Report of Validation Panel

Date of Meeting:	21st May, 2013

Named Award:	Master of Arts
Programme Title:	Music (Taught)
Award Type:	Master's Degree
Award Class:	Major Award
NFQ Level:	Level 9
Intakes Commencing:	September 2013
ECTS/ACCS Credits:	60

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / Institution
Dr. Joseph Ryan (Chair), Registrar, Athlone Institute of Technology
Mr. Martin Johnson, RTE National Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Fionnuala Moynihan, NUI Maynooth/Queens University Belfast
Mr. Fergus O'Carroll, RTE National Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Barry O'Connor, Registrar & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, CIT

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / Institution
Ms. Marguerite Lynch, Office of Registrar & Vice-President for Academic Affairs

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Department
Dr. Geoffrey Spratt, Director, CIT Cork School of Music
Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Department of Wind, Percussion, Voice and Drama Studies, CIT Cork School of Music
Mr. Nicholas O'Halloran, MA Co-Ordinator, CIT Cork School of Music
Ms. Aiveen Kearney, Head of School, CIT Cork School of Music
Mr. Alan Cutts, Head of Conducting, CIT Cork School of Music
Ms. Maria Judge, Head of Musicianship and Academic Studies , CIT Cork School of Music
Ms. Joan Scannell, Head of String Studies, CIT Cork School of Music

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The Taught Masters in Music (Performance/Composition) course was the first Taught Masters course established in CIT. The programme, now modularised and semesterised, requires re-validation as this programme was not validated as part of the Programmatic Review of CIT Cork School of Music in 2010. The proposed structure offers three distinct streams, namely performance, composition and conducting. The aim of the current Taught MA in Music was to provide expert training in the areas of music, performance, conducting and composition. The addition of electives in the area of research (Research

Methods & Practice), Dissertation, Free Choice elective and a Performance Masterclass module, and a Planning Portfolio are designed to add cohesion and diversity to the programme.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

*NOTE: In this report, the term "**Requirement**" is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the Panel **must** be undertaken prior to commencement of the Programme. The term "**Recommendation**" indicates an item to which the Institute/Academic Council/Course Board should give serious consideration for implementation at an early stage and which should be the subject of ongoing monitoring.*

Commendation

The Panel complimented the School on developing a very successful Masters programme and its migration into the agreed CIT structure for Modularisation and Semesterisation.

The Panel noted the CIT CSM's extremely positive engagement with the re-validation process for this MA.

The Panel is satisfied that the proposed programme fits the CIT M&S template. Large module derogations have already been granted by CIT's Academic Council, having satisfied the criteria established by Council for such derogation.

1. Programme-Level Findings

1.1 NEED FOR THE PROGRAMME

Validation Criterion: Is there a convincing need for the programme with a viable level of applications?
Overall Finding: Yes

1.2 AWARD

Validation Criterion: Are the level and type of the proposed award appropriate?
Overall Finding: Yes

1.3 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Validation Criterion: Is the learning experience of an appropriate level, standard and quality overall?
Overall Finding: Yes

The proposed Programme Outcomes as presented to the Panel are attached as Appendix 1.
Findings, requirements and recommendations concerning individual modules (if any) are recorded in Section 3 below.

1.4 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Validation Criterion: Is the programme structure logical and well designed (including procedures for access, transfer and progression)?
Overall Finding: Yes

Recommendations:

Structure: A revised structure to include recording/performance modules across all semesters would greatly enhance the programme, align it more closely with the Modularised and Semesterised structure, and strengthen the learning/assessment feedback structure. This new module, to be included in each semester would leverage off the state-of-the art facilities available to the students and the cognate expertise and delivery available in the MA/MSc Music Technology programmes. As a result, the Panel felt the graduates would be uniquely prepared for careers as professional musicians, with this added extra

dimension of recording/performing in a digital technology context or environment. This new dimension would be additional to the Recital performance learning experience.

A possible revised programme structure is outlined below, feeding into the existing Reflective Portfolio module, while enhancing and adding a new complementary dimension to performance across all four semesters.

POSSIBLE REVISED STRUCTURE

Year 1	Number of credits
Semester 1	
Professional Studies I	5
Planning Portfolio	10
Elective (Research Methods or Music Technology or Free Choice)	5
Recording/Performance Module	10
	30 credits
Semester 2	
One 25-credit module	25
One Professional Studies or Performance/Recording module	5
	30 credits
Year 2	
Semester 3	
One 25-credit module	25
One 5-credit Group Recording module	5
	30 credits
Semester 4	
One 25-credit module	25
One 5-credit Reflective Portfolio module	5
	30 credits

The Panel considers that a structure such as outlined above warrants deep consideration by CIT CSM. Should a proposal be brought to CIT Academic Council embodying the principles and structure outlined above, the Panel strongly recommends that Council would approve such a proposal, in advance of the next scheduled Programmatic Review for the School.

International Students: The Panel urged CIT CSM to explore the clear potential to recruit international students onto the programme. This would add a very positive dimension to the course, greatly enhance the sustainability of the programme and augment the student experience among the MA cohort and across CSM generally.

Student numbers: The Panel considered that given the high standard of the programme and the unrivalled facilities, student numbers on the programme could and should be greatly enhanced. The panel appreciates that the addition of the electives in the area of Research and Performance Masterclass are designed to attract additional students with diverse profiles into the programme and thus increase numbers from the current average of 12 new entrants per year.

1.5   PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Validation Criterion: Are the programme management structures adequate?
Overall Finding: Yes

Recommendations:

Assessment: The 20/40 credit split across Semester 1/ Semester 2 is an unequal distribution of assessment.

1.6   RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Validation Criterion: Are the resource requirements reasonable?
Overall Finding: Yes

1.7   IMPACT ON THE INSTITUTE

Validation Criterion: Will the impact of the programme on the Institute be positive?
Overall Finding: Yes

2.   Module-Level Findings

The Panel notes that two **(2)** modules on the proposed programme are pre-approved modules which may be delivered across several CIT programmes.

The Panel was informed that the new draft modules have been the subject of internal scrutiny by the CIT module moderator.

2.1. Module: Music Technology

The option of including a module from the Music Technology Masters programme would be a good addition to the programme, either as an Elective/Free Choice module or otherwise.

2.2. Module: Professional Studies

The content of this module should be refocused to include material supporting a young music professional to develop their career in the Irish music industry. This could include learning how to compete for funding and participating in Arts Council grant application processes, lectures from nationally and locally based professional musicians, etc. The latter component should be formally written into the module descriptor.

The School should consider expanding the presentation element of this module as it is a challenging and rewarding learning experience.

2.3. Conducting Modules
The Indicative Content in the Conducting Modules (Conducting 1 (postgrad level), Conducting 2 (postgrad level), Conducting 3 (postgrad level)) need to be revisited to indicate progression across the body of material covered in the three modules. Engagement with the Teaching & Learning Unit could be beneficial in this regard.

The role of choral conducting could be more fully specified in the outline of the module.

2.4. Composition Portfolio
The 'organic' interaction between composition and performance students was outlined. The Panel recommend that this interaction be co-ordinated in a more formal way by the School.

Specific proprietorial reference such as 'Advanced Sibelius' should be replaced with more generic learning outcomes.

2.5. Reflective Portfolio
The School should consider how better support should be given to students 'en route' as they prepare and develop the reflective portfolio.

Reading list could include reference on how to develop academic writing skills, particularly given the significant proportion of mature students, from a professional background, who enrol on the programme.

2.6. Research Methods
Students should be afforded the opportunity to formally avail of Master Classes in this module or perhaps be facilitated in obtaining specific supervision from a particular expert. Master class provision belongs in the performance area, and could perhaps be added formally in Performance Modules 2 and 3. This would allow students to obtain specific supervision from an expert in their area.

2.7. Individual Tuition
The programme documentation suggests that each student receives a single hour of individual tuition per week. At a prima facie level, this is a very low level of instruction in a taught programme focusing on performance. The Panel are satisfied from discussions with staff during the Panel visit that the one-to-one element is greater than this. In terms of the provision of public information, be it to validation panels or prospective students, published programme material should be more explicit on this matter, rather than allowing the possibility that the tuition is lower than the norm.

The School were encouraged to look at where flexibility of provision could be used to deliver this extra tuition time within the on-going sectoral resource constraints.

3.   Other Findings

Recommendations:

The role of Accompanist should be a clear option for graduates and be seen as a structured part of the programme of an MA in Music Performance.

It is recommended that not all three recitals given by a student should be solo performances.

The Panel strongly recommend that the School bring forward a revised programme structure incorporating a Performance/Recording module in each semester to complement the current large module in Semesters 2/3/4. This would include a recording element in the performance learning outcomes and programme outcomes. The Panel recommend that should this proposal be brought forward in advance of the next scheduled Programmatic Review that Academic Council should approve same.

CIT CSM should seek to significantly increase the number of students on the programme. The Panel is confident that there is great potential to develop and enhance the programme by increasing the intake cohort size from the 'norm' of 12 students. Growing the number of international students would lead to further enhancement of the programme and the overall student experience.

The programme /module descriptors should clearly show that students have developed skills as accompanists.

That contact time of greater than 1 hour/week actually happens in the programme and should be made explicit in the programme descriptors or overall programme documentation.

4. Conclusion

Based on the above findings, the Panel recommends to the Academic Council of Cork Institute of Technology that the Master's of Arts in Music (Taught) be re-validated for 3 further academic years after which it will be reviewed as part of the overall CIT CSM Programmatic Review.

Programme Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme the learner will be able to :

PO1	Knowledge - Breadth	Integrate specialist knowledge with artistic understanding in the field of music to practise successfully in the chosen profession
PO2	Knowledge - Kind	Generate independent insights in area of chosen specialism through application of expert techniques and artistic knowledge to create original contributions
PO3	Skill - Range	Handle complex knowledge, and formulate artistic judgements to engage with a variety of audiences
PO4	Skill - Selectivity	Conceive and execute musical projects in cultural and educational contexts by selecting an appropriate artistic strategy for individual situations
PO5	Competence - Context	Initiate community outreach programmes to promote musical participation and understanding and devise performance projects for a variety of settings
PO6	Competence - Role	Demonstrate initiative, engage in team work and adapt successfully to changing needs of the music industry
PO7	Competence - Learning to Learn	Access appropriate resources to develop and sustain professional activity and link artistic judgements to reflection on creative, and, where relevant, social and ethical responsibilities
PO8	Competence - Insight	Devise innovative strategies for the promotion and enhancement of musical participation across a wide range of demographic groups

Appendix 2 – Semester Schedules

Semester Schedules

Semester 1

Elective Regulation
Learners select one elective.

Mandatory

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Professional Studies 1 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Advanced	5.0	1.50	0.00	100.0%	0%
No Code Yet	Planning Portfolio (postgrad) (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	10.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Elective

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
FREE6001	Free Choice Module (Approved)	PAUL GALLAGHER	N/A	5.0	4.00	0.00	50.0%	50%
MMED9013	Research Methods and Practice (Approved)	ROSE MC GRATH	Expert	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Semester 2

Elective Regulation
Learners select one group elective from one of the specialist streams.

Mandatory

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Professional Studies 2 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	10.0	1.50	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 1

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam

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| MUSC9010 | Performance 1 (postgrad level) (Draft) | AIVEEN KEARNEY | Expert | 30.0 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 100.0% | 0% |

Group Elective 2

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Composition Portfolio 1 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	30.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 3

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Conducting 1 (postgrad level) (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	30.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Semester 3

Learners select one group elective from the same specialist stream as in Semester 2.

Group Elective 1

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Performance 2 (postgrad level) (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	30.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 2

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Composition Portfolio 2 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	30.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 3

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Conducting 2 (postgrad level) (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	30.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Semester 4

Learners select one group elective, either from the same specialist stream as in previous semesters, or from another elective group.

Mandatory

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Reflective Portfolio-postgrad (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	5.0	0.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 1

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam

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| No Code Yet | Performance 3 (postgrad level) (Draft) | AIVEEN KEARNEY | Expert | 25.0 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 100.0% | 0% |

Group Elective 2

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Independent Composition 3 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	25.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 3

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Conducting 3 (Draft)	AIVEEN KEARNEY	Expert	25.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 4

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Performance Masterclass (Draft)	JOHN O CONNOR	Expert	25.0	0.00	0.00	100.0%	0%

Group Elective 5

Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Hours Contact Hours	PT Hours Contact Hours	Course Work	Final Exam
No Code Yet	Music Dissertation (postgrad) (Draft)		Expert	25.0	1.00	0.00	100.0%	0%