

A promising German-Mexican cooperation for music education and research at the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes

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Resumen

Con el propósito de ampliar la internacionalización de la educación superior, en junio de 2016, la Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes (UAA) y la Universidad de Oldenburg, Alemania firmaron un convenio de cooperación académica. Esto lo realizan el Departamento de Música de la UAA y el Instituto para la Música de la Universidad de Oldenburg, cuyo director es la Profa. Dra. Susanne Binas-Preisendörfer, experta en Música y Medios de Comunicación. El contacto principal para realizar el acuerdo fue el Prof. Dr. Gunter Kreutz, especialista en Ciencias Sistemáticas de la Música y actual subdirector del Instituto. Este acuerdo de cooperación surgió oportunamente en el contexto del Año Dual Alemania-México (Ministerio Federal de Relaciones Exteriores *et al.* 2016), como un evento institucional que tendrá un impacto en los objetivos de internacionalización de la UAA.

Abstract

To extend the internationalization of higher education, on June 2016, the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA) and the Oldenburg University signed an academic cooperation agreement. The cooperation is already being carried out by the UAA's Music Department and the Oldenburg University's Music Institute, whose director's, professor Dr. Susanne Binas-Preisendörfer, a Music and media expert. The main contact to realize the agreement was professor Dr. Gunter Kreutz, specialist in Systematic Sciences of Music and current deputy director of the Music Institute. This cooperation agreement emerged opportunely under the Germany-Mexico Dual Year (Año Dual Alemania-México 2016), as an institutional event that will have an impact on the goals of internationalization for the UAA.

The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg is one of the most youngest Germany's

universities. It was founded in 1973; the same year in which the creation of the UAA was approved. The goal from the University of Oldenburg is compatible with the Music Department at the UAA because its activities are oriented to interdisciplinary research, and both aim to respond to the challenges of the 21st Century. The number of attended students by the University of Oldenburg is almost thousand; a number close to the 15 thousand that the UAA attends¹ (UAA, 2016). In addition to programs among hard sciences, the University of Oldenburg offers professional studies in areas such languages, cultural studies, humanities, educational sciences, art, musicology, economic, and social sciences (Uni-OL, 2016). This amplitude of the human sciences is convenient for the development of new projects, not only for the Music Department, but also for the Arts and Culture Center (CAYC) at

¹ There are about three thousand more students on high school at the UAA.

the UAA and its postgraduate programs: The Master in Art (*Maestría en Arte*) and the Inter-institutional Doctorate in Art and Culture (DIAC) endorsed by CONACYT. The University of Oldenburg is organized in six Faculties (Schools). Each one of them is conformed by several institutes and departments. The Institute for Music (*Institut für Musik*) belongs to the Faculty III: School for Linguistics and Cultural Studies, which is integrated by other six Institutes, and a Language Center. The fact that this young University cooperates with more than 200 other universities worldwide, and that it is affiliated with non-university institutes in the areas of research, education, culture, and business, is an evidence of its international openness and academic commitment.

The Music Department of the UAA, despite its recent creation, has been recognized for having consolidated projects with a significant academic, artistic and cultural impact in the society of the state. Examples of this are its Philharmonic Orchestra, the Guitars Orchestra and the weekly radio program “Ventana al Sonido” in which many of the undergraduate students participate.

Especially interesting is the International Seminar of Tertiary Music Education, in 2017 it will have its 4th emission: once a year, academics and musicians from different universities in the country come to Aguascalientes to analyze different topics around the professional music education. With the Oldenburg University agreement, the Music Department is moving towards the internationalization of its students and their teachers, who already work on specific projects such academic exchange and joint publications. It is important to emphasize that, for some years, the research lines assumed the Research Group ‘Education and Knowledge of Music’ from the Music Department of the UAA² have been dedicated to the study of the music on two main areas: (1) Music Knowledge Processes and (2) Teaching and Learning Music Processes, whose theoretical-methodological foundation is strongly connected with the Music Sciences. Music Sciences is a knowledge area that has not been still well represented in many Mexican universi-

ties, whereby the academic contact with the Institute in Oldenburg will be highly productive for the research group and for improving the Bachelor in Music offered at the UAA since 2009. In this order of ideas, both, teachers and researchers from the Music Department at the UAA are convinced that their work as researchers, as teachers and as music performers will be substantial enriched trough this international agreement.

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2 *Research Group* conformed by Dra. Irma Susana Carbajal Vaca, Dr. Raúl Capistrán Gracia, Mtro. Juan Pablo Correa Ortega and Mtro. Rodolfo Raphael Moreno Martínez.