



April 26, 2022

Ms. Erica Muhl
President
Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston Street, MS-1140 OP
Boston, MA 02215-3693

Dear President Muhl:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on March 3, 2022 the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Berklee College of Music regarding its additional instructional location in New York City as well as the report of the evaluator and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Berklee College of Music be accepted and inclusion of Berklee NYC within the institution's accreditation be confirmed;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Spring 2023 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, as well as the matters specified in our letter of July 11, 2018, the Spring 2023 self-study provide an update on Berklee NYC with emphasis on the College's success in:

- 1) continuing to achieve enrollment and financial goals for the site;
- 2) continuing to implement the public/private partnership;
- 3) ensuring the alignment of core and specialization courses.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The Commission accepted the report submitted by Berklee College of Music (Berklee) and confirmed inclusion of the additional instructional location in New York City, Berklee NYC, within the institution's accreditation because the report was responsive to the concerns raised in our letter of October 27, 2020 and provided evidence that the institution is implementing the additional instructional location in a manner consistent with Commission standards and policies.

The Commission commends Berklee for its thorough and well-written report on its New York instructional location: Berklee NYC. We are pleased to learn that the renovations of the facility at the "iconic" Power Station studios on

West 53rd Street were completed in time to welcome the inaugural class in Fall 2021. We note with favor that enrollment in the Master of Arts in Creative Media and Technology was so strong (40 students projected, 81 students actual) that Berklee decided to “pivot away” from using the facility to house “undergrad study-away programs” and use the location exclusively for the graduate program. Consistent with initial projections, Berklee NYC ran a net program deficit of \$500,000 in FY2022 and anticipates net program income of \$400,000 for FY2023. We acknowledge the diversity of the first cohort of students (52% female identifying; 30% domestic students of color; 28% international) and note that the number of faculty was increased from nine to twelve to support the larger-than-projected class. The public-private partnership that makes Berklee NYC possible provides numerous benefits to the community, including discounted (as well as free) rehearsal space for NYC musicians, free concerts, high quality recordings, and tours.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2023 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. In addition to the information included in all self-studies and the matters specified in our letter of July 11, 2018, we look forward, in Spring 2023, to learning of Berklee College of Music’s continued success in offering programming at Berklee NYC and to receiving an update on the College’s success in achieving its enrollment and financial goals for the site and implementing the public-private partnership. The Commission recognizes that these matters will require the institution’s sustained attention over time; hence we ask that evidence of continued progress be included in the self-study.

Berklee College of Music is also asked, in the self-study prepared for the Spring 2023 evaluation, to give emphasis to one additional matter related to our standard on *The Academic Program*.

The Commission was pleased to learn from the evaluator’s report that students “almost universally agreed” that the New York City location was a “driving factor” in their decision to enroll in the program, and they reported faculty and directors are “receptive to feedback” with respect to the curriculum. The evaluator’s report also noted a concern that was raised regarding the alignment between the core and specialization courses in the program, and we understand that Berklee NYC’s executive director and program directors will be addressing this concern. We look forward to receiving an update on this matter in the Spring 2023 self-study as evidence that programs offered at Berklee NYC have “a coherent design and are characterized by appropriate breadth, depth, continuity, sequential progression, and synthesis of learning” (4.3).

The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports prepared by Berklee College of Music and the evaluator and hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution’s constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution’s governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Martin Mannion. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission’s action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

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If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Tetler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George W. Tetler

GWT/sjp

cc: Martin Mannion
Visiting evaluator

Enclosure: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions