



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Three

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.** Time flies! Easter has already been and gone and we are over a quarter of the way through 2018. There is again much to report regarding MEC's activities since our Update No 2. MEC is continuing its work to support each of the nations of the UK as we plan for the next decade amidst great national and international uncertainty. MEC is always ready to react, but is currently being proactive and, above all representative. The MEC Forum is forming sub-groups involving those with particular knowledge of or interest in music education in each nation. Do complete the [MEC Survey](#) so that we can target relevant information to you in these days of information overload.

Last month included me making two responses to DCMS select committees, attending two meetings with ACE, a meeting with the DfE and a presentation to the LibDem culture, media and sports committee, as well as attending receptions at the House of Commons and House of Lords where more informal networking took place. Fiona Pendreigh (MEC Chair Elect) was able to accompany me to two of these meetings ensuring there will be continuity when she takes over as chair next year.

A meeting will take place in Scotland after Drake Music Scotland's celebratory seminar on May 4th. and see below about how MEC is looking to support the extremely worrying situation in Wales.

MEC's Spring Seminar was also a great success, contributing to the work of the Music Commission as well as hearing great things from MEC Music Education Award winner, Birmingham Music Education Partnership; an inspirational contribution from the head and music co-ordinator of Feversham Primary Academy; and very helpful input from Chris Dalladay and Duncan Mackrill. We ran out of time for significant discussion, so these conversations are continuing electronically through the SIGs – see below to engage and don't forget to complete [the survey](#) on the set of statements relating to

the NPME in England. See also item 1 in members' news below for information on the Music Mark Summer Summit, which will take into account the discussions that the sector has been having through MEC. Further discussions, taking account of the outcomes of Music Mark's summit, will take place at the MEC Summer Seminar on July 6th in Birmingham.

It is also always a pleasure to celebrate good news. If you hadn't picked it up already, Youth Music has had its funding through to 2022 confirmed. This is a great endorsement of the work of Matt and his team, including all of you who have made excellent use of YM's funds to improve music education for young people through your own work. Congratulations too to MDS and In Harmony colleagues who have had their funding confirmed to 2020 and to the ABO on celebrating its 70th anniversary. Do continue to contact me at halla@globalnet.co.uk (07850 634239) if you have any queries or comments and make sure your views and those of your organisations are included by engaging with our SIGs and completing our surveys.

2. **Wales:** MEC has a number of member organisations that have asked to be kept in touch with matters relating to Wales. For the moment, MEC's message is that a) we have a Strategy group made up of organisations represented on the MEC Forum; b) MEC is in touch with politicians and key people locally; c) we have a key meeting in Cardiff on April 26th and will provide further information after that meeting; d) anyone with any information to contribute should contact Dick Hallam (MEC Chair at halla@globalnet.co.uk, 07850634239) or Angela Ruggles (General Manager at admin@mec.org.uk).

3. **Spotlight On** – in July last year you voted 12 organisations on to the MEC Forum. Through this year we will be featuring 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 is the [Musicians Union](#).

4. Anthony Anderson from MEC member Birmingham City University reports: It was valuable to have the recent opportunity to present on behalf of MEC and Music Mark at the Westminster Education Forum on ***Assessing the impact of A-level reform***. There were presentations from the DfE, Ofqual and UCAS, which outlined current phases of work in curriculum reform and next steps. I was able to present areas of concern for Music education from a school and hub context and to highlight the decreasing numbers of A-level Music candidates. Those achieving Music AS level awards have fallen by 67% since 2010, whilst Music A-level awards have fallen by 37% during the same period. I argued for Music as education, which speaks for itself with a voice both distinctive and transformative.

5. **Task and Finish Groups:**

- The MEC **Early Years Working Group** met on Wednesday 11 April at Youth Music. As a MEC Task & Finish Group, it has now completed its two tasks; firstly, to provide insight and shape the content for the Youth Music Quality Framework for Early Years, which will be published early in the autumn; secondly, to compile a data base of 'commercial' early years providers who will be contacted and sent the quality framework as part of the aim to achieve greater coherence and wider involvement within the early childhood music community. Youth Music has been leading the group for the last two years and will now handover this role (see SIG item 6 below). Further details about this TFG from Matt Griffiths, CEO of Youth Music (matt.griffiths@youthmusic.org.uk) who has chaired the group since it started; or from admin@mec.org.uk or halla@globalnet.co.uk.

- The **Music Commission TFG** contributed to the session hosted by the Music Commission at the March 20th Seminar details of those discussions will be shared shortly. (See also MEC Member News item 2 below).

6. **Special Interest Groups** - The transition from Working Groups to Special Interest Groups continues. Following last month's news update and emails to all of those who have indicated they wish to be involved in the SIGs, MEC Chair Dick Hallam has been contacting colleagues who are prepared to 'kick start' each of these groups. Judith Robinson is helping with the curriculum group; Jay Deeble with the ITT/ITE/HE group, Chris Dalladay with the CPD group, Susan Young with the Early Years group, and Sue Hallam with the research group. Members should receive more information over the next month and more announcements in the next news update regarding the other SIGs.

7. **Two surveys are still live.** Please visit [here](#) if you have not already told us of your interest in work in Wales, Scotland and / or Northern Ireland. And visit [here](#) to comment on the proposed sector statements on the National Plan for Music Education in England.

8. **MEC membership benefits and fees for 2018** – This is the **FINAL NEWS UPDATE** sent to members who have not renewed. Anyone who has joined a SIG or T&F Group from an organisation that has not paid will be taken off those groups. All members should have received an invoice for their 2018 fee. Any members who have not now renewed – or at least communicated their intention to renew – will be taken off the circulation list for all communications. If you are not sure whether you have paid, or if there are any problems with payment please contact admin@mec.org.uk.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. The 33rd biennial World Conference, which will take place in **Baku, Azerbaijan July 15th – 20th 2018** 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 16th April.

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. **Music Mark:** Is the current National Plan for Music Education working? What should we keep, what should we change and what should it look like in 2020, when the current round of funding comes to an end?

The Music Mark Summer Summit will take place this June 26th at Stratford Circus Arts Centre, London. With Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England as our Keynote speaker, expect a productive and thought-provoking conference as we listen, share and debate the issues at the heart of Music Education in England today. Open to all, this sector-wide event promises a great day of networking, panel and breakout discussions, as well as an exclusive exhibition fair with our Corporate Partners.

Tickets: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/events/summer-summit/>

£40 + VAT Discounted Rate exclusive to Spring Summit 2018 Delegates

£65 + VAT Music Mark Members, Hub and Corporate Partners, and MEC Members

£100 + VAT Non Music Mark Members

Tickets also include: Tea, coffee and breakfast pastries; Lunch; Afternoon tea, coffee and biscuits

2. **Music Commission** - The Music Commission were delighted to host their first public consultation with the MEC Task & Finish Group at the Swiss Church in Covent Garden. We had a busy morning of activities and discussions, centred around the question of 'What are the current opportunities and challenges to making or supporting progress in music?' The Commission have now asked MEC to produce a collaborative statement of the key issues raised as a contribution to its ongoing research.
3. **The National Singing Framework** is a new resource for teachers across Scotland. The launch event was held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Visit [here](#) to find more information.
4. **The Royal Opera House** is looking for New Head of National Programmes. Are you a senior leader in the education/cultural sector with evidence of making impact and demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of good practice in the teaching and learning of arts in schools, particularly music and/or dance? Are you interested in encouraging participation and deepening learning, offering people of all ages the chance to discover and question and create their own responses to ballet and opera? Find out more about this exciting opportunity [here](#). The closing date is the 18th April.
5. Newham Music and **ABRSM** have announced a new partnership to provide the first [dedicated CME course](#) to be led by a London music education hub. The Newham Music-ABRSM initiative has been created in partnership with Arts Council England and Creative Cultural Skills, and is designed to help support and develop the skills of music educators including instrumental and vocal teachers, classroom teachers and community musicians. It's a flexible programme with practitioners creating a portfolio of evidence based on their current teaching practice. CME training is available to music teachers across Newham with immediate effect. From 2019, Newham Music will offer training to the wider music-teaching community throughout London.
6. Congratulations to **Royal Birmingham Conservatoire** on having its ARCO project shortlisted for a Guardian University Award in the Internationalisation category. Arco provides regular distance-learning opportunities for talented children in South Africa, who for multiple reasons, do not have access to the same level of musical education as people in Europe. More information [here](#).
7. **Drake Music** reports on its inclusive, inspiring music education festival in March 2018 "We All Make Music". Drake was delighted to be joined by 125 passionate people from across music education and across the country. As part of the day participants made pledges for change, which you can [read on this blog](#). Coming up over the next month Drake Music will be sharing videos, a podcast and a *We All Make Music Guide* for use in music ed. Keep an eye on their website.
8. **Drake Music** also highlights tips from their Exchanging Notes programme on finding new ways to compose with iPads in the classroom. See [here](#) for details.
9. Congratulations to Youth Music on the launch of its **Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England**. See details [here](#). MEC will look to work closely with Youth Music to celebrate and share this important work.
10. For those of you who knew lovely **Fran Hanley** please see [here](#) for news of **FranFest** – an uplifting celebration of her life on May 19th. Hopefully lots of you will be able to make it to the event.

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. DfE has announced continuing funding for the **Music and Dance Scheme and In Harmony** in its package of funding for music and the arts for 2018-20. See [here](#) for the announcement.

2. **ACE Plan 2020 to 2030: ACE Umbrella Organisations Meeting** March 23rd. This was one of two meetings held by ACE. Dick Hallam, as Chair of MEC attended the morning session as did Bridget Whyte, CEO MEC member Music Mark. Others in attendance in the morning session were Association of British Theatre Technicians; Contemporary Visual Arts Network; Design Arts Copyright Society; Engage; People Dancing; Association of Independent Museums; National Museums Directors' Council; Local Government Association; Chief Leisure Officers' Association; and One Dance UK. Groups attending in the afternoon session included MEC member Making Music.

The 'conversation' ended on April 12th. ACE is now pulling together all of the findings from its various sources and aims to produce a draft document in July. This document will, in turn, be an outline framework for consultation. Consultation will take place between October and December 2018. January to August 2019 will pull together a final document resulting in publication in September 2019. This will in turn enable the first phase of the delivery plan to be announced in 2021 for delivery in 2022. (Grant allocations up to 2022 are already being announced). See [here](#) for UKMusic's open letter to Darren Henley.

3. Nick Gibb answers a Parliamentary Question from Paul Blomfield (Sheffield Central) on the effect of the English Baccalaureate on access to creative subjects. See the answer [here](#).

4. Creative Industries Federation and Nesta published a short [paper](#), **Creativity and the Future of Work** which argues jobs of the future will require both creative and technical skills. The analysis shows that there will be an additional 120,000 new creative jobs between now and 2024 and that creative jobs, along with STEM jobs, are growing at more than twice the rate of average job growth across the UK.

5. The Fabian Society recently hosted a meeting of arts education professionals and politicians to discuss the decline of arts in primary schools. Read a report on the event and Fabian Society's research [here](#).

6. The House of Lords debated on the question "To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take steps to improve opportunities for the study of music in schools." The text of the debate can be seen [here](#).

Other News of interest

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1. **Stepping notes** invites you to:

[“Teaching musicianship through singing and movement”](#)

A THREE-DAY COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AGED 2 to 8

Thurs. 26th July – Sat. 28th July, 2018 (10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. each day)

Church Hall, Christ Prince of Peace, Portmore Way, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8JD

Stepping Notes is a holistic, integrated, multi-sensory approach to music education, based upon the philosophies of Kodály, Jaques-Dalcroze and Géza Szilvay. The hallmarks of the Stepping Notes approach are:

(1) **Movement** and **singing** as the prime conduits for musical learning.

(2) Developing the **inner ear**.

(3) **Feeling** and **understanding** the inner life of music.

(4) Maintaining natural body **flexibility** and **sensitivity**.

(5) The judicious and sensitive use of **high-quality musical instruments**.

(6) The world of the **imagination**; this is where young children live.

2. **York St John University** offers several free, collaborative, continuing professional development (CPD) events for tertiary music technology teachers. Information [here](#).

3. Science Daily has highlighted a research report published in **Frontiers in Neuroscience** that found that structured music lessons significantly enhance children's cognitive abilities -- including language-based reasoning, short-term memory, planning and inhibition -- which lead to improved academic performance. The research is the first large-scale, longitudinal study to be adapted into the regular school curriculum. Visual arts lessons were also found to significantly improve children's visual and spatial memory. See the full story [here](#).