



Music Education Council Member News 2019 Issue One

Remember:

- Membership organisations: please share these news e-mails with your members.
- News you want to share with the whole music education sector? contact admin@mec.org.uk with MEC News Update Item as the title of your e-mail.
- Contact Fiona Pendreigh (via admin@mec.org.uk) to make sure matters that concern or interest you are on her agenda when she meets with key people about music education.

Photos: The MEC website is being re-vamped and we also hope to bring you a new format newsletter from 2019. This is a call-out for any photos you may have that have permission granted to use on websites and that you would be happy to gift to MEC for future use – your photo will be credited if used.

Contact admin@mec.org.uk if you can help.

MEC News

1. **Message from Richard Hallam MBE.** At the same time as wishing you all a happy, prosperous and healthy new year, I need to inform you all that this is my last introduction as Chair of MEC. Owing to the demands of family illness **I have decided that I need to resign as Chair.** Fiona, as Chair Elect, will take up the role of Chair 6 months early and I know she will do a fantastic job, supported by a wonderful group of committed colleagues.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you for the friendship and support I have benefited from during a lifetime in which music and music education have been a major part of my and Sue's lives. What you all do is so important. In the diverse world of music there is room for you all and everything you care about. By working together, putting our clients – the young, very young and older people first, we become stronger and the true power of music can be realised for everyone. This can often mean putting ourselves and our organisations second or third! But by collectively striving for music for all, with informed individual choice, we can all benefit. The choice is yours!

It will never be possible to have every kind of music, for every purpose, available in school, any more than every language or every sport can be offered. Choices have to be made. It is the collaborative

working of colleagues and organisations in and beyond the school system that enables all opportunities to become realistically available in a particular area, across the lifespan. So, whilst lobbying and striving for music for all overall, we also have to be smart about what is possible and achievable in the different parts that make up this glorious whole. Perfection is probably a goal too far, but we can make things better and set out just what is possible, often by doing no more than sharing and learning from the wonderful work that you do, day in and day out. The choice is yours!

I also believe that no-one ever sets out to do poor work. If the quality is not good enough, (and let's be honest, it is not always good enough), then the individual needs help and support. After much deliberation, two positive statements have worked for me, which underpinned my work in Oxfordshire: taking personal responsibility for one's own actions, and consideration for others. I offer them to you as food for thought as you prepare for the next decade and I wish you all well in your important, complementary work.

2. With Dick standing down – and moving to the role of Past Chair – and Fiona Pendreigh immediately taking the role of Chair, MEC's constitution requires an immediate election for the next Chair Elect – who will become Chair in July 2021. **Nominations are sought for the position of MEC Chair Elect.** The Trustees considered the requirements of the Board going forward and agreed that any new Trustees should not be affiliated to any of the Standing List organisations on the MEC Forum. So, if you are interested in becoming Chair Elect, are not affiliated to a Standing List organisation, and can commit to serving MEC for 6 years (2 as Chair Elect; 2 as Chair and 2 as past Chair) then please download the information and nomination pack [here](#) and make sure that your nomination reaches admin@mec.org.uk by no later than 5pm on **19 February**. If you have any questions about this, please in the first instance e-mail Angela at admin@mec.org.uk

3. **SIG Chairs** met as an Editorial Board on 11 January. They were very grateful to those of you who took the trouble to comment on the draft position statements. The statements are being amended and an overarching paper is being developed that pulls together the key messages. This will be shared again with the full MEC membership for agreement before being submitted to the DfE to inform the ongoing work on the National Plan and the Curriculum. Watch for an e-mail inviting your comment on / approval of the final draft statement.

4. Fiona Pendreigh met with **officials at the DfE** on 17 January during which she discussed the development of a revised National Plan for Music Education and the proposed model curriculum. Officials were interested in the work coming from the Special Interest Group papers and the overarching paper that is being developed and welcomed the chance to see the final version as soon as it is ready. They appreciated the breadth of involvement across the music education sector that this work represents. Fiona also passed on the concerns that many MEC members have voiced about the make up of the panel developing the model curriculum. Officials noted those concerns and have passed them on to the panel for its consideration.

5. **Save the date – 28th March**, NCVO conference suite, London will see the first MEC Seminar of 2019. Work will have progressed on the new National Plan and the model curriculum and the seminar will focus on those two areas. Relevant people from DfE have been invited and we will announce the programme and open booking during February.

6. **Success in Wales** – the recommendations MEC made for music service funding has been enacted. We have had confirmation from the Welsh Government that they will be distributing £1.4m to local authorities, via the WLGA, in the current financial year 2018-19 to support the provision of music services. Information about allocations and the criteria attached to the funding can be seen [here](#).

7. **Membership renewal** is due for 2019. Small increases will apply in accordance with the annual rate of inflation. Please watch your inbox for your renewal notice which will ask corporate members to confirm that they have considered the correct membership level for their (and their members') needs; and will ask all members to fill in a new membership form so that we have up to date contact details and permissions to contact people through mailing lists.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. There will be news next month of the opening of the call for papers for the 2020 World Conference in Helsinki. [ISME](#) membership runs for two calendar years and you will need to be a member during 2019 if you want to submit a paper or a performance proposal.

2. The ISME European Regional Conference / EAS Conference will be held in Malmo, Sweden in May 2019. See [here](#) for more information.

MEC Member News

MEC does not endorse any particular products or services, but is happy to provide details to members of other members' activity and products. Anything featured below has not, therefore, been evaluated by and is not endorsed by MEC.

1. **The National Open Youth Orchestra** has published its first newsletter with details of performances, training and repertoire. If you are interested in keeping up to date with news from the orchestra visit [their website](#) and sign up.

2. All at **Drake Music Scotland**, including their new Chair Elizabeth Humphreys, wish everyone a successful 2019 and would like to take the opportunity to share a great documentary film of a recent project with Children's Classic Concerts and the RSNO, culminating in performances in Glasgow and at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh when some of the children performed on stage with the orchestra and the CCC presenters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7uImFdnZYI>

3. [Making Music](#) is starting the new year with a new venture, opening an exhibition at the Barbican Music Library. Celebrating leisure-time music in the UK, ***Making Music Together*** features quotes, posters and film from Making Music member groups and a specially commissioned series of portraits of leisure-time musicians. It runs from 16 January to 23 March and there is more information [here](#).

We're still championing – as Co-Chairs with Music For All of the 8 strong steering group – [Make Music Day](#), and in order to develop and support activity all over the UK in 2019 (aiming for 1600

performances this year), project manager Alison Porter is embarking on a road trip this January and February. Do share these [events](#) with your contacts and/or join in yourself! [Book for a local network meeting now.](#)

4. The scores and full audio for the 2019 [Sing Up Day](#) song *One moment, one people* are now available. Written by Becky Owen – one of the most popular writers for our Song Bank – this year’s song is all about the power of singing in a group and how singing and working together helps us build authentic connections with others.

5. [The Voices Foundation](#) is delighted to publish *Songs of Home*, a collection of songs from around the world to mark its 25th Anniversary, supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant.

6. The Barbican shares the exciting news that today it provided a progress update and published concept designs for the Centre for Music – find the full press release [here](#). The proposed Centre for Music would be a world-class venue for performance and education across all musical genres, harnessing the power of three internationally recognised cultural organisations - the Barbican, LSO and Guildhall School - to inspire a new generation with a love of music.

Policy News

Don't forget to share with MEC (admin@mec.org.uk) any policy-related news that you pick up. Through its members sharing news with other members MEC is uniquely placed to make sure that everyone across the music education sector is as well informed as possible.

1. **Lord German** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pupils in state-funded schools in England learning to play instruments in lessons for whole classes provided, or supported, by Music Education Hubs progressed to learn a musical instrument once the whole class tuition ended since 2012.

Lord Agnew of Oulton Music is a compulsory part of the national curriculum for 5 to 14 year olds. The department does not collect information on the number of secondary school academies that teach Key Stage 3 music at least once a week.

The table below is school workforce census data. It shows that the proportion of time spent teaching music at state funded secondary schools overall has remained broadly stable since 2010.

Percentage of total teaching hours spent on music in years 7-13 in state-funded secondary schools per year							
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%

Information on the number of pupils who continued to learn an instrument after receiving whole class ensemble teaching since 2012 is contained in a survey published by Arts Council England and can be found on pages 43 and 44 of the attached document. [Music Education Hubs data 2017 HL12448 HL12449 att](#)

2. **Adam Holloway** To ask the Right Honourable Member for Meriden, representing the Church Commissioners, how many cathedrals and abbeys (a) do and (b) do not appoint a head chorister.

Dame Caroline Spelman The operation and governance of cathedral choirs is not a matter for the Church Commissioners and no data on this is held centrally. In Rochester Cathedral which is nearest to the Hon. Member's constituency the cathedral has appointed Dean's Choristers (two boys and two girls) to share the responsibility, the rationale for which is to enable a larger number of choristers to gain leadership experience. This is also the case at some but not all other cathedrals.

3. First Minister of Scotland's Question Time:

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Green): Yesterday, the Parliament's Education and Skills Committee heard from two members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, who told us how the rise in instrumental music tuition fees of hundreds of pounds was creating Victorian levels of inequality, where only the wealthy can afford to take up an instrument. Does the First Minister believe that that is acceptable and does she recognise that councils need powers to raise the money that they need to give our young people all the opportunities that they deserve?

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Some councils already provide music tuition on the basis that Ross Greer is suggesting and we would encourage other local authorities to consider that. The Scottish Government provides support for other music initiatives, such as Sistema—although I am not suggesting for a second that Sistema is a substitute for music tuition in schools.

On the overall support that we provide to councils, in this financial year—with the agreement of the Green Party—we are providing real-terms increases in local government budgets. We are currently in the process of finalising next year's budget and I am sure that local government finance as well as a range of other matters will continue to be the subject of intense discussion.

4. [Five locations across England](#) will receive a share of £20 million to invest in local culture, heritage and creative industries and help drive economic growth, Culture Secretary Jeremy Wright announced

Other News of interest

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1. An [article in the Guardian](#) highlights how music helps connect people living with dementia and mentions social prescribing – which is becoming a reality. [Research](#) published last year by the International Longevity Centre UK (ILC) and the Utley Foundation found that music has significant physical and mental health benefits for those with dementia and helps them retain their speech and language skills longer. <https://www.takeitaway.org.uk/accesstomusicsurvey/>

2. A new Fabian Society report [Primary Colours](#) reveals that two thirds (68%) of primary school teachers in England say there is less arts education now than in 2010, and half (49%) say the quality of what there is has got worse.

New data protection regulations came into force on May 25th 2018, giving you greater control over how organisations like ours can process your personal data.

At MEC we respect your right to privacy and want to be as transparent as possible about what data we collect and how we use it. Our updated [Privacy Policy](#) provides extra detail on where and why we collect your personal data, how it will be processed and the safeguards we have in place to protect it. As a recipient of our email updates you can ask to be removed from the mailing list at any time by e-mailing admin@mec.org.uk and stating that you no longer wish to receive the news updates.