



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Ten

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 Richard J Hallam MBE, Chair to make sure matters that concern or interest you are on his agenda when he meets with key people about music education. (hallam@globalnet.co.uk; 07850 634239). Upcoming meetings with Ofsted Nov 15th.

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 the Chair.** One might normally look back over the year in a December news update, but the most recent and relevant news is included below in this Christmas Bumper News Update. Make sure you find a moment to digest it all!

So, in addition to wishing you many musical successes at this busy time of year; and a well-earned break over the Christmas period; let me just remind you again to watch out for the **MEC consultation** in the New Year and to make a note of the **Seminar on March 28th**.

2. Last few days to book [here](#) for the final seminar of the year **December 12th, Bristol,**

Making Music Education Inclusive: being inclusive rather than doing inclusion

Inclusiveness is the extent to which an organisation has people from diverse backgrounds or communities involved as board members and staff; and the extent to which its activities provide opportunities for all children and young people to take part on equal terms.

This event explores the importance of inclusion at both structural and service levels and presents examples of best practice from youth voice to governance. It welcomes presentations from Drake Music, AYM, Sound Connections, Youth Music and Bristol Music Trust.

3. The **Short Guide to Accessible Music Education** will be releasing its next update on the 12th December to coincide with the Seminar. Make sure you check in with this valuable resource at <https://theshortguidetoaccessiblemusiceducation.wordpress.com>

4. This issue provides news on the Shortlisted candidates for the **MEC Music Education Awards Major Award**, and the candidates that have been given **special commendation** for an element of their work. Congratulations go to **Accent, Bristol Plays Music, East Ayrshire and Lincolnshire** for reaching the shortlist for the Major Award and to **Accent, Devon, East Ayrshire, Lewisham, Portsmouth and Sheffield** who are recognised for their specific work. Thanks also to all those who submitted applications. As ever the Awards Panel had a difficult task in identifying the stand-out applications and we hope that those who are not mentioned found the process of thinking about their offer in order to put in the application a useful one and that they, and many more, will apply in 2019.

5. This year MEC joined with the **Will Michael Jazz Education Award**, and the shortlisted candidates for this award were also announced at the Music Mark Annual Conference in Warwickshire on Friday 23 November. Congratulations go to **Camden Music Hub, Durham Music Service, Devon Music Service, Greater Manchester Hub, Oxfordshire Music Service and Sheffield Music Hub**. More details can be found [here](#), and the winner will be announced in March 2019.

6. Chair Richard Hallam met with **Susan Aykin (Ofsted lead for Performing Arts)** on Nov 15th. The encouraging noises from Ofsted (see item 9 below) were also evident in this meeting. We await an announcement from Ofsted soon. The situation is positive and Susan was pleased to understand the constituency of MEC and how, through MEC's Special Interest Groups and the MEC Forum in particular, diverse views are heard and discussed, enabling MEC to speak uniquely and authoritatively for music education across the UK and throughout the lifespan.

7. **School provision of music** - a [quick survey](#) for you all to complete and share by Dec 12th – let us know if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements, and why:

- All schools should ensure that the national curriculum for music is delivered in all Key Stages.
- All secondary schools should commit to delivering a minimum of one hour of music education per week for each year in Key Stage 3.
- All secondary schools should have at least one full-time music teacher who exclusively teaches music and no additional subjects.

8. In the last news update we reported on **DfE's plans to develop a model curriculum**. In discussion with Special Interest Group Chairs it is felt that MEC's position on this should be: "MEC does not believe that there is a need for a detailed model curriculum and feels that there is no one-size fits all solution that will help all teachers. It instead proposes a set of principles around which a curriculum appropriate to each particular setting can be built – and MEC's Curriculum Special Interest Group will shortly be finalising a set of principles

which will have the backing of the music education sector. If the DfE pursues the idea of developing a model curriculum then MEC members have names of some teachers who have produced high quality work in this area who MEC would urge the DfE to consider including in its working group.”

Get in touch through admin@mec.org.uk if you don't agree with that statement.

9. Representing MEC, Judith Robinson attended the **Westminster Education Forum Seminar: Developing the curriculum at secondary level – design, improving outcomes, and assessing the impact of the Ebacc**

Judith reports that this very full agenda had a number of interesting presentations. There were encouraging noises from Ofsted, presentation of the deeply worrying findings of Sussex University's research into music in secondary education and platitudes from DfE with no firm suggestions for how to support music and the arts. The presentations that were of key interest can be seen [here](#).

10. **Membership renewal** is due in January 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.

11. **Special Interest Groups.** The MEC Special Interest group Chairs met on 16th November to discuss how to pull together the messages from the work that each group has been carrying out. It was agreed that MEC needed to be ready with a statement for the DfE in anticipation of an announcement about the redevelopment of the National Plan for Music Education. Each group is developing a short position paper based on what is in, or what people feel should be in, the core and extension roles in the National Plan. A short membership consultation on these will be circulated shortly after 12 December for completion by 11 January when the Chairs will meet again to discuss the final draft. Watch your inboxes for news of this important consultation and please make your opinions known so that MEC can present the DfE with a position statement that carries the authority of the whole sector.

12. **Nations**

England: MEC's work in England continues. Watch out for **consultations** in the New Year and make sure you don't miss the **Seminar on March 28th**.

Northern Ireland: MEC's understanding is that music education in Northern Ireland is progressing well without a devolved Government. If you know differently let us know! MEC has the opportunity for a joint meeting of key contributors in January in Belfast.

Scotland: The MEC Forum Strategic Group met in Edinburgh. Notes of the meeting are being agreed by those present. Contact Angela if you wish to be kept informed of progress.

Wales: The Feasibility Study group, of which three members are also on the MEC Forum, met last month. Notes will be made available to members as soon as possible.

There is also [a petition in Wales](#) calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to produce an urgent National Plan for Music Education with dedicated central funding in line with the rest of the UK. This will ensure that affordable musical instrument and vocal tuition is available as a right for all children in Wales.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. Congratulations go to the **two projects** from the UK that were successful in securing funding through the new ISME Grants Programme:

ISME-NAMM Foundation Community Music Development Grant (Community Music)

Recipient: Sarah Browne

[School of Performing Arts Wolverhampton University](#)

Title: World Music Fridays

ISME Project Development Grant

Recipient: Liz Dobson

Title: [Yorkshire Sound Women Network](#) Education Programme

2. [ISME](#) membership renewal is due in January – you will need to be a member during 2019 if you want to submit a paper for the 2020 World Conference in Helsinki.

3. 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. **Sound and Music** has launched a national survey aimed at gaining insight into the provision of opportunities for children and young people to compose and create their own music, whether at school, in informal settings or through other means. If you're involved in music education in any way and want to help us understand the national picture, please complete the Can Compose survey and share widely with others! <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MX9HLK7>

2. The **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** will be giving a fantastic concert at the Barbican on 5 January. Conducted by Kirill Karabits, the programme includes Rick Dior's *Science Fiction*, John Adams's *Doctor Atomic Symphony* and Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*. Before the concert we'll be hosting a Come and Play workshop for teenage musicians playing at Grade 4 or above, and a Teen Hangout event for all young people to meet before the concert.

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

Saturday 4 January, 7.00pm / Barbican, London

Witness the power and passion of a performance by the world's greatest orchestra of teenagers.

John Adams *Doctor Atomic Symphony*, Sibelius *Symphony No. 2*, Rick Dior *Science Fiction*.

<https://bit.ly/2CDPPwL>

3. **Making Music** puts forward this view:

We know music education hubs work hard to fulfil their remit, but think they've been given a duff hand and not enough money. Our members feel the government is not understanding that an investment in free instrumental tuition for every child throughout their school career would reap many benefits for those children and their communities in later life.

This is not about the pipeline for the professional music sector, it's about a lifeline for the 95% of the population who will not end up earning their living by performing. In Scotland, this petition got enough signatures for a debate in the [Petitions Committee](#); the version for the Westminster parliament, also set up by Scottish trombonist Ralph Riddiough, needs 100,000 to secure a debate – by 5 January.

Can you help disseminate? <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/223408>

And, no, we don't agree with the government that one term of whole class ensemble teaching on an instrument not of a child's choosing throughout their 13 year school career equates to free instrumental tuition...

4. [Practical Progression](#) is a film series, made by music leaders, for music leaders from any setting. They've been produced by **Awards for Young Musicians** in partnership with the five Music Education Hubs currently delivering the Furthering Talent programme: Brighton & Hove, Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and North West Midlands. The films form part of a peer-led professional development programme also called Practical Progression and aim to build on music leaders' existing tool kit, whatever setting they are working in. The films look at different ways to support young people to overcome barriers to their music making.

5. **ABO 2019 conference: CROSS BORDER – [bookings now open](#)** Crossing borders; it's what orchestras do. From touring to digital delivery, our members are global businesses. But borders are just not physical. As our relevance as an artform continues to be questioned, there are other boundaries that need to be crossed, both internal and external, to reach new and diverse audiences in new places, forge an inclusive workforce, and redefine what it means to be an orchestra in the 21st century. Join us in Belfast as we debate the key issues of today, and look at how to overcome the barriers to growth. The 2019 conference, which takes place **23-25 January** at the **ICC Belfast** offers something for everyone, from high level debates to workshops and learning. And as usual it will be relevant to people working in music education, with sessions focusing on diversity & inclusion, youth orchestras, and musicians as educators. For the conference schedule and to book your place, click [here](#). Please note that the early booking deadline is **Friday 14 December at midday**.

6. The Music Commission, which is exploring how to better sustain and support progress and progressing in learning music, and is chaired by Sir Nick Kenyon, has announced that it will publish its report in January. Any MEC member who would like to know more is very welcome to contact MEC Trustee, Lincoln Abbotts.

7. The Music for All Charity, **The MIA**, and its members have worked together to create Buying a musical instrument – making the right choice a brand free, introductory guide to a range of musical instruments, plus some top tips for those starting their musical journeys. See the [guide here](#).

8. **Music Mark News:**

1. [Read](#) CEO Bridget Whyte's Speech from the Music Mark Annual Conference on its member consultation on the future of the National Plan for Music Education and recommendations to the Department of Education.
2. Music Mark and ISM release [joint statement](#) on the falling provision of secondary music education provision

9. **Music Mark Leadership Development Programme**

The 5 Dimensions of Leadership – 2019, Leeds

After the London sessions sold out in record time, be sure to book your spot in Leeds. The Music Mark Leadership Development Programme is for Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders and Aspiring Leaders within the arts and music education sector. The programme consists of 5 specifically designed sessions, each developing an inquiry-approach into leadership and professional learning. Attend a session at any time or sign up to all five at a discounted rate. [Tickets](#)

HR and Contract Law – January 11th 2019, London

A Music Mark afternoon training session lead by our advice partners Bates Wells Braithwaite, exploring HR and Contract Law. Topics covered will include:

- Employed versus self-employed
- Holiday
- Pensions
- Employment status
- Claims
- Disciplinary and grievance procedures
- Performance and absenteeism
- IR35
- sick pay
- Contracts of employment
- Termination of employment
- Redundancy
- Misconduct
- Discrimination

[Tickets](#)

10. **UK Disability History Month**, runs until the 22nd Dec 2018. Read more [here](#) about **Drake Music's** marking of the month.

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. A round-up of the various mentions of music education in Parliament can be seen [here](#)

Other News of interest

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1. **How accessible is music making for disabled people?**

Creative United is researching the experiences of music makers and educators, to see how well the aims of The National Plan for Music Education are being met; “equality of opportunity for all pupils...whether they have special educational needs or disabilities”.

We know the music-education landscape is multi-layered and extremely diverse, and that its workforce is driven and dedicated. We want to hear from you about your experience of delivering music-making opportunities.

What do music educators need in order to meet the needs of pupils and participants? How can the sector be supported to deliver best practice standards in accessibility?

Your responses to our Music Educators survey will help shape the future of accessible music.

If you would also like to complete the survey for Music Makers, you will automatically be entered into our £100 prize draw, winner to be selected in January 2019.

<https://www.takeitaway.org.uk/accesstomusicsurvey/>

2. **A Choir in Every Care Home [evaluation report](#)** is welcomed by Professor Martin Green, the Government’s Dementia Champion and CEO of Care England, he says: “We have known for some time that carefully delivered music activities can provide significant benefits for people who live and work in care. At last, this important report presents rigorous evidence showing how music can impact on whole care settings, not just on individuals.”

3. Of course, we all support music for itself, but we would be crazy to ignore the beneficial side effects! Once again research evidence points to beneficial effects of particular musical opportunities in early childhood and at school. [Learning music early can make your child a better reader](#) shows how neuroscience has found a clear relationship between music and language acquisition. Put simply, learning music in the early years of schooling can help children learn to read.

4. [With One Voice](#) has been developing a theoretical model to communicate the importance of the arts in the support of people who have experienced homelessness: The Jigsaw of Homeless Support. The arts will not solve homelessness but With One Voice argues that the inclusion of the arts in homelessness policy will create a much deeper and more effective homelessness support structure.

5. A group of MPs is seeking evidence of **the barriers to a career in the arts for people from lower-socio economic backgrounds**, and successful examples of programmes that increase access. The Performers’ Alliance All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), which comprises politicians from across the political spectrum, including the former Culture Minister Ed Vaizey, has launched a [new inquiry](#) into the “class ceiling” in the arts.

6. More than £20 million is being pumped into the UK's thriving **creative industries** to help inspire and attract new talent, scale up existing businesses, boost skills and provide education. The [package of support](#) announced by Creative Industries Minister Margot James during a visit to Dudley Technical College, will help to increase the diversity of the sector's workforce and maintain the future pipeline of creative talent in an industry that now contributes more than £100 billion to the UK economy.

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.