



Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue Two

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 (admin@mec.org.uk) an e-mail).

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

And don't hesitate to 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. (halla@globalnet.co.uk; 07850 634239).

MEC News

1. MEC / ISME seminar 27th March 2017 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 break down silos within the sector and to highlight where there are similarities in perception and practice (whilst recognising that there are also differences); how we can influence others and how we can celebrate good practice. We will take the ISME 2016 World Conference themes of Social Justice, Well-being and Identity and examine them through the various sector lenses – aiming to establish what we can learn from each other (so not re-inventing the wheel); Speakers will be:

- Gary Spruce – Co-editor of The Oxford Handbook of Social Justice in Music Education
- Ray Macdonald – Joint author of 'Musical Identities' in the Oxford Handbook of Music Psychology
- Sue Hallam – Researcher in Music and Well-being across the age span

There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion around what the themes mean from your perspective and to explore differences and similarities.

We will also take the three MEC priorities for 2017 - Quality and Progression; Evidence-based advocacy and Inclusion - and examine the issues from the various perspectives.

Hurry and [book your place](#) for this important day.

2. MEC Constitution VOTE – You will be aware that the Executive has been working on a new constitution for MEC, ensuring that the constitution better matches the ways of working that have

evolved over time. The intention is to run a short special meeting from **13.00 – 13.15 during the 27th March** seminar and to invite MEC corporate members to vote on the new constitution. The proposed new constitution will be circulated by 5th March. It is hoped that a representative of each MEC member organisation will attend the seminar on 27th March. If your organisation can't field a representative for the full day please make every effort to ensure that someone attends for the special meeting in order that the majority of Council members are present to vote. If you want to send a representative just for the vote then please contact me via admin@mec.org.uk **by no later than 23rd March** to let me know who will attend (no charge for attending just this meeting).

3. **MEC Music Education Awards 2016 winners** were announced at the Music Teacher Awards ceremony on 9th February 2017. Many congratulations to joint winners Bristol Plays Music and Portsmouth Music Hub. See [here](#) for full details. **Portsmouth Music Hub** told us about their work and what winning the award means to them. Read their story at the end of this newsletter, or [online here](#). Bristol Plays Music's story will feature next month.

4. And, on the subject of awards, huge congratulations to past MEC Treasurer, Kathryn Deane, who walked away from the same awards ceremony with the **Music Teacher Magazine Editor's Award**, sponsored by elenacobb.com. Very well deserved!

5. The boring stuff – please don't ignore the **renewal invoice** that has been sent to you. Membership runs from January to December and, in fairness to those people / organisations that have paid their subscription, we will stop sending MEC info to those who have not paid. Bear in mind too that you need to be a paid-up corporate member to be able to vote on the new constitution and to nominate anyone for election within the proposed new structure.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. **MEC** will be one of the first of the ISME National Affiliate (INA) organisations to have its profile featured in the ISME monthly newsletter (UK and Australia featuring in the February newsletter). This shows members from around the world the way in which the Council is joining up the various interests and organisations across music education – MEC appears to be unique in this as most INAs seem to represent a particular constituency rather than the wide field that MEC brings together under its umbrella.

2. Plans are progressing for the 33rd ISME World conference which will take place in **Baku, Azerbaijan July 15th – 20th 2018**. Baku is, according to Trip Advisor, number 5 in the top 10 up and coming places to visit. I was lucky enough to travel there in December and it is an amazing city with a mix of the old and the new and the music is a real mix of Western and Eastern with Azerbaijani Mugham the traditional music of the nation. The theme of the conference will be "Life's Journey Through Music". Applications to perform or present at the conference will open in the next couple of months and, in order to submit a proposal, you need to be an ISME member. If you are thinking of attending then go to www.isme.org and join for 2017-18.

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 Phil Heeley** highlights the launch of the Academy at the Music Education Expo. Just to tell you a little bit more about the Academy – it is an online platform for teachers to help them tackle and tame technology. There are hundreds of hours of courses with videos, text and

pdfs. Easy to use Video Tutorials - Personalised Learning Pathways reflecting students' musical interests and motivation. Courses like Chinese Music, Songwriting and Soundtrack to a Music Video. Visit Inclusivemusic.com and scroll down the home page for more info.

2. *Performance anxiety: A practical guide for music teachers*, written by Gregory Daubney MSc MBPsS and **MEC member Dr Alison Daubney** and published by the [ISM Trust](#). Visit [here](#) to download your free copy or to order a printed copy.

3. MEC member **Trinity College London** is seeking experienced music professionals to join its panel of Classical & Jazz music examiners. To be eligible to apply you need to:

- be willing to travel within and outside the UK;
- be able to offer 3 weeks per year, with one full week offered during each of the peak UK examining periods in June and November; and
- have the relevant qualifications and experience

To find out more and apply, please visit www.trinitycollege.com/applymusic

4. MEC member **Youth Music** has invested in a new phase of **Awards for Young Musicians' Furthering Talent** for two more years, enabling MEC member AYM to help many more young people from low-income families progress in their music-making and provide professional development opportunities for music teachers. Each young musician taking part is given weekly instrumental lessons free of charge and children then shape their own musical journey, creating individual learning plans and setting progression goals. A Local Co-ordinator helps teachers work with partner Hubs to help children achieve these goals. Co-ordinators also organise regular get-togethers for children to participate in all kinds of music-making, along with their families. The programme provides training for teachers to learn about key facets of musical potential so that they can nominate children who would benefit most from participating. Teachers' forums also provide the space for reflection and sharing practice. In this new phase AYM will be introducing Practical Progression, a new strand of resources and training, created by teachers for teachers. Across the next two years AYM will continue to partner with Hubs in Brighton & Hove, Greater Manchester, and Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent, as well as expanding to two further Hubs in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. For more information see the [Youth Music Network](#)

5. MEC member **Musicians' Union** puts a callout to all piano teachers, pianists and students! Register for the launch of our new project for all those who play the piano.

Throughout March we will be sharing teaching tips, good practice and repertoire from across the piano community as well as having special offers on sheet music, books and instruments.

All those who register will be entered for a prize draw.

Find out more and register via [All About Piano](#).

The Musicians' Union working with EPTA, Faber and Roland alongside partners 1HubMedia Ltd.

6. To celebrate music by some of the best, most diverse and talented young musicians from across the UK, MEC member **Music for Youth's New Music Stage**, sponsored by the Royal Albert Hall, will present six pieces of new music by young artists at its annual National Festival 2017 in Birmingham this July. In addition, one of the composers/creators will receive the [Sound and Music](#) New Music Award as part of Music for Youth's National Partnership Awards. Applications close 27th March. For more info [visit here](#)

7. MEC member the **ABO's** Annual Conference took place in Bournemouth in January with 'Disruption' as its theme. Sessions ranged from provocations about diversity amongst composers, conductors and musicians, to music journalism, political disruption and learning from other countries (America) and from sport. Hosted by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Conference

was musically disrupted at times by BSO Associates, a visitation from Donny Osmond (on tour and in Bournemouth). Conference delegates attended a concert conducted by Kirill Karabits and the next day heard his opinions on the state of British orchestras today, and the role of the conductor and music director in broadening reach and repertoire. Several of the provocations and specially created films by London Music Masters can be found on the ABO website: <http://www.abo.org.uk/connecting/annual-conference/conference-archive.aspx>

8. Compiled by MEC members **Emma Lines** (Drake Music Scotland) and Jonathan Westrup (**Drake Music**), the Short Guide to Accessible Music Education is the only guide of its kind in the UK. 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>

9. MEC member **Sound Connections** is seeking to appoint an outstanding and experienced individual for the role of Programme Coordinator. **Deadline for applications is Friday 17 March 2017, 12pm.**

As Programme Coordinator, the post-holder will be expected to lead on the delivery of Sound Connections' [training programme](#) and coordinate the [London Early Years Music Network \(LEYMN\)](#) and the [Challenging Circumstances Music Network \(CCMN\)](#).

The post-holder will also support the delivery of Sound Connections' consultancy projects, provide ongoing support to Sound Connections' Programme Managers, contribute to fundraising strategy, and help develop the organisation's overall mission, aims and objectives.

To apply for the role please download, read carefully, and complete the application form, which can be found here: <http://www.sound-connections.org.uk/news/sound-connections-programme-coordinator-vacancy-2>.

10. MEC member **Sound Sense** announced that its project **A Choir in Every Care Home** is now entering its next phase. Over the coming months, Sound Sense will be consulting with practitioners and care home staff over the usefulness of the website and its resources. The aim is to further develop practice materials and resources, to make delivering music in care homes easy and enjoyable.

If you want to feed in, or just want to check out what is already there, visit W: <https://achoirineverycarehome.wordpress.com/>

11. MEC member **MIA** published an advocacy article in one of their daily news updates. See [here](#).

12. Featured in MEC Member **Youth Music's** Network newsletter are articles on the Ten Pieces project, the importance of impact data capture and Arts Award. To read more and to join the Network, [see 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. #BaccfortheFuture reports that the mood is changing in Parliament... In mid-February, [a senior Conservative MP came out against the EBacc's exclusion of creative, artistic and technical subjects](#), in support of a broadening of the subject options to include a wider array of subject choices. The Bacc for the Future campaign is now entering a critical period and **we need you to continue writing to your local MP** to keep this issue high on the political agenda. The [campaign website](#) holds a host of resources to help you take up the case with your MP.

3. In a [debate](#) on the new school funding formula, MP Chris Matheson mentions worries about music in debate on school funding: Chris Matheson is "fearful that areas such as sport and music will be the easiest options to cut. Those not only enrich our children's lives but improve health. They get children active and used to being active, which continues into later life and has health benefits. Once again, short-term cuts lead to long-term damage; it is a false economy."

Other News of interest

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1. For anyone interested in the International Baccalaureate Music - Anthem Press is pleased to announce its new title IB Music Revision Guide 2nd Edition by Roger Paul. An information sheet for this book can be found [here](#). For more information on this book visit the book's webpage here: [<ISBN 9781783085828>](#).

2. The Halle Orchestra wants to open a school in Stoke-on-Trent in 2020, for both primary and secondary pupils. The orchestra will work with an academy trust in setting up the school. John Summers, chief executive of the orchestra, said the project would use music to "raise aspirations" across other academic subjects. See [here](#) for the BBC report on the proposal.

MEC Key Themes Updates

Quality and Progression

1. 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

1. 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.

2. Read [Mollie's story](#) for real-life evidence of how music can change some-one's life.

Inclusion and Accessibility

1. Under the ABO Conference theme of Disruption, one of the sessions took disability as its focus. The session was chaired by Sarah Derbyshire MBE, Chief Executive, Orchestras Live and looked at the positive impact of interventions which embed inclusion in orchestral programming and planning. Doug Bott, Musical Director, OpenUp Music, talked about open school orchestras and the south-west open youth orchestra. He also introduced the bespoke custom made digital musical instrument called the Clarion, which can be controlled by the movement of a musician's eyes. Lisa

Tregale, Head of Participation, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and James Rose, Conductor & Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Change Maker talked about plans for James Rose's work with the BSO over the next 18 months and plans to create, curate and direct a disable-led ensemble for the south west. The session also tried to address how we ensure that young disabled musicians are able to realise their musical potential and join the orchestras of the future.

2. The next MEC AN/SEND Focus Group Meeting will be at OHMI, 29 Westbourne Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 8BY **Friday 10th March 2017, 12.00 – 15.00**. If you have not yet joined the group and are interested in attending please contact group facilitator Fiona Pendreigh Pendreigh, Fiona.Pendreigh@plymouth.gov.uk

There have been exciting developments since we last met, including

- the launch at Music Expo of the Short Guide to Accessible Music Education <http://www.theshortguidetoaccessiblemusiceducation.wordpress.com/> we are keen to promote this across mainstream settings as well.
- Westminster Roundtable with Bristol

We are hoping that the AN/SEND group can offer significant input to the continuation of this piece of work.

The format of our meeting will be guided by the four strands (see below), ensuring that we have a chance to use the expertise in the room.

In order to pace ourselves, it is helpful to know what colleagues may wish to share, so please let me know ahead of time particularly if there are documents or links that we can access, then the discussion can lead to action.

1. Evidence base
2. Youth Voice
3. Relationships and partnerships
4. Workforce training

3. [Sound Connections' Early Years Music Conference 2017](#)

This conference will outline social need and explore existing barriers to musical engagement for children, explore examples of innovative creative arts practice with isolated families and discuss multi-agency approaches to delivery, the challenges and the value of cross-sector working to improve the quality of our engagement.

Venue: Lyric Hammersmith, One Lyric Square, King St, London W6 0QL

Date: Monday 6 March 2017, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Cost: £85 (15% off early-bird ticket discount offer - use code 'EYCONF2017')

4. [Exploring Music in Challenging Circumstances](#)

Presented by Sound Connections and Wigmore Hall, respected community music leader and practitioner Graham Dowdall leads this one day introductory workshop that explores participatory music making with children and young people in challenging circumstances.

Venue: Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London, W1U 2BP

Date: Thursday 20 March 2017, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Cost: £85

JOINT WINNER OF THE 2016 MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS PORTSMOUTH MUSIC HUB

In the week leading up to the Music Education Council Awards Ceremony in London, Portsmouth Music Hub produced two interactive concerts at the largest venues in the city. As a result more than 3,000 children had the chance to enjoy and participate in interactive professional productions that were fresh, dynamic and engaging.

Portsmouth Music Hub is proud of the musical and creative opportunities that are available for every child, no matter what their circumstances, and it is this principle of musical and cultural inclusion that lies at the heart of Portsmouth Music Hub's ongoing music provision.

The Hub has an 'open door' policy which means that when a child, a parent or a teacher asks the question about creative opportunities the Hub finds the best solution to meet their needs. A young member of the Hub's Rock band asked whether it was possible for the Hub to set up a Jazz band. The Hub researched the viability, the levels of interest, garnered enthusiastic support from Hub partners and set the ball rolling.

Portsmouth Music Hub has continued to deliver a wide range of instrumental teaching, both for individuals and whole class ensembles. More than 10,000 local children experienced top quality singing provision last year and the Hub's wide range of ensembles continue to provide the opportunity for all children and young people to develop their musical and interactive skills at every level of instrumental ability.

Alongside the teaching, singing and ensemble provision the Hub focusses on giving children the opportunity to learn, develop and participate alongside skilled practitioners and professional musicians. It is part of the process of inspiring the next generation. Partnership is the key to this success and working closely with schools and partners the Hub is able to bring exciting, diverse and sometimes surprising events into schools and at major venues. More than 2,000 children participated in a week of ceilidh dancing, 1,000 children took part in an interactive workshop by the Royal Marines Band Service, and thousands of children and young people have benefitted from workshops and performances in opera, music theatre, recorder festivals, classical recitals, jazz, urban and rock.

To support the pursuit of musical and educational excellence the Hub has produced a series of songbooks. Children play a part in the process from the very start, giving suggestions and feedback regarding the content and subject matter. From songs about science, to history and fairy tales, these educational tools continue to support teachers in developing children's musical interest, ability, and their confidence.

Offering every child an equal opportunity is not always easy, but the Hub overcomes the challenge by developing initiatives that encourage every child to get actively involved. To meet this need the Hub has launched 'Live Music Portsmouth', which is a campaign which sets out to reach children and young people who do not always have the opportunity to be part of the cultural landscape. As part of the initiative, the Hub takes workshops, recitals and concerts to schools and produces events so that children in challenging circumstances enjoy their right to diverse cultural experiences. The Hub launched the very first Cultural Carnival in the centre of the city, as part of 'Live Music Portsmouth'. Thousands of children took part alongside professional musicians, and every child played an important part in producing a morning of music, dance, flag-waving, and face painting.

Portsmouth Music Hub is delighted to share the Major Award for a second consecutive year and this success is also shared with our schools, colleges, academies, the City Council, our Hub partners, and the children and young people in Portsmouth. The Hub works very effectively with other Music Hubs and we particularly value the support, encouragement and inspiration we receive from Soundcity - Brighton & Hove, the Tri-Borough Music Hub, South Gloucestershire Music Hub, Southampton and the Isle of Wight Music Hubs, Dorset Music Hub and Soundstorm - Bournemouth.

Winning awards has significant value. The Hub team is delighted that our work has been recognised and this encourages us to do more and to do better. Ultimately our success depends on the children and young people in our city; when they are inspired, when they pick up an instrument, when they develop a passion for music and culture that will last a lifetime then we know we are doing something right.