field including MUSI 2P45 Foundations in Music Education, MUSI 2P93 and 3P93 Conducting I and II, and MUSI 3P94 Choral Pedagogy. As a result of all this, we have now refined our Concentration in Music Education.

A secondary impact, following Recommendation 12 to seek collaboration with the Psychology Department, has been to cross-list two courses. The recommendation was to develop the area of Music Cognition, and we have cross-listed MUSI 3P64 Music Cognition with PSYC. Also, in the same vein, the new MUSI 2P63, Theory and Practice of Music Therapy, is cross-listed with RECL, capitalizing on connections with the Department of Recreation and Leisure's well-established Recreational Therapy program. Both MUSI 2P63 and 3P64 are required courses in the new Concentration in Music Therapy Foundations. Indeed, this concentration is the tangible outcome of Recommendation 12.

### **3. Is the Unit adopting a process of continuous quality improvement for its programs?**

Yes, the Music Department is constantly looking at ways to improve and update its programming. We perform regular environmental scans of the current trends in the Canadian university music scene, as well as the ever-changing employment landscape for our graduates. We continue to be committed to experiential education; our programs have always been heavily invested in the idea of learning by doing, e.g. in rehearsal and performing on stage, and these learning experiences will remain central to our program. Music is, by its very nature, a practically oriented subject at university. In the last couple of years, we have also initiated a music practicum, where students apply the skills and knowledge they have learnt in the classroom in real-world contexts. Students can complete placements in music education, music and health, music administration or music in the community. Also, we now have three concentrations which qualified students can declare, and which prepare students for certain particular career paths: the concentrations are in Music Education, Music Therapy Foundations and Music Performance.

### **4. How well do the programs now align with Brock University strategic priorities?**

Our programs align well with Brock's strategic priorities. For example, under the first priority, to "offer a transformational and accessible academic and university experience," we deliver high-quality courses that furnish students with a well-rounded education in music, and that represent an increasingly wide variety of musical styles from around the globe. Through our ensembles we provide an engaging music-making experience that combines social, cultural and recreational opportunities for both students and community members.

With regard to the second priority, to "build research capacity," we provide a plethora of opportunities for both student and faculty creativity through our many concerts in the first-class professional facilities of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. As a major cultural face of the university we are also strongly committed to Brock's third priority, to "enhance the life and vitality of our local region and beyond," and, in the spirit of the fourth priority, "to foster a culture of inclusivity." In these regards, we present dozens of concerts in the academic year (e.g. 41 concerts in 2019-20) which are attended by hundreds of member of the general public, we welcome community members as performers in our ensembles, we collaborate with other organizations such as the Niagara Symphony and Chorus Niagara, we support two ensembles in residence, and we send practicum students out into local schools and other musical institutions.

### **5. How does this review and its results position the programs as the Unit moves into the next review cycle?**

We have carried out significant changes in our programs and their delivery since the last review in 2015-16. To some extent these changes were necessary due to factors other than the review per se: we moved into the new downtown Walker School building, and we have had two retirements. However, given that changes were inevitable, the last review helped us to decide and focus on our priorities over the past few years. As a result, we are now well positioned to continue on the course we have charted. Two items on the agenda for the next few years are the increased use of the music cognition lab for research, and further consideration of expanding and developing our offerings in music technology. We look forward to input from the next review to guide us further.

### **D. ARC Final Summary**

In final summary of the 2015/16 cyclical academic review of the programs offered by the Department of Music, ARC has determined the following:

1. The Reviewers' Recommendations have been addressed satisfactorily.
2. The Unit has established a direction for next steps as it prepares for the next review cycle.
3. The Unit has achieved a broad-based, reflective and forward-looking self-assessment.