

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 15 February 2013

**Periodic Subject Review: Updated Responses to
Recommendations Arising from the Report of the Review of Music
held on 14 February 2011**

Recommendation 5

The Review Panel **recommends** that the University clarifies the line management for *Music in the University* and where responsibility rests for resourcing the regular maintenance of the University-owned musical equipment in the Concert Hall. (*Paragraph 3.8.5*)

For the attention of: **Vice Principal and Head of the College of Arts**

Response

The issues addressed under Recommendation 5 are the subject of ongoing discussions involving colleagues in Music with colleagues elsewhere in the University. The Head of School updates the College as required. The College does not have responsibility for Concert Hall equipment.

Updated Response from Vice Principal and Head of College of Arts: October 2012

The College understands that dialogue over the maintenance and use of the Concert Hall and its equipment continues, and the Head of School has not flagged any issues currently. The College is content to support any discussions with the Secretary of Court when requested by the School.

Recommendation 8

The Review Panel recognised that Music might be trying to accomplish too much within its limited resources and **recommends** that, in the course of the next year, both the School and the Subject give serious consideration as to how they might deploy Music's shrinking resources to best advantage to maintain and enhance the quality of the student learning experience whilst also safeguarding staff wellbeing through a balanced and achievable workload. (*Paragraph 3.8.13*)

For the attention of: **Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts and Head of Music**

Response Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts:

The School is aware of the present limitations placed on Music which compromise both its ambitions and its ability to maintain the quality of the student learning experience. Music has benefitted from greater administrative support under the new structure and has recently been successful in obtaining a Kelvin-Smith Fellowship. In addition, Music has been worked into the School and College development plans in terms of fundraising for scholarships and infrastructure, which should help with the longer-term objectives of the subject.

Response: Head of Music

This has been discussed but remains somewhat intractable. Since the Review, budgets have not been substantially cut, contrary to expectation. However, workload issues in Music remain. These arise mainly from pressure of delivering a wider range of provision at level 1

and 2 than other subjects within School and College. This results from the supply of 240 credits at levels 1 & 2 for the BMus programme, plus 80 L1/2 credits tailored to meet the needs of the BEng programme (other subjects deliver 80 credits across levels 1 & 2). Given this situation it is hard to see where reductions in the UG teaching load could be made without either cutting degree programmes or investing in additional music staff.

Response: Vice Principal and Head of College of Arts, October 2012

The College has a policy of moving towards greater SSR equalization. A new Fellowship post has been allocated to Music in 2012.

FEBRUARY 2013

Recommendation 5, update from Head of Subject area, Dr Nick Fells

Dialogue continues over the challenges faced by the Subject in using the University Concert Hall.

The issue of maintenance of the two Steinway Model D pianos is being resolved for the time being: the Secretary of Court has verbally agreed to fund a maintenance visit by Steinway engineers. This should take place before or during summer vacation 2013. Anne Cumberland (Music Development Officer) is in contact with Steinway to organize the visit. The Snetzler organ continues to be serviced through Estates & Buildings and there has been a suggestion from Prof. Butt and Kevin Bowyer, the University Organist, that this instrument should be moved to the organ loft in the Chapel, where it would be played more regularly and where the humidifiers would not be in danger of being switched off by University non-Music staff.

The College of Arts probably does in fact have responsibility over some Concert Hall equipment – the Adams marimba was purchased with special dispensation from the Equipment Funding Committee of the Faculty of Arts as was, so technically it is presumably now an asset of the College of Arts. Much of the rest of the percussion collection held in the Concert Hall was similarly purchased with funds from the Faculty, and likewise will be College assets, although they are *also* used by non-College students taking part in extra-curricular activity through the SRC such as Music Club, Wind Band and so on.

The pianos were purchased through central funds, so it seems reasonable to consider that these are not in fact the responsibility of College for maintenance purposes, though they are used extensively by College of Arts students as well as by professionals as part of Music in the University (which is a central University endeavour funded through the Court Office).

I propose that:

- a) the College Equipment Funding Committee should support the maintenance (and upgrading when necessary) of the College assets in the Concert Hall, particularly the percussion collection, as is done currently (or at least, was done through the old Faculty of Arts). This would seem reasonable since this equipment is there largely to support the MA in Music and BMus degrees. Any equipment where it can be determined that it is used primarily by campus groups (i.e. groups involving students of both the College of Arts and other Colleges) should be maintained through central funds, or funds sought through sources such as the Chancellor's Fund. This may require the College Equipment Funding Committee to communicate directly with the Court Office and potentially the Chancellor's Fund as well as subject staff in order to determine the correct route for providing funds for maintenance. What is clear is that

the subject's annual consumables budget cannot support such maintenance (at least, not without being overspent).

- b) For the Steinway pianos, the Secretary of Court should fund maintenance through central funds, as is due to happen in this rather pressing case.
- c) The organ should continue to be maintained as currently, through the contract managed by Estates & Buildings, whether or not it is moved to the Chapel. If it is moved, it will need to be dismantled and rebuilt, and if this goes ahead it would be cost-effective to refurbish the instrument at that point. It is an instrument of historical significance and needs to be maintained in good order in perpetuity.

Since the Subject Review we have been the grateful recipients of some additional instruments gifted to us – including a fine 1844 Broadwood piano (on which it is thought Chopin probably played during his visit to Scotland in 1848, since it then resided at one of the houses in which he stayed – though we have no further evidence). It is hoped that the new Robin Orr Music Fund might be a way in which to help support maintenance of such instruments into the future.

The acoustical and logistical problems in the Concert Hall are still severe, with interruptions of classes, rehearsals and public concert by visitors and University staff alike. Discussion has taken place recently between the Head of School, Estates, Secretary of Court and the University Archivist about a plan to convert the Concert Hall foyer or 'blue room' into a display area. Work was planned to begin in January 2013 – Music was only notified at the end of November 2012, and then indirectly through a chance conversation. This we find extraordinary given the findings of the PSR – that the subject's needs were considered only at such a late stage after an entire 'feasibility study' had been completed. This seems only to highlight the pressing need to move Music out of the main Gilbert Scott building altogether into more appropriate accommodation where subject activity can proceed uninterrupted.

We are pleased that there is a possibility that Music might be moved with the rest of the School of Culture and Creative Arts to the 'phase 2' development of the Kelvin Hall. This could, if done in an appropriate way, provide the 'world class' facilities for Music the University so badly needs.