



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue One

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 Make sure the title of your e-mail is MEC News Update Item so that it isn't missed.

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 first MEC News update of 2018. We have a number of plans to ensure you can contribute fully to the development of music education throughout the UK, across the lifespan. In this news update you will read more about our SIGs, TFGs and Seminars through which your voice can be heard, ensuring MEC is truly representative of our broad and diverse sector. Do please participate as much as your own priorities allow. Thank you particularly to those colleagues who contributed to our consultations last month. The outcomes of these are reported below.

MEC is developing its engagement with each UK nation. This month the MEC Forum met in Cardiff at the same time as the ABO conference and a number of the MEC Forum members will join Drake Music Scotland to celebrate its 20th anniversary on May 4th, when we will also meet with Scottish colleagues to learn more about how we can support colleagues north of the border.

2018 will see the first full implementation of MEC's new ways of working. These updates will be the main communication channel for keeping you all informed of progress but do contact Angela or me if you want to know more.

2. **MEC Seminars** – the first of four seminars will take place on **March 20th** at The Swiss Church, London WC2H 9DY. It will run from 10.30 to 4.15 and the subject of the day will be the Music Curriculum. More detail and notice of booking opening will be with you within the week.

3. **MEC membership benefits and fees for 2018** – don't forget to pay for 2018! Corporate members have all received invoices, individual members will have them in the next day or so. Full details of the membership package can be found [here](#). 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.

4. **Spotlight On** – in July last year you voted 12 organisations on to the MEC Forum. Through this year we will be featuring two of these organisations in the news update. Each organisation will highlight its key areas of work and what they hope to achieve this year. We hope this will help members to understand each other's priorities and will enable closer collaboration on issues of common concern. Featured this month are the [Associated Board of the Royal School of Music](#) and the [Association of British Orchestras](#).

5. **Curriculum Fund 2018** Many thanks to colleagues who responded to the requests for comments in respect of the curriculum fund last month. Derin Adebisi (representing MEC and MEC member ISM) attended the CIF Roundtable in December. A second roundtable was organised by the CLA this month. MEC Chair, Dick Hallam and MEC member ISM, represented by Henry Vann (also Education Portfolio Holder for Bedford), attended.

The intention is to improve educational standards, bringing greater equity enabling everyone to access a broad and balanced curriculum that is rich in arts and cultural education. [Paul Clegg](#) of the DfE emphasised that the department wants to provide greater support to teachers and is listening to what people want. Key issues from the two roundtable meetings are available [here](#).

Consultations will continue through the next couple of months after which firm proposals will be put to the Secretary of State for Education with the hope that this will lead to an announcement in the Autumn. Dick will be attending a third Roundtable hosted directly by the DfE on 12th February. Have a look at the reports from the two already held and, if you have any thoughts that you would want Dick to represent at the February meeting contact him direct on halla@globalnet.co.uk no later than **Thursday 8th February**.

6. The **Task and Finish Groups** mentioned in last year's final news update are in the process of establishing themselves and their ways of working. Updates on their work will feature in future editions.

- The **Licencing TFG** is re-engaging with the DfE after a change in personnel within the department to ensure the issues are all fully understood.
- The **Early Years TFG** is on track as outlined in the News Update No 10 2017 (item 4) with the mapping exercise having already identified over 60 organisations.
- The **Music Commission TFG** will meet in person as part of the March 20th Seminar, by which time we expect to have heard more from the Music Commission. (See item 4 in member news below or visit <http://www.musiccommission.org.uk/> for further information).
- The **Scottish consultation TFG** has now ceased having responded by the closing date of January 30th MEC's response is available [here](#).

7. **Special Interest Groups** - The transition from Working Groups to Special Interest Groups is underway and you will hear a lot more about them in future editions. Watch out for e-mails looking for confirmation of membership (don't forget members have to be either individual MEC members, or be confirmed by a corporate MEC member as representing that corporate). This will be followed by more detail on ways of working. The Consultation revealed that MEC members wish to see all of the groups continuing. Those who responded have been contacted personally, along with all who signed up for the previous working groups. There were also four individual requests for additional groups. These requests are being accommodated as part of MEC's forward planning and will form part of the consideration at the forthcoming Seminars.

8. And on the subject of Working Groups / Special Interest Groups **The Short Guide to Accessible Music Education** launched an update on 24th November 2017. See it [here](#).

9. Anthony Anderson of Birmingham City University will be representing MEC and Music Mark speaking at a Westminster Forum event on **A-levels after reform - impact and ensuring a rounded learning experience at 16-18**. If you have any thoughts on this that you would like to feed in to Anthony so that he can properly represent the whole sector then please e-mail them to admin@mec.org.uk no later than **28th February**. Anthony will report back in a future edition.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. Work to organise the 33rd biennial World Conference, which will take place in **Baku, Azerbaijan July 15th – 20th 2018** is continuing apace. Presenters will hear by 8th February whether or not their presentation has been accepted. 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. Early Bird registration ends 31st March. If you have never been to an ISME conference before, would like to but can't afford it have a look at the [sponsored delegate award](#) which could help you with costs – you have to be an ISME member to apply though, so act soon.
2. MEC's response to the consultation on the ISME Constitutional changes has now been submitted (deadline Jan 31st). All who responded agreed with the draft response. The final response can be seen [here](#).

MEC Member News

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1. **Drake Music** - We All Make Music will help you kickstart a new approach to inclusion. Don't miss this inspiring, inclusive event. This event is part of Drake Music's Think2020 music education work funded by Youth Music and is a really big deal for us - it's the flagship event this year and Drake wants to kickstart real change. Programme [here](#) and tickets [here](#).
2. **Learn to Play Day** - the flagship event of the charity Music for All, is back on **17th and 18th March 2018**. Music shops, schools, venues, instrument manufacturers and anyone who would like to take part are invited to join this music making weekend and help to offer tens of thousands of **FREE** musical instruments to one and all. This *national event*, now in its seventh year, is about giving people everywhere a great reason to visit their *local music shop, venue or school* to find out more about learning to play a musical instrument. To find out how to maximise the benefits of Learn to Play Day please get in touch with Alice Monk on 01403 800500 or alice@mia.org.uk. Full details of the event, including participating venues and local appearances, will be found at www.learntoplayday.com over the coming months. To find out more about the charity, Music for All, go to www.musicforall.org.uk
3. **Voices Foundation's** series of 2-day **Teaching Classroom Music Through Singing** courses are now on sale, with places available on the Intro, Level 1 and Level 2 courses. These 2-day courses provide a solid grounding in a singing-based approach to teaching primary music. Drawing on the Kodály method, Voices Foundation's well-established approach provides any teacher (incl. those without any musical experience) with the tools to deliver a highly effective & progressive class music curriculum.

Intro is ideal for those new to teaching music or for anyone looking for a refresher

Level 1 is ideal for teachers who have attended Intro or for those with some experience of teaching music

Level 2 is ideal for teachers who want to extend & develop pupils at the top of primary or lower secondary, including meaningful routes into notation.

For dates, prices and further booking info: <http://www.voices.org.uk/courses>

N.B. 1-day Early Years and Choral Essentials courses also available.

4. **Music Commission update** - The Music Commission has had a busy start to 2018 continuing to engage with colleagues from across the sector and meeting many of the learners we hope the Commission will impact. Our Commission Panel, chaired by Sir Nick Kenyon, met for the second time on 29th January - a good opportunity to reflect on our findings and thoughts so far. Earlier in January we also held our second meeting of the Research Reference Group, with colleagues including Professor Sue Hallam, and the group is now working more closely with our Academic Lead, Dr Jennie Henley, and Professor Pam Burnard, to launch our first phase of public consultation in February. We're very much looking forward to working with colleagues who have already signed up to the MEC Task and Finish Group for The Music Commission. www.musiccommission.org.uk

5. **'Sexual harassment & discrimination: know your rights / obligations'** - As part of its ongoing work illuminating discrimination in the music industry, the **ISM** (Incorporated Society of Musicians) is hosting two free webinars to help those working in music and the wider arts sector to understand the law surrounding sexual harassment and discrimination. 'Sexual harassment & discrimination: know your rights' will be held on **Thursday 8 February** from 1-2pm. This webinar is aimed at employees and the self-employed, including professional musicians and administrators, and will cover the recent guidance on sexual harassment at work produced by ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service). 'Sexual harassment & discrimination: know your obligations' will help employers, fixers and engagers understand their responsibilities in regards to sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. The webinar will take place on **Thursday 8 March** from 1-2pm. Both sessions will be led by ISM Legal Advisor Simone Braithwaite. Sign up for free at ismtrust.org/webinars

6. **Music for Youth** highlights an opportunity for [free tickets to Exchange](#) in Scotland for **Scottish Musicians 21 and under. Exchange - 16 & 17 March @ SWG3 Glasgow** - the unmissable event for anyone passionate about music. Applications are invited to perform and get **expert 1:1 advice**, or just register to come along and check out all the **trade stands, stages and interactive Q&As and sessions**. Whether you're a young person, or work with young people, this is the event for young musicians and young people interested in the range of jobs available in the music industry, as well as those looking to inspire them.

7. **Awards for Young Musicians** believe that all talented young people deserve the chance to progress in their music making. That's why they're awarding up to £100,000 in grants to exceptional young instrumentalists in need of support. AYM are inviting applications from young instrumentalists (aged 5-17) playing any musical genre to join their 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 music groups in rehearsal, free tickets to concerts and performance opportunities. AYM's 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. Applications should be made online by Friday 9 March 2018. Find out more at www.a-y-m.org.uk

8. MEC thanks member Sally Zimmerman of the RNIB for alerting us to RNIB's list of all **local authority contacts with a responsibility for SEND visual impairment services**. If you would like more information on this contact admin@mec.org.uk and we will put you in touch with the keeper of the list.

9. **Drake Music Scotland** - Booking now open - Drake Music Scotland's 20th Anniversary Concert and Symposium 4th and 5th May 2018:

4th May - Symposium - In celebration of Drake Music Scotland's 20th Anniversary we are launching plans for disabled musicians to take centre stage, starting with a symposium to exchange ideas and expertise with fellow practitioners including international colleagues. **Book your place [here](#).**

5th May - Centre Stage - Drake Music Scotland's 20th Anniversary Concert - Join us for a fantastic and packed night of music to celebrate Drake Music Scotland's 20th Anniversary bringing disabled musicians Centre Stage - Digital Orchestra, Junior Digital Orchestra, Equilibrium, Liveheart, The Varifocals, Audability as well as soloists will be performing. We'll also be showcasing the premiere of Drake's collaboration with Scottish Contemporary Folk Music Fiddle Player, Aidan O' Rourke of Lau. - **Box office booking opens soon at www.thequeenshall.net**

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. **Darren Henley** has written a blog for the launch of the **Arts Council's** public conversation on its next ten year strategy. Read the blog [here](#) and join [the conversation](#) – running through to April 2018. Dick Hallam is directly engaging with Hannah Fouracre, Director, Music Education in this work. Ensure MEC has your views too so that your Chair can accurately represent the sector in these discussions.

2. Written Parliamentary Question from Kerry McCarthy Labour, Bristol East: "To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to review the National Plan for Music Education."

Nick Gibb Minister of State (Department for Education): The National Plan for Music Education sets out a vision for music education that gives children from all backgrounds and every part of England the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress. The Department continues to have regular meetings with music teachers to discuss aspects of the National Plan for Music Education. **The current plan runs until 2020 and any proposals for a review or extension of the Plan will be announced in 2018.**

MEC will remain in contact with the relevant officials in DfE to ensure that the whole sector has an opportunity to input into any review of the Plan. It is important that our sector is proactive in this process. Engage with the MEC Seminars and contact admin@mec.org.uk or Dick Hallam directly to discuss any issues and ensure your voice is heard.

3. Written Parliamentary Questions from Stephen Timms Labour, East Ham "To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to support music education." And "To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the benefits of music education in schools."

Nick Gibb Minister of State (Education) The Department is providing £300 million of ring-fenced funding from 2016-20 to Music Education Hubs (MEHs). The national network of 120 MEHs ensures

that all children, whatever their background, have access to a high quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles. The Department also supports music education through funding: National Youth Music Organisations such as the National Youth Orchestra; In Harmony, which aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in disadvantaged areas in England through community-based orchestral music-making; and Music for Youth in providing opportunities for young people and families to perform in and attend regional and national festivals and concerts, who might not otherwise have had access.

Other News of interest

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1. The BBC has published news of its snapshot survey of arts provision in schools [here](#). MEC member the MIA published a reaction including comment from MEC member the MU to the article [here](#).

2. 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](#)

MEC Chair, Dick Hallam, will be chairing a question time style panel session entitled '**Linking Policy to Practice**' on **Friday 23rd February from 13.45 to 14.30**. The panel will consist of James Dickinson, Philip Flood, Hannah Fouracre, Helen Mason, and Fiona Pendreigh. **Let Dick know if you have any particular issues you wish to see addressed.**

3. **ABCD launches new training courses** - The Association of British Choral Directors (**abcd**) has restructured its training provision to meet the needs of people working with singers in all kinds of choir. New to **abcd** are ground-breaking courses for music teachers in secondary and primary schools called '**Get them singing, keep them singing!**'. Both courses:

- Leading Singing in Secondary Schools - Secondary School vocal leadership training
- Leading Singing in Primary Schools - Primary School vocal leadership training

are aimed at teachers who wish to develop their knowledge of leading singing for young and changing voices. In addition, a course 'Encouraging Young Vocal Leaders' is being offered for the first time:

- Encouraging Young Vocal Leaders – for GCSE/A-Level students wishing to develop vocal leadership skills.

All three new courses will be made available via Music Hubs, Academy Schools and Music Services in any part of the UK - contact [Penny Homer](#), Training Manager at **abcd** to discuss how the training courses may be arranged and provided.

Full details of the new course structure and individual courses can be obtained from the **abcd** website at www.abcd.org.uk/training/abcd-courses.

4. **In Harmony [musical progression report](#)** – Detailing research into support for musical progression for young people from *In Harmony* programmes and other disadvantaged communities. Based on interviews with children, schools, parents and data from In Harmony, the findings are supported by a detailed literature review into musical progression across a range of programmes internationally; examining social, educational and musical factors and their impact on continued musical participation and learning.

Recommendations are made based on existing practice, showing how challenges and barriers to continued musical progression can be overcome through support from families, schools, music education infrastructure and programmes such as In Harmony. The six In Harmony lead organisations are now working on action research putting recommendations of the report into practice.

5. **Music Making throughout the Early Years**, a CPD training opportunity for senior leaders, teachers and practitioners to gain confidence in music making with young children, and develop knowledge of the links between music making and all areas of the EYFS.

Resources centred around singing, rhymes, games, instruments and movement to encourage enjoyment, creativity and the development of the fundamental musical skills through everyday music making throughout early years schools and settings.

Led by Liverpool Philharmonic musicians in partnership with Everton Nursery School & Family Centre and North Liverpool Teaching School Partnership.

Two dates are available: Tuesday 27th February and Monday 18th June, 1.30pm – 3.30pm, Everton Nursery School & Family Centre, Spencer St, Liverpool, L6 2WF

Course costs £75. Book via www.northliverpoolteachingschool.org or 0151 233 1969.