



Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue Ten

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. **Message from the Chair.** Welcome to the final MEC News update of 2017. It's been a year of change and progress, with a new constitution and board of trustees; the creation of the Forum; a revamp of the working groups into special interest groups; the introduction of task and finish groups; and an increase in the number of seminars and ways for all members to get involved. With this posting there are opportunities for you to contribute to MEC on a number of issues. Please note the closing date of Friday January 12th 2018 for all of these. Analyses of the consultations will be shared in the January news update. There is also information you can click on about MEC's plans for 2018 and how you can engage with MEC, as much or as little as your own priorities and time allow, to influence and shape what MEC does and says on behalf of our sector.

As you will see, this news update is again packed full of the wonderful work colleagues are carrying out that make our broad and diverse music education sector so effective, making a significant difference to the lives of people throughout the UK and across the lifespan. In addition to fulfilling MEC's three core functions of being representative, proactive and reactive, MEC is seeking to celebrate and share more effectively these excellent examples of what our sector is achieving. On behalf of the MEC Trustees I wish you a wonderful Christmas and restful New Year. And do keep sharing what you are doing!

Richard Hallam MBE

2. **MEC membership benefits and fees for 2018** Following the constitutional changes in March 2017; the AGM in July 2017; meetings with the MEC Forum (September and November 2017) and MEC Trustees throughout this period, we are now in a position to announce a streamlined package of benefits for MEC members. Full details can be found [here](#). The Trustees have simplified and clarified membership categories to remove a number of anomalies. For many members this will result in a reduction in your subscriptions. For a few there will be an increase but we believe this still

represents excellent value for money for both individual and organisational members. Subscription invoices will be with you shortly. Please make sure these are paid promptly in order that MEC can continue to service its membership fully throughout the year. Any members who have not renewed – or at least communicated their intention to renew – by the end of March will be taken off the circulation list for all communications.

3. How MEC Works - MEC members can engage with the Council in a number of different ways, depending on your interests, priorities and time. Click [here](#) for more information about the structure, activity and priorities. At the highest level of commitment MEC members can stand for, nominate and vote for MEC trustees and for members of the MEC Forum. (2 places will become vacant in July 2018).

Task and Finish Groups (see also below) are established by the MEC Forum, members of which will also chair these groups. TFGs will have a specified task and deadline for delivery. Individual MEC members will be able to join as many TFGs as they wish. Organisational MEC members can nominate up to 3 members to participate in each group. TFGs will report back to the MEC Forum and to the wider MEC membership via the MEC News Update and at seminars.

Special Interest Groups are formed in response to requests from MEC members for a particular group to exist. The SIG will set its own agenda and report back to the MEC Forum and to the wider MEC membership via MEC News Updates.

MEC members are able to attend MEC Seminars at a reduced cost (50% reduction for all seminars in 2018). The number of delegates from a MEC member organisation will depend on the level of organisational membership. (Level 1 up to 3 delegates; Level 2 unlimited number of delegates). Four seasonal seminars (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter) will take place each year. Two will be held in London and two in other parts of the Country. Additional 'national' events will be developed with MEC members in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

MEC members will also be able to take part in consultations and to receive and contribute regularly to the MEC News Updates.

MEC still welcomes engagement and contributions from non-members at seminars (full cost) and through offering one free contribution to the MEC News Update annually.

A set of [4 PowerPoint](#) slides show this in diagram form. These are clearest if viewed as a 'slide show' which enables you to see the diagrams unfolding instead of all in one presentation.

Seasonal Seminars

2018 Dates and Venues: (Further details regarding these seminars will be circulated in the January MEC News Update after the MEC Forum meeting on January 25th).

March 20th London: Music Curriculum

July 6th Birmingham: Connectivity including MEC AGM

September 13th London: Workforce

December 12th Bristol: Inclusion

4. Task and Finish Groups

Task and Finish Group: Scottish Consultation The Education (Scotland) Bill that is being introduced later this parliamentary year. The Bill is currently out for consultation and we feel that it is important that MEC responds to the consultation. There are 5 main headlines: Headteachers'

Charter; Parental and Community Engagement; Pupil Participation; Regional Improvement Collaboratives; Education Workforce Council for Scotland.

Within the consultation document there are questions referring to each of the five headliners. MEC members are invited to contact MEC Chair, Dick Hallam, **by Friday January 12th** if they wish to be part of a Task and Finish Group to produce a MEC response. [Here](#) is the link to the consultation.

Task and Finish Group: Music Commission The aim is for the group, membership listed [here](#), to be in a position to respond on behalf of MEC – representing the whole of the music education sector – to the ongoing work of the [Music Commission](#). The Music Commission describes its purpose thus: “Learning music benefits us all. Evidence shows the individual, societal and economic benefits of learning music are of significant value; Yet many people do not pursue their musical learning. The Music Commission aims to understand why and offer practical solutions so that more people can sustain their interest and involvement in learning music.” The work of the TFG will end when the commission has published its final report.

Task and Finish Group Licensing: MEC will facilitate ongoing discussion within the sector to identify and report on the full extent of the challenges facing those working with children on performances that require a licence. Having completed this, representatives will present the findings to government officials in the hope of finding a workable, practical solution which can ensure performance opportunities for children and young people are not hampered or cancelled (whilst continuing to respect and be mindful of the importance of protecting children and young people from exploitation). The aim will be to collate a clear picture and case studies by the end of March 2018 to put to government.

MEC member Music Mark has agreed to continue to lead on discussions around this issue with fellow members ABO, ISM, Making Music, Music for Youth completing the TFG.

Task and Finish Group: Early Years Quality Framework exercise - This group, membership listed [here](#), is looking at the Youth Music Quality Framework with a view to creating a tailored version for early childhood music. Four groups each discussed one criteria from the framework and fed back their suggestions to tailor it to early childhood music. The four criteria were ‘Young People Centred’; ‘Session Content’; ‘Music Leader Practice’ and ‘Environment’. The aim is to have a Youth Music Early Years Quality Framework ready for dissemination in April 2018.

Task and Finish Group: Early Years ‘Commercial’ providers Phase 1: The group, membership listed [here](#), is conducting a mapping session to identify the many ‘commercial’ providers of early years music-making – both direct deliverers and franchise models. (By ‘commercial’ we mean organisations whose primary source of income is through selling services. (April 2018)
Phase 2: Once the list is established, the organisations will be contacted by Matt Griffiths (chair of the TFG) to see if they would be interested in getting involved in MEC and specifically the Early Years Working Group. (April 2018 to May 2018).
Next steps will be determined by responses to Phase 2.

5. Special Interest Groups A [Survey Monkey consultation](#) has been set up through which you can express your wishes regarding the continuance, or not, of the current SIGs and propose the establishment of any others. Closing date for responses is January 12th 2018. Findings and further information will be shared in the January news update. Please note that from 2018 you will need to be a MEC individual member, or be nominated by a MEC member organisation to be part of a SIG.

6. MEC Music Education Awards – Marking the best of practice in delivery of music education. Congratulations go to Birmingham Music Education Partnership; Bristol Plays Music; East Ayrshire Council; Hampshire Music Hub; Portsmouth Music Hub; and Southampton Music Education

Hub who were announced as being on the [Long List](#) for the MEC Music Education Awards 2017. The following day, also at the Music Mark Conference, the [Shortlist](#) was announced. Congratulations to Birmingham, Bristol and East Ayrshire on making the shortlist and good luck for the announcement of the winner which will take place at [Rhinegold's Music Teacher Awards for Excellence](#) ceremony in February 2018.

7. **Seminar November 27th 2017** – Social Justice, Identity and Wellbeing. This seminar was well attended and the discussions started at the March submission were moved on. The different perspectives on social justice and identity and thoughts on the reasons why we “do” music education were discussed and will form the basis for a panel discussion at the ISME World Conference. Thoughts around the curriculum and being inclusive will be taken further at the 2018 seminars. A short note on the seminar can be seen [here](#).

8. MEC was represented by Derin Adebiyi of ISM at a DfE/Creative Industries Federation roundtable on the new Curriculum Fund – thanks to all members who answered the call for information about teacher resources. MEC is in discussion with DfE about an upcoming Subject Associations event on this and will ensure that all members have further opportunity to contribute. Further information will be in the January update.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. **ISME constitution consultation** MEC is an ISME Group member and the ISME National Affiliate for the UK. ISME is undertaking a constitutional review and a draft has been circulated to all ISME members for comment. [See the background information](#), the proposed new constitution, and the draft response from MEC trustees [here](#). MEC's consultation will end on Friday January 12th so that the MEC Trustees can consider your responses and draft a final response in time for the 31st January ISME deadline. MEC's final response will be shared via the January News Update.

2. Presentation and performance submissions for the 33rd biennial World Conference, which will take place in **Baku, Azerbaijan July 15th – 20th 2018**, close on 15th December. Baku is, according to Trip Advisor, number 5 in the top 10 up and coming places to visit. Baku 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 is “Life's Journey Through Music”. MEC will present a panel discussion stemming from the ISME funded project; and a number of MEC members have already submitted presentations. The conference is a fantastic networking opportunity where you can meet and set up collaborations with people from around 80 countries across the world. If you are thinking of attending then go to www.isme.org, join for 2018-19 and register for the conference at the early bird rate.

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. **Youth Music Quality Framework - [new edition – Do, Review, Improve](#)** – gathers together the criteria believed to be necessary to deliver a high-quality music-making session. The updated version is based on feedback gathered from grantholders since the original framework was published back in 2014. The framework was a useful tool, but it was also quite long and complicated. The changes to the new version should make it easier for practitioners to use. The criteria have been reduced and simplified, and at the same time they have been aligned with current thinking around best practice and effective pedagogical approaches. A section has been added that outlines the important

responsibilities of organisations when managing a music-making project. This will help you to consider the quality of your project as a whole, as well as each individual session.

2. **24-26 JANUARY 2018, ABO CONFERENCE, CARDIFF** Booking is now open for the next ABO Conference, including a host of sessions of relevance to music education and follow-ups to last year's Diversity strand: <http://www.abo.org.uk/connecting/annual-conference.aspx>. The conference includes a session in collaboration with MEC on partnership working, chaired by Matt Griffiths, Youth Music.

3. **We All Make Music** - an inspiring, inclusive music education festival! *9th March 2018, London* **Drake Music** is hosting an exciting new event aimed at music education hubs, schools and music leaders. It is a chance to see inclusive practice in action, in a jam-packed day of training & development. Discover new approaches to inclusive music delivery, get hands-on with new musical instruments, talk with disabled and non-disabled music leaders and network with people from across the country.

Drake Music's research shows that disabled people are currently under represented in the music education workforce. This lack of representation has an impact on the way we educate disabled and non-disabled young musicians. On our and their aspirations, opportunities, progression... Together we can change that.

Be part of the conversation. Make change happen. Be a music leader. EARLYBIRD discount available til 5th Jan – places limited, [book early!](#)

4. Research Released: Disabled people in the music education workforce. **Drake Music** has released research which shows that disabled people are under-represented at all levels of the music education workforce. Read the full report [here](#). In collaboration with music education hubs and with support from Music Mark, Drake Music conducted research into the demographic make up of the music education workforce. Statistics from across the sector and responses from hubs show that:

- numbers of disabled music leaders are low
- there is a range of levels of understanding of disability
- the music ed sector is a complex landscape where affecting strategic change may prove challenging

5. **The Voices Foundation** is seeking two new Board members who are passionate about improving children's lives through music to join our Board of Directors in a voluntary position. The areas of skills and expertise sought are Development/Fundraising and Digital/Online Learning. The Voices Foundation has a 25-year track record of developing transformational musicianship and singing programmes in early years, primary and secondary school settings. Over this time Voices Foundation has worked alongside over 1,000 schools and each year we reach on average 450 teachers and 15,000 children. The two new Board members will join the Board to support the organisation as we plan the next phase of development. To download an information pack or for further information, please visit our website on www.voices.org.uk/about-us/work-for-us. Applications should be directed to Christopher Hopton (Chair) in the form of a CV and covering letter sent to Ruth.Tebby@voices.org.uk by 02/01/2018.

6. Certificate: [The Practice Of Music Making](#) - A One Year Distance Learning Programme in Practical Music Making & Performance Skills Do you have a passion for music and want to develop your practical music making and performance skills? This unique distance learning programme, offered by **Trinity Laban** in partnership with the Open University, is an accessible opportunity to study with a Conservatoire and includes a week-long residential in London. Suited to all musicians,

whatever your instrument/voice, genre or level of playing ability. If you make music regularly with others this is the perfect way to build new skills. Applications are now open for 2018.

7. Do you know a talented young instrumentalist who needs help with musical costs? They may be eligible to apply for up to £2,000. **Awards for Young Musicians** believes that all talented young people deserve the chance to progress in their music making. [Applications are invited](#) from young instrumentalists playing any musical genre to join our 2018 Awards programme. Award winners will receive flexible funding towards musical costs (e.g. tuition, instrument costs, travel etc.) and individual support. This may comprise mentoring, workshops with professional musicians, the chance to observe professional orchestras and other ensembles in rehearsal, free tickets to concerts and performance opportunities. The Awards programme is means tested and the key criteria are musical talent and financial need. Whatever genre the young musician studies, they can evidence their ability in a number of ways; it is not essential to have taken formal exams.

8. Music Mark hosted its Annual Conference on 24th and 25th of November in Warwickshire, bringing together over 300 delegates, contributors and corporate members. The conference launched the latest review of Whole Class Ensemble Teaching, led by Martin Fautley and commissioned by Music Mark, which can be viewed and downloaded [HERE](#). Music Mark CEO Bridget Whyte also shared her vision for the organization as she celebrated her first 100 days, full speech [HERE](#). The list of delegates and some of the presentations from the conference can be viewed [HERE](#).

Amongst other things, Music Mark continues to develop its Schools Membership. Sheffield Music Hub has recently awarded several of its schools with Music Mark membership during its annual conference, more information [HERE](#).

9. **Sing Up** is delivering four practical and inspiring training sessions in February 2018, in both London and Newcastle Upon Tyne, for specialist and non-specialist primary music teachers. Participants will unlock their potential with Sing Up's training sessions and learn manageable techniques to apply straightaway. For more information and to book your place, please visit www.singup.org/training

Creative Music Teaching for KS1 Practitioners

[Monday 12 February 2018, 10am – 3pm, Newcastle Upon Tyne](#)

[Tuesday 13 February 2018, 10am – 3pm, London](#)

This course and approach is suitable for anyone who is new to, lacks confidence in, or wants a refresher of delivering music-making activities with pupils in KS1. This is a training session focusing on creating engaging music lessons. Participants will gain ideas for planning and organising lessons, learn adaptable techniques and approaches and try out songs and games to incorporate into music lessons. The session will explore a unit of work that will help you develop music as a subject in your school or setting.

Improve musical learning with singing

[Tuesday 13 February 2018, 10am – 3pm, Newcastle Upon Tyne](#)

[Wednesday 14 February 2018, 10am – 3pm, London](#)

This training course is ideal for anyone teaching music in primary schools, from primary teachers and music coordinators to visiting staff who deliver whole class ensemble teaching. The training is from Sing Up and Drums for schools, and will show you how to create transformational whole-class singing and instrumental experiences by building percussion and instrumental tuition into singing sessions, and vice versa.

10. **Petition:** MEC members may be aware of recent publicity surrounding Feversham Primary School in Bradford, and the success achieved in turning an under-achieving school into one of the top 10% for pupil progress, with happy, motivated staff and children. This was done on modest

resources, and in a socially deprived area where 98% of the children speak English as a second language, by introducing more music and drama into the curriculum - led by their Head of Music, Jimmy Rotheram, and supported by the Headmaster Naveed Idrees. Following an article in the Guardian newspaper, and BBC broadcasts featuring Feversham School on The One Show and Radio 5 Live, Ed Jones was inspired to initiate a petition calling on the government to recognise the benefits of music education in schools and fund it accordingly. (Ed and Jimmy are both members of the **British Kodály Academy**, and current students on its Certificate Course in Kodály Music Education.)

MEC members can add their names to Ed's petition [here](#).

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. New **DCMS** figures show that the UK's creative industries contributed a [massive £91.8 billion](#) in 2016. A 7.6 per cent increase on 2015 and more than twice the growth rate of the overall economy. Use these figures with caution though – because they refer to the whole of the creative industries sector.
2. The Government's Industrial Strategy white paper [has been released](#), highlighting the importance of the creative industries and setting out plans to establish a new *Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre*.
3. Conversely, there is the most cursory of mentions of the growth of the creative industries sector in DfE's new [Careers strategy](#). It will be interesting to see how the advice needs for young people wanting to develop a career in music will be handled in this new requirement on schools.
4. In Scotland, [Creative Scotland](#) warns of cuts to its regularly funded organisations budget. And the [media](#) picks up on the stark news.

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. Music & Drama Education Expo London on 22-23 February 2018 to Olympia London - Europe's leading FREE CPD event for music and performing arts teachers. You will be offered:
 - Over 80 free sessions, workshops and debates by leading experts
 - 150+ industry-leading exhibitors showcasing their latest products & services
 - 2,500+ colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere to share ideas and experience with
 - Our brand-new Creatives' Corner where you can meet our speakers face-to-face
 - The new Rock, Pop & Tech Theatre dedicated to songwriting and production
 - All packed into 2 days of free music & performing arts education!Attendance is 100% free [BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET HERE](#)
2. Partnering with academic researchers can inspire arts practitioners to try new creative approaches and create innovative projects, a new report has concluded. Such collaborations also increase the impact of research and make it more accessible to a wider audience. The findings emerge from a [Kings College London \(KCL\) study](#) on the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, the national assessment of research quality across all UK universities. More than 1,500 'impact case

studies' were analysed to understand how academics and creative practitioners are working in partnership, and the influence of this on the creative and cultural sector.

3. **ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC LAUNCHES NEW [MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME](#)**

Applications are now open for September 2018. The programme is aimed at professional musicians engaged in education work; it has full and part time learning options to fit around their work commitments. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2018.

4. **Pokuaa Osei of Haringey Council**, was presented with a [Hearts for the Arts](#) award by actor, director and Chair of the National Campaign for the Arts Samuel West. The awards are an initiative by the [National Campaign for the Arts](#) and [What Next?](#) to reward and thank Councils, Councillors and Council officers who are overcoming financial challenges to ensure the arts stay at the centre of community life.

5. **Music Transitions and Futures Conference** The International Centre for Music Studies (ICMuS) at Newcastle University, in collaboration with the National Association for Music in Higher Education (NAMHE), announces a one-day conference focusing on progression routes for students transitioning from secondary to tertiary music education. This event will take place on January 25th 2018 at Newcastle University. The event is free and refreshments will be provided but as space will be limited, early booking is advised. Please book via <http://webstore.ncl.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/-conferences-events/faculty-of-humanities-social-sciences-hass/arts-cultures/music-transitions-and-futures> **Venue: The Boiler House, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne**
Date: Thursday 25th January 2018.