



Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue One

2017 is well under way and the Christmas holidays are already a dim and distant memory. In 2016 MEC members, individually and collaboratively, achieved much on behalf of music education across the age span and across the UK. If the news in this edition is anything to go by 2017 is going to be an even more positive year. Not that there aren't challenges. And sometimes our achievements are damage limitation rather than actual progress. But our collective voice through the Council, and our improved communications networks with members across the sector are definitely making a difference for the better.

Do continue to let Angela have your information (admin@mec.org.uk) and don't hesitate to contact me to make sure matters that concern or interest you are on my agenda when I meet with key people about music education. (halla@globalnet.co.uk; 07850 634239).

Remember that MEC relies on the contact point within each member organisation to share MEC news with their own members - please share these news e-mails with your members. (If you need another person to be an additional contact for your organisation just drop Angela an e-mail).

And don't forget that if you have news you want to share with the whole music education sector, send your 150 word (plus hyperlinks) mentions to admin@mec.org.uk

Richard J Hallam MBE Chair

MEC News

1. We start with the very sad news about the death of our colleague and past MEC Exec member Fran Hanley of the MU. We were very sad to hear of her passing following a long battle with cancer. We will remember her dedication and passion for music education and the fact that she was never afraid to challenge others' views and perceptions. She will be sadly missed.

2. Make sure your Chair knows your views and what is currently on your mind. MEC chair, Dick Hallam, regularly meets with Council members as well as having 1:1 conversations with executive members in addition to the formal meetings. If you want to discuss anything contact Dick on 07850 634239 or via admin@mec.org.uk or directly at halla@globalnet.co.uk. Dick also has meetings and is in regular communication with key individuals including those at ACE, DfE, DCMS, Ofsted, in which he is asked to give a sector-wide perspective. For example, on January 31st Dick is meeting with the DfE; on February 1st he will be giving evidence to the Welsh inquiry into Funding for and Access to Music Education in Wales.

As MEC is the ISME National Affiliate your work also contributes to the international picture. On February 7 Dick has a conversation with colleagues in Canada and on February 8th colleagues in Hong Kong. Dick will also be chairing a panel discussion on influencing politics, policy and funding at the

Music Education Expo on February 10th at 11am. So if you want to be sure your views are taken into account, join one of MEC's working groups (see [here](#) for the original invitation to join) and/or contact Dick directly.

3. In case you missed it before Christmas, at the winter seminar the shortlisted candidates for the **MEC Music Education Awards 2016** were announced. Huge congratulations to ***Birmingham Music Education Hub, Bristol Plays Music, East Ayrshire Council, Hampshire Music Education Hub, Portsmouth Music Education Hub, SoundCity: Brighton & Hove and Soundstorm Music Education Hub*** on making it on to the shortlist. The announcement and citations for all seven can be seen [here](#). Winners will be announced at the Music Teacher Awards as part of [Music and Drama Education Expo](#) in February 2017.

4. The MEC Winter Seminar on 6th December was well attended and attendees have had the opportunity to see the report from the seminar and comment on any amendments / corrections. The report is now [available on the MEC website](#) for all to download and read. As a result of deliberations by the Working Group facilitators and Executive members three priority areas for MEC focus during 2017 have been identified:

- **Quality and Progression**
- **Evidence and Advocacy; and**
- **Inclusion, Accesibilitiy and Diversity**

All of the Working Groups will take those focus areas for the year and consider what further and collaborative action can make a difference. See below in the ISME section for **news of the next seminar** on 27th March.

5. The MEC strategy group subsequently met and examined each organisation's priorities within those headings. Priorities from ABRSM, Musicians' Union, Music Mark, Trinity College London, Youth Music follow here:

ABRSM will continue to evolve its products and services throughout 2017 towards supporting teachers, learners and parents. We all recognise that evidence based advocacy is powerful and in July, we will launch a Commission - working alongside colleagues from across the sector - to look in detail at the development of musical potential.

ABRSM will continue to evolve its partnership working, both in the UK and globally with a particular emphasis on access and diversity. One focus of this will be an event taking place at the Barbican on July 7th, bringing colleagues together for a day of music, awards, product launches and practical workshop sessions.

Musicians' Union plans for 2017

Co-operatives

We continue to support and advise teachers on setting up Music Teacher Co-operatives. We are doing work with the Labour Party and the TUC on producing models that work.

We will be publishing a guide on setting up a Trust in 2017.

Certificate for Music Educators

We are running a session on the CME at the Music Expo with our partners Wren Music. Our resources are available online for centres engaged with the CME and we are looking at expanding this work in 2017.

Music for Youth

We continue to work closely with MFY in supporting their mentor training and giving opportunities. We are expanding our work on tackling Equality and Diversity issues in the workplace and in educational settings and have events planned throughout the year.

Our next project is #Allaboutpiano which will be throughout the whole of March and is all about sharing good practice, teaching tips, resources and repertoire within the piano community.

Across 2017 **Music Mark** will be continuing to influence, support and connect on behalf of our membership, partner organisations and wider education sector. We will continue to work to influence thinking as to the value of music education for all children and young people, both in and out of school, as we add our collective voice to discussions around the NPME and the strategic leadership of Music Education Hubs 2018-2020 and beyond. Our supporting work will be shaped by feedback and identified needs coming through from our Grassroots Development Groups with the opportunity to connect, celebrate and share practice at our Annual Conference in Nov 2017. For further information please visit our website <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/> or contact jem.shuttleworth@musicmark.org.uk

Trinity College London (TCL) is moving towards a more equitable situation for those who might want to engage with TCL exams, recognizing the current limitations and working on both product development and teacher support to ensure we can welcome ALL learners to a music assessment as and when they want one.

TCL is working more closely with MEC membership organisations including ISM, Music for Youth, Music Mark, Musicians' Union, Sound Sense and Youth Music to better support teachers and to discuss areas of possible development and closer partnership working.

Youth Music priorities for 2017 / 18

2017 / 18 is the second year of our business plan: 'Towards a Musically Inclusive England'. Priorities for us this year in the music education sector are to continue targeting our grant-making to music-making projects for children and young people in challenging circumstances; to grow and strengthen musically inclusive practice in England, particularly within music education hubs, through our grant-making, advice and guidance and sharing practice. Our organisational priorities include further developing our expertise in impact measurement, growing our appeal as a national charity and continuing to increase our fundraising. Give a Gig Week from 24th to 31st March (100 gigs in 1 week) takes place for the first time and is an important part of our fundraising strategy:

www.giveagig.org.uk We are also diversifying our board and currently in the process of recruiting new trustees.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. MEC / ISME SEMINAR – 27TH MARCH, NCVO CONFERENCE SUITE, LONDON

As the first open phase of the ISME conference legacy project a major seminar will take place on 27th March 2017 – open to MEC and UK ISME members on a first-come, first-served basis (places limited to 100). For more information and to secure your place (for just £40) click [here](#).

The aim is to take the ISME World Conference themes of Social Justice, Well-being and Identity and to examine them through the various sector lenses – aiming to establish what we can learn from each other (so not re-inventing the wheel); where there are differences and similarities in perception and practice; how we can influence others and how we can celebrate good practice. We will also take the three MEC priorities for 2017 and examine the issues from the various perspectives.

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. MEC member Sing Up is running a new series of training events in February 2017. Renowned for high quality training with teachers and other music education professionals when the programme was government-funded, Sing Up is now returning to its roots with a series of three sessions, taking place from 13th – 15th February 2017. The sessions will be packed with fresh themes and content, focussing on ideas not previously touched upon by Sing Up training. See www.singup.org/training for more info.
2. MEC member Lydia Kakabadse's new chamber CD, *Concertato*, performed by "sound collective", will be released by Divine Art on 17th February 2017. The album is written for the "alternative" string quartet - violin, viola, cello and double bass - and features a challenging duet for double bass & cello, string quartets and 2 short chamber songs for mezzo-soprano accompanied by string quartet. www.lydiakakabadse.com
3. MEC member **Music for Youth** is Calling all creators, musicians and composers aged 21 & under for its' **New Music Stage** Do you make new, original music, of **any** genre or style? (And we mean any!) Share it with us before **March 27th** for the chance to access mentoring, professional feedback, and a performance slot on a national stage at National Festival 2017! Go [here](#) for more info.
4. Applications now open - **The Sound and Music** Summer School gives you an opportunity to explore and develop your musical ideas, be inspired by your peers and try new areas of musical creation from composing for film to writing for voices – you can stretch your imagination and ours too! You will spend a week (30th July - 5th August) at the world renowned [Purcell School of Music](#) with 75 other young composers, working with some of the most talented tutors and professional musicians in the UK today. From new media to jazz and everything in between, you will be surrounded by a wealth of experience and expertise. More info [here](#).
5. **John Finney's** latest blog on entering a dialogic space makes interesting reading and invites you to take part in an experiment – see [the article](#) for details.
6. Following her presentation at the 6th December MEC seminar, **CCSkills CEO Pauline Tambling** advised us that every year Creative & Cultural Skills has an annual conference at the Backstage Centre in Purfleet. There is an exciting line up of speakers, which can be viewed, and tickets booked, at the following link: <https://ccskills.org.uk/national-conference> If any MEC members would like to book tickets, CCSkills is offering a **50% discount** using the code 'MEMBER' when booking.
7. **Youth Music** has recently redesigned its website. You can see it here: www.youthmusic.org.uk Of particular interest might be the section on Impact and a range of diverse case studies where young people tell their stories: <https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/case-studies>
8. **Youth Music** is holding its first Give a Gig Week taking place from 24 to 31 March 2017. The goal is 100 gigs in 1 week taking place across the country raising money so that more children and young people in challenging circumstances can make music. Now's the time for you to start thinking how you can specifically help Give a Gig Week. This could be putting on a gig yourself, asking a band you know to do the same, speaking to a venue to see if they could donate their space for a gig,

speaking to a manager to see whether their artists could put on a gig for us. It doesn't have to be a new gig – it can be an existing gig badged as a Give a Gig. Further information here:

<https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/giveagig>

9. As MEC member **Making Music's** main constituency are adults, we would like to talk to any other MEC organisations with an interest in 18+ music education and/or about making links between under-18 and 18+ participatory musical activity. If you are interested in this – where adult music education is currently at (lapsed, returners, newbies) (formal or informal), what would be needed to support it, and how it can be rolled out/opened up to more people - then please email Barbara@makingmusic.org.uk. Making Music would be happy to host a meeting or a Google hangout as a next step, if that suits.

10. On a separate note, we wanted to make members of MEC and in particular of the Singing Working Group aware of a network of organisations with an interest in singing called **Singing Network UK** (formerly known as TONSIL). It meets twice a year to keep in touch, discuss common issues and initiatives, generally with a speaker of interest.

This networking has occasionally led to joint projects, such as the currently ongoing Big Choral Census led by Voices Now, a development organisation for choirs – see <http://voicesnow.org.uk/frontpage/upcoming-events/> for more information, and do please disseminate this widely.

Occasionally some of its constituent organisations will also embark on separate projects together as a result of meeting in this network, and it is also a means of co-ordinating and joining forces for particular campaigns or lobbying issues.

It's not specifically about music education, though its members include the Royal Schools of Church Music and others from the music education sector. If your organisation would like to join this network, please email (there is no fee, it is just a loose network): Barbara@makingmusic.org.uk.

11. BJME published last month the research article by MEC member **Professor Susan Hallam and Kevin Rogers** on the impact that learning a musical instrument has on core academic progress, attainment, etc. They are pleased to confirm that BJME has kindly agreed to make the article freely available for a period of three months – meaning that anyone who wants to read / download the article can do so without creating an account and / or paying for a subscription. The article can be found by going to [this page](#) where the full PDF is available. Before downloading the article you may wish to read an introduction [here](#) – it explains in simple terms the key messages, and where the most relevant information appears in the research document.

12. MEC Members the **Association of British Orchestras (ABO)**, **Making Music** and **Music Mark** are working together on behalf of their respective members, who manage, direct and develop 'Youth Ensembles and Partnerships'. They are hosting a day about joining the dots between youth ensembles, professional orchestras and local amateur music groups. Putting young musicians at the heart of the discussions and building upon April 2016's successful event, the day will include:

- 'inspirational moments' – case study presentations demonstrating effective partnerships;
- Child Performance Licensing – examples of best practice approaches;
- Orchestra Tax Relief (OTR) – how your ensemble can benefit.

The event is being hosted by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) at the CBSO Centre. More information and booking [here](#).

13. MEC member **Dr Elizabeth Stafford** of Music Education Solutions® is organising the Curriculum Music Conference. The full programme for the Curriculum Music Conference™ has now been released. This event takes place in London on 20th March 2017, and is designed to bring music education advisors, teachers and academics together to discuss their approaches to curriculum

music. Themes for the day include supporting non-specialist teachers, supporting transition between primary and secondary music, different methods of approaching the music curriculum (singing, instruments, technology), music in special needs settings, and innovation and advocacy in curriculum music. The full programme and tickets are available [here](#).

Policy News

1. 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.
2. MEC Chair Dick Hallam and several other MEC Exec members attended the launch of the Cultural Learning Alliance's [ImagineNation: the value of cultural learning](#) at the House of Commons Terrace Pavilion. This was an excellent event with a really strong turnout of people across the arts. The publication has some great quotes and useful information about the importance of the arts personally, socially, educationally and economically. There was, unsurprisingly, lots of support for the arts generally and specific mention of the importance of Early Years at the launch. Ed Vaizey MP opened the proceedings and is still very interested in the arts and is being hugely supportive.
3. To note that the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has published a [survey critical of EBacc](#); and look out, on Monday 30 January, for a campaign message with the hash-tag **#BaccDown**, one year on. Marking the one year anniversary of the closure of the EBacc consultation – with, so far, no Government response.
4. MEC has signed up to support The Edge Foundation's New Baccalaureate, which proposes to retain the important academic core but create space in the curriculum for all young people to study technical and creative subjects that will give them the breadth of skills and knowledge they need for exciting jobs in our economy as technology develops. You can read more in the publication [14-19 Education: A New Baccalaurate](#).
5. If you want background to the issues and potential impact of 'Brexit' for the cultural sector, reports have been published by both [Arts Council England](#) and the [Creative Industries Federation](#).
6. The Prime Minister [has unveiled the](#) UK's latest Industrial Strategy, which named the creative industries as a key Government sector.

Other News of interest

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1. The City of London Corporation announced that it will provide up to £2.5m in funding for the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra and Guildhall School of Music & Drama to complete a detailed business case for the project. Though the Government took the decision not to commit Treasury-funded contributions to this project late last year, the significant contribution they made to the feasibility study and initial business plan has given a very good basis on which to take the project forward, and they remain in principle supportive of the project, if alternative funding can be found. The vision to deliver a world-class Centre for Music for the 21st century that provides access to great music to the widest possible audience remains unchanged.

2. [JPME](#)

Call for Papers

The *Journal of Popular Music Education* seeks to define, delimit, debunk, disseminate, and disrupt practice and discourse in and around popular music education. Popular music education takes place at the intersections of identity realization, learning, teaching, enculturation, entrepreneurship, creativity, a global multimedia industry, and innumerable instances of music making as leisure. Through drawing together diverse, rigorous scholarship concerning learning in, through and about popular music worldwide, JPME seeks to identify, probe and problematize key issues in this vibrant, evolving field. Scholarship from and across all relevant research methods and disciplines is welcome.

Areas for consideration could include but should not be limited to: performance, recording, production, songwriting, composition, technology, listening, movement, socializing, identity, travel, social classification and stratification, marketing, politics, religion, nationalism, fashion, multi-arts and cross-cultural perspectives.

Please email manuscripts of between 6,000 and 8,000 words (double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12) for the attention of editors Gareth Dylan Smith and Bryan Powell to jpmjournal@gmail.com.

Call For Reviews

Journal of Popular Music Education seeks scholarly reviews of the latest books, films, media, exhibitions, musical groups and performers, and popular music education events. If you would like to suggest something for review, please contact Chad West at jpmjournalreviews@gmail.com. All articles submitted should be original work and must not be under consideration by other publications.

3. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic is delighted to announce the launch of a new co-designed postgraduate course: MA in Business of Classical Music with its partner the University of Liverpool. Please find more details [here](#).

MEC Working Group Updates

[Early Years](#)

1. MEC Early Years Working Group

The third meeting of the MEC Early Years Working Group takes place on Thursday 26 January at Youth Music. The two discussion items on the agenda are workforce development and early years in music education hubs.

2. Soundwaves latest newsletter

Soundwaves is the early years music network for the South West managed by Take Art and funded by Youth Music. Here's their latest newsletter, Soundwaves Extra: <http://fb.me/YLy20FBM>

3. Sound Connections: Early Years Music Conference 2017

With Open Arms: investigating musically inclusive practice in early years

Monday 6 March 2017 - 10.00am - 4.00pm

Lyric Hammersmith, Kings Mall Shopping Centre, One Lyric Square, King St, London W6 0QL

Tickets: £85

10% off ticket offer for all MEC members. Please use discount code: MEC-EY at ticket checkout

Early intervention is the key to unlocking children and young people's life-long resilience, personal and social potential, health and happiness. Musical engagement sits right at the core. There are plentiful examples of high quality early years music taking place across our communities, but many children and families facing challenges in their lives are being excluded and denied the opportunity to fulfil their own potential. The conference will be proposing some solutions to address this

imbalance and together as sector, explore approaches to ensuring that all children in early years, whatever their circumstance, are welcomed with open arms.

4. Voices Foundation: CPD courses

Two forthcoming 1-day courses delivered by Voices Foundation. The first on Thursday 23 February in London and the second on Thursday 16 March in York. The cost for each course is £85 including all course materials and lunch. Voices Foundation is offering a 10% discount for all MEC Early Years Working Group members reducing the cost to £76:50 for each course. To benefit from this discount and book your place, please email vf@voices.org.uk quoting reference 'MECEY10'.

Each course will focus on music in the Early Years and will be delivered by Katie Neilson, author of the Voices Foundation brand new Early Years teacher resource. Drawing on the Kodaly method, course participants will learn repertoire including musical games, dances, songs, rhymes and listening activities, as well as discovering how musical learning impacts all seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. For more info on The Voices Foundation's courses, please visit their Eventbrite profile [here](#) or email vf@voices.org.uk or phone 0207 520 1430.

5. MERYC – EuNet Conference 2017

This takes place at Cambridge University Faculty of Education from Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th June. Further information here: <http://www.meryc.eu/conferences.html> The revised deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31st January.

6. Blog from Sam Glazer on the Youth Music Network

Sam Glazer, composer and MD of Musical Rumpus - Spitalfields Music's series of interactive operas reimaged for 0 - 2 1/2 year olds - reflects on an opportunity to share their learning with other organisations at the Happy New Ears international festival in Mannheim Germany in December last year. Here's Sam's blog: <http://bit.ly/2jTBHoV>

ASN / SEND Working Group

The Short Guide to Accessible Music Education is the only guide of its kind in the UK. Compiled by Emma Lines (Drake Music Scotland) and Jonathan Westrup (Drake Music). Through partnership with the Music Education Council ASN/SEND Working Group, the aim of the document is to provide a one-stop-shop signposting to organisations, initiatives, research documents and more around the subject of accessible music education.

<https://theshortguidetoaccessiblemusiceducation.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheShortGuidetoAccessibleMusicEducation/>

<https://twitter.com/AccessibleMusEd>

Launching at the Music Education Expo at TeachMeet: MUSIC | Working with SEND students Friday 10 February, 13:00 – 13:45

CPD, Curriculum, First Access and Research

There is considerable overlap within the membership so group colleagues met together at the December MEC Seminar. As a result of this and subsequent communications, colleagues are exploring liaison with Music Mark's groups to see whether there might be any cross over between the conversation in the MEC groups and the MM groups and avoid duplication.

Quality and Progression - Colleagues are talking about the idea of disseminating research/ literature in teacher-accessible format, wrapped around case studies where possible (e.g. The Inspire music resource etc). MEC member TCL is considering whether it might be able to help with editing and publishing these ready for organizations to disseminate to their teacher networks. This would quickly build up to a great library of disseminated research

Evidence-based Advocacy

MEC working group colleagues are exploring what they might want to put forward to the BCU/ACE partnership in terms of influencing what data is collected and how it is used/ shared.