

University of Victoria, School of Music, APR Report, 2018-01-10

Executive Summary

The information in the Self-Study and particularly the exchanges that took place during the site visit confirmed the opinion of the external reviewers that the high national reputation of the School of Music (having recently celebrated its 50th anniversary) remains fully warranted and that the School receives and deserves its positive valuation from the University, its multiple academic and artistic professional peer organizations, and from the community in the Greater Victoria Area (GVA) which it integrally serves.

The major strengths of the School include the high quality and artistic and academic commitment of its faculty (both full-time and part-time), the extraordinary dedication of its support staff, and the enthusiasm and positive learning experience of its students. Overall, the faculty has extensive local and national, and sometimes international, impact in research (including creative professional research) and a strongly student-centered focus in its educational mission. Particular strengths include the level of cross-area engagement, the traditional performance focus throughout the undergraduate program (with notable strengths in string quartet, chamber music, and voice). The recent (2015) reintegration of the Music Education program (in many ways the strongest in Western Canada) bodes well for Music, particularly in the context of British Columbia's recent reaffirmation (2015-2017) to embed specialized K-12 music and art instruction in its province-wide curriculum.

The combined music and computer science (MUCS) program, as well as its more recent MMus (MTEC) graduate extension, is unique and innovative, with significant potential for research support, training of highly-qualified personnel, and infrastructure development. Another great strength of the School, and a great for the University, is the extent of its community engagement, through its over two hundred public concerts and events, festival leadership presence, and community school outreach.

Among the areas in progress of revision and in need of further development, the Committee notes:

- the completion of the *Recording Studio* is critical.
- the School needs a fully developed *complement plan for academic renewal*.
- the need to address the *evident shortfall in support staff*.

Future directions for the School are dependent on continued renewal of full-time and part-time faculty, the upgrade/completion of certain facilities, and the further articulation and development of its relationships with the Faculty of Fine Arts as well as its alignment with the Strategic Framework of the University. The School continues to be one of the University's widest and best exemplars of community engagement through its concerts, festivals, and teaching activities and deserves the additional recognition and support it receives (and could additionally receive) from the University for that important role.