



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Nine

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. (hallaj@globalnet.co.uk; 07850 634239). Upcoming meetings with Ofsted Nov 15th.

MEC News

1. **Message from the Chair.** It has been another busy period since the last MEC News update with key meetings in England, Scotland and Wales all having taken place by the time you read this. There is still just time to contact me in advance of my meeting with **Susan Aykin (Ofsted lead for Performing Arts)** on Nov 15th if you have particular points you want to make sure I communicate to her. More importantly, you and your organisations continue to have key meetings on behalf of music education across the lifespan throughout the UK. Many voices repeating the same messages on a regular basis can only be a good thing. And, once the political scene with Brexit and other major issues are resolved one way or another, we can be sure that the focus will return to other matters, including music education. MEC continues to prepare for this. **SIG chairs are meeting on Nov 16th** to ensure we have a 'joined up' approach to the curriculum. We have our final **seminar** of the year on **Dec 12th** (see item 2) and early in **January** there will be a **MEC position paper** on which we will be inviting comments from you all prior to a **major MEC seminar/conference on March 28th** next year in **London. *Save the date now!***

2. Booking is open [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. Chair Elect, Fiona Pendreigh met with **officials at the DfE** on 30th October. A refreshed National Plan for Music Education, to include Early Years, was discussed. The DfE mentioned a “Model Music Curriculum” - Nick Gibb wants to develop a Model Music Curriculum setting out what should be learnt from KS1 -KS3. It won't be statutory but will be aimed at helping schools that want more detail. The Minister will be setting up an expert group, including teachers, to take this work forward. Further details will be announced shortly.

4. The **MEC Music Education Awards and Will Michael Jazz Awards** judging panel met on 29th October. The Awards Chair is consolidating the outcomes from that meeting and the initial results will be announced at the Music Mark conference later this month.

5. The **MEC Forum** met on 18th October. The key outcome from the meeting was that an awayday would be held where the Forum would review and reaffirm MEC's purpose; consider the barriers it faced in taking this forward; and identify priorities. Thoughts will be shared with the full membership as they are developed.

6. On 16th November the MEC Trustees will meet to discuss Membership (fees and benefits), Finance and filling 2019 vacancies on the Board and Forum. **Watch your inboxes for your 2019 invoice.**

7. Members may have picked up the fact that the Musicians' Union decided to resign from MEC - and therefore from the Standing List of the Forum. The Trustees decided that the vacant slot on the Standing List should be offered to the organisation that came next in the order of voting for the original Standing List. This was Making Music. Making Music has accepted the place, but, as their CEO had been elected as an individual member of the MEC Forum, she now stands down from that position. MEC Trustees decided that this vacant slot should be offered to the person that came next in the order of voting for the original vacancy – Dan Francis. Dan accepted the place. MEC trustees regret that the MU has resigned from both MEC membership and the MEC Forum as this means they will no longer contribute their important perspectives in robust debates around the MEC Forum table. MEC will, however, continue to take account of all input to the music education debate when formulating its own position.

8. **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.**

Chairs or representatives of the Special Interest Groups will meet on November 16th. Each group has submitted papers or a report of their work to date and a summary of these, and the outcomes of the meeting, will be included in the final news update of 2018. The group will also discuss the DfE's plans in respect of the curriculum (see item 3 above).

9. **Task and Finish Groups**

Task and Finish Groups will be reviewed in preparation for 2019. The two current groups are looking at licencing and the music commission. If you have any views on these groups please email Angela at admin@mec.org.uk

10. **Nations** This year the MEC Forum established Strategy Groups for each nation. All MEC members can be kept informed of more detailed developments for each nation by contacting Angela (admin@mec.org.uk) to have your email added to the circulation list.

England: A major part of the **MEC Forum agenda on October 18th** was devoted to English issues. These will be discussed further at the **SIG Chairs' meeting on November 16th** and the **MEC Seminar on Dec 12th**. A **MEC position paper** will be shared for comment in the New Year and there will be a major seminar in **London on March 28th 2019**.

Northern Ireland: All is reported to be well! MEC is in contact with key colleagues in Northern Ireland and will be holding a MEC Forum Strategy Group (NI) meeting in January 2019 as part of the ABO conference. (THIS IS A REPEAT OF THE TEXT FROM NEWS UPDATE 8 – BETTER TO LEAVE THIS IN, OR TO NOT HAVE A NI PARA?)

Scotland: A meeting of interested MEC members will take place in Glasgow on 9th November and they will be joined by members of the MEPG to discuss how best MEC can complement the work being done in Scotland. A report will be included in the next update.

Wales: The MEC Forum Strategy Group (Wales) met at the RWCMD on October 4th followed by a meeting with a key government official. A centralised approach to the delivery of music education is being considered. See a report [here](#). In response to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communication Committee's report 'Hitting the Right Note - inquiry into funding for and access to music education' the Welsh Government is committed to establishing a working group to consult on the feasibility study proposed to identify and assess options for delivery of music services in education. MEC Chair Dick Hallam, and Chair Elect Fiona Pendreigh have been asked to join this working group.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. **Roger Mantie** from Canada is the ISME **blog contributor** this month talking about [music making and leisure](#). He writes: That some people choose to make music in their discretionary time should tell us something That many more people do *not* choose to make music in their discretionary time should also tell us something, however. Most people do love music, and many people, if given the opportunity *would* make music regularly. That they cannot or do not is a professional failing on our part, one that we continue to neglect.

MEC Member News

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1. MEC member **ISM** reports on [new research into Secondary Music Curriculum Provision](#) between 2016-18/19 by the University of Sussex which has revealed that music in schools is at

significant risk of disappearing as schools offering music a subject, staffing levels and teaching hours in music decline. The research shows:

-) an increasing number of schools have reduced or completely removed music in the curriculum for lower secondary school students in years 7 to 9
-) 70% of music teachers reported often teaching outside their subject area to 'fill gaps' in 'core subjects'
-) The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) specifically as having a negative impact on the provision and uptake of music in schools

2. **Sound Sense new corporate plan unveiled** Sound Sense is pleased to announce its new corporate plan, which follows extensive consultation with community musician practitioners and the Sound Sense Board. The plan, which comes into effect from January 2019, has a focus on CPD specific to community musicians, developing a strand of regional, member-led networking events and creating a resource bank of tools and templates to support the workforce with delivery. Find out more [here](#).

3. Wiltshire Music Centre and **Bristol Music Trust** are delighted to invite you to national disability arts festival, [Fast Forward \(23-25 November 2018\)](#). Founded by Bristol Music Trust in 2015, the festival brings together artists, practitioners, audiences and industry leaders for a series of concerts and events which celebrate creativity and challenge expectations around disability and music. We invite you and your colleagues to join us for this informative and inspirational weekend, which will begin with an **Industry Symposium, on Friday 23rd November**, as we celebrate enablement and music-making for all.

4. **ABRSM** has launched its new music theory app. ABRSM [Theory Works](#) contains over 6,000 specially-written questions designed to test and challenge music theory knowledge. Bring music theory to life with fun and engaging challenges at Grades 1–5.

5. Each year, **Music for Youth** presents Massed Ensemble Performance Projects at each of its spectacular showcase concerts in London's Royal Albert Hall in November. Massed Ensemble performance projects are the cornerstone of the Prom concerts, involving around half of each night's 1,000 young performers. In 2019, Music for Youth will also be offering Massed Ensemble performance opportunities at the MFY National Festival in Birmingham's Town Hall in July. MFY aims to offer opportunities to a broad range of young people and ability levels, directly tackling diversity and inclusion, supporting innovation, ambition and good practice and presenting regional partnerships on national stages. Music education providers and arts organisations are invited to submit Massed Ensemble Performance Project proposals for the MFY National Festival in July 2019, and for the MFY Prom concerts in November 2019. Details on MFY website [here](#). **The deadline for proposals is 12 noon, Monday 26 November.**

6. **ISM** shares news of its new campaign [Save Music](#), launched across social networks including [Twitter](#) and Facebook with a [campaign video](#). The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on 29 March 2019. This means that following any transition period freedom of movement – which gives British musicians the right to work across Europe without the need for a visa – may end. The House of Lords EU Select Committee report, published in July 2018, recognised the importance of freedom of movement for musicians and recommended a multi entry visa enabling creatives including musicians

to continue to work freely across the EU post-Brexit. **The Save Music campaign is calling for freedom of movement to be maintained for musicians or the introduction of a two-year working visa post-Brexit.** ISM is asking organisations and artists to provide a statement of support for the campaign to be included in our press release and shared on social media. The press release will be sent to press outlets and [is on the ISM website](#). Spread the word about the campaign: [retweet the video](#) and encourage your followers to visit the [website](#) to find out how they can get involved in the campaign.

7. **Music Mark Annual Conference – Kenilworth – 22nd, 23rd November** The debate continues on the current state of Music Education and most importantly, its future. This year's theme is Youth Voice as we invite both children and young people to inform the national debate. Network with over 350 delegates, choose from a wide range of breakout sessions, youth-led panels, workshops and CPD sessions. Be inspired by Keynote speakers such as MOBO award-winning musician and chair of Youth Music, Yolanda Brown and the incredible Faz Shah, violinist, beatboxer and Harmonise Project Coordinator for Music Action International. Tickets [here](#).

8. **Music Mark Leadership Development Programme – Leeds – 2019** 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 [here](#).

9. **Music Mark** has released its report on its membership consultation on the future of the National Plan for Music Education. Read more [here](#).

10. **Sound and Music** have launched a **national survey** aimed at gaining insight into the provision 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, whether or not you are directly involved in delivering composing and creative music-making activities, we want to hear from you! Please complete the Can Compose survey and share widely with others: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MX9HLK7>

11. **Listen Imagine Compose** has two Teacher Network Events in November, for secondary school music teachers looking to explore more creative ways to teach composing. The sessions are free and will be led by composer/educator Kirsty Devaney.

[London: Wigmore Hall](#), London, 5pm – 7:30pm, **Monday 12th November**.

[Birmingham: University of Birmingham School](#), Birmingham, 4.30 – 7pm, **Wednesday 28th November**.

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. **Ofsted Consultation January 2019** Consultation on new proposals, including the text of the inspection handbooks, will start in January 2019. You can read the Ofsted [press release](#) that summarised the speech, and the full text of the [speech](#), as well as coverage by the [BBC, Schools Week](#) and the [TES](#). Dick is meeting with Susan Aykin lead inspector for performing arts on Nov 15th.
2. [Local Cultural Education Partnerships](#) are invited to apply for £1 million to design and deliver a programme of engagement reaching over 2000 children across three academic years, providing extra-curricular activity both in school and community settings. This fund aims to provide new opportunities for children and young people (aged 8-18) from areas of low cultural engagement and high levels of deprivation to take part in putting on productions as well as developing backstage and technical skills. Arts Council England aims to award a grant to one Local Cultural Education Partnership in each of its Arts Council areas. Application is a two-stage process and the deadline to submit an Expression of Interest is **12pm (midday), 22 November 2018**.
3. [Lords question on GCSE Music](#) numbers on 17th October. Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of the number of pupils who took GCSE Music in the last academic year.
4. [Lords question on the "Time to Listen" report](#) and prioritising arts in the curriculum on 23rd October. Asked by Baroness Bull - To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusion of the report by the University of Nottingham, Time to Listen, published on 15 October, that arts and cultural education offers "systematic ways of developing understanding, new knowledge and skills"; and what steps they are taking to ensure that arts and cultural education is sufficiently prioritised in the national curriculum.
5. [Lords Debate on the state of music education](#) – MEC Chair Dick Hallam and a number of MEC member organisations briefed some Lords in advance of the debate and one of the outcomes is that the Government has agreed to [discuss with universities](#) the possibility of adding music to their lists of facilitating subjects.
6. Over the summer Hannah Fouracre, Director for Music Education at Arts Council England, has looked at the data, research and evaluations it holds for the music education projects and organisations it invests in – National Portfolio Organisations, National Lottery Project Grants, Music Education Hubs, National Youth Music Organisations, In Harmony and Youth Music. This is being used to help determine Arts Council's advice to Government for the National Plan for Music Education and Arts Council's new ten year strategy. The Arts Council's Chair, Sir Nicholas Serota, met with Ofsted's Amanda Spielman in August and Hannah met Susan Aykin, Ofsted's lead for visual and performing arts, in September to discuss its new framework and musical progression. Arts Council's draft outcomes for its new strategy are now open for consultation until 2 January. Please do let them know your thoughts [here](#).

7. **2017 Music Education Hub annual report** has now been published, and can be found [here](#). This report covers data from 2016/17 that was submitted to ACE last October. Also published on the same page:
 - the full 2016/17 dataset,
 - the tool which enables you to compare individual Hubs with national averages,
 - the graphs showing all the Hubs together against specific indicators.
8. The Government has launched the first [Loneliness Strategy](#), which includes the concept of social prescribing – the NHS sending people to arts clubs and the like.

Other News of interest

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

1. Between September 2018 and March 2019, [Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy](#) is offering three **Leadership** courses, all of which are aimed at equipping participants to succeed in fundraising as managers and leaders within a highly competitive market. These are:

[Creating a Fundraising Strategy](#)

[Embedding Fundraising into your Organisation](#)

[Integrating a Fundraising Strategy into Business Planning](#)

These courses are suitable for managers and leaders of arts and cultural organisations, whether fundraising specialists or with broader management roles, as well as experienced freelancers.

2. Nesta has launched a new [Cultural Impact Development Fund](#) which has £3.7m to offer as unsecured finance to arts, cultural and creative organisations wishing to achieve positive social change in communities. The Cultural Impact Development Fund will run to August 2021 and offer between £25k – £150k in support with a repayment period of 12 – 60 months.

3. Research from the [Musicians' Union](#) reveals families with a total household income of less than £28k are half as likely to have a child learning an instrument as more affluent peers with a family income of £48k or more. This stark disparity exists despite similar levels of interest from both groups of children.

4. Complete the [#HEartSMusic](#) survey to help explore a surprising gap in understanding: The relationship in the general population between musical habits, behaviours, and activities on the one hand and outcomes for mental and social wellbeing on the other. With the ambition of being with largest study of its kind, #HEartSMusic aims to shape music's role in society and elucidate its value for public health.

5. In 2021, the [Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#), which tests a sample of 15-year-olds across the world every three years, will include an assessment of creative thinking. More on this [here](#).

6. Ralph Riddiough shared an update on ***Musical instrument lessons for children in state schools should be free in South Ayrshire***. This petition will be heard at a public meeting in County Buildings, Ayr, 21 November, 10am, at the Partnerships Panel of South Ayrshire Council. These petitions do make a difference at local level. Contact Angela at admin@mec.org.uk to find out more.

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.