



Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue Four

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:** Following a week's holiday at the beginning of the month and breaks for Easter, it has been another busy month. I have been interviewed by Martin Fautley as part of BCU's research; by a student journalist for her coursework on research into music education; met with an Italian from Scotland who is interested in pursuing links between Sistema-inspired programmes and music education more generally; attended the ISME/ EAS conference in Salzburg, where the ISME Exec and the EAS board met to explore ways of working more closely together, resulting in a 'to do' list of 10 actions; had conversations with two hubs; met with MEC officers and attended the Academies Show. More on the Academies Show below, but if you want to know more about any of the other meetings send an email to halla@globalnet.co.uk or phone me on 07850 634 239.

It was 'standing room only' at the **Academies Show**, which took place at the Excel Conference centre. My purpose in attending was to explore whether MEC needed to make closer links at the national level. The answer is 'yes'. Accordingly, I have already taken steps to find out whether MEC can curate a session at the 2018 show. The unexpected announcement of the general election meant that there is great uncertainty. But it was good to be reminded of the range of issues affecting schools. There were major issues about finance, with the obvious potential impact on music education. Recruitment and retention of teachers also featured strongly along with CPD (sound familiar?). Apprenticeships were mentioned too. Well-being of staff and pupils was of major concern for many. But there were positive signs too. There was an emphasis on collaboration and partnership (not just with other Academies) and a call for LAs to still have a strategic role, including convening services for schools. There was also much focus on Early years and supporting the disadvantaged, with Social Justice, social mobility and equal opportunities featuring strongly too. Heads were challenged to think the unthinkable and have back-up plans for a real world scenario; and they were encouraged to celebrate and share effective practice. (Again, sound familiar?). I will be taking some of these issues forward with the new MEC forum on July 13th and there will be an opportunity for all MEC members to engage more at our **July 18th Seminar in Leeds** at the College of

Music. This seminar has now also increased in importance for music education over the next 5 years so make a note of the date and try to join us if you can (**booking will open soon**). If anyone wishes to discuss any of these issues before then please contact me: halla@globalnet.co.uk or 07850 634 239.

2. **MEC Elections** – Closing date for Standing list organisations and Chair-Elect and Secretary is Tuesday 2nd May. Following that we shall call a membership vote to confirm positions. Nominations for directly elected members to the Forum will be sought shortly.

3. **MEC / ISME seminar 27th March 2017** – Notes from this seminar will be posted to a Google Groups discussion area, along with other discussion topics to keep the conversation going between the first seminar and the planned follow-up seminar, which will be organised later in the year - probably early December. Watch this space – all will be welcome not just those who made it to the first one. If you did not manage to join the first seminar but would like to be part of the continuing discussion on music and well-being, social justice and identity please e-mail admin@mec.org.uk to be invited to join the Google Group.

4. MEC is sad to hear of the moving on of CEO of Music Mark, **Jem Shuttleworth**. Jem has been a MEC Exec member since early in her time with Music Mark and she will be missed. We wish her well in her future adventures in Academy land. Until the first meeting of the new MEC Forum, Dick Hallam will facilitate the MEC curriculum group. After the Forum meeting it is hoped that a replacement for Jem in that group will be found.

5. MEC is also sad to (hopefully only temporarily) lose Exec member **Francesca Christmas** from Trinity College London. Francesca is very shortly due to have a baby and we wish her all the very best. We wonder how much attention she will be able to give music education in the coming months?! :0)

6. The boring stuff again – 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, this will be the last newsletter sent to those who have not paid. Bear in mind too that you need to be a paid-up member to be able to nominate yourself, your organisation or anyone else for election within MEC's new structure; or to vote for the candidates.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. Fancy a reason to start an adventure in Azerbaijan? Not a place many have thought about visiting (although it is one of the world's fastest growing tourism spots). The 2018 ISME World conference is taking place in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The theme for the Conference is **"Life's Journey Through Music"** the accompanying narrative is:

Music is an essential part of the human condition. For people of all ages, music plays an important and impactful role in their life experiences. Whether for leisure, livelihood, escape, or survival music helps many of us make sense of who we are and where we are going. Our theme for the 2018 ISME world conference is Life's Journey Through Music. This theme reflects the lifelong learning, lifespan development and life changing nature of music in people's lives around the world. Join us in Baku to explore, interrogate, and perform ideas related to music as an integral component of the world we inhabit today and our hope for the future.

The call for papers will go live sometime in the next month or so, so it is time for you to start thinking about what you might be able to present at the conference, or whether you would like to take a music group on a tour incorporating a performance at the conference.

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. 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>

2. MEC member **ABRSM** invites you to **Shine** - Music lovers can register for their free tickets to Shine, a celebratory event at the Barbican Centre on 7 July 2017. Hosted by ABRSM in partnership with the Barbican and Classic FM, the event will showcase music and music education from around the world. Guests will be able to enjoy:

- Performances from some of the world's leading young musicians, such as ABRSM Scholars Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Jess Gillam;
- Sir Simon Rattle conducting an open rehearsal of the London Symphony Orchestra;
- A series of workshops and sessions for teachers, students and parents in the afternoon, delivered by leading music organisations and educators from across the UK.

Book your free ticket at www.abrsm.org/shine.

3. **Sound Connections: Early Years Apprentices** Are you a passionate advocate for music in early childhood? Are you a music leader looking to develop your skills and confidence? Or an early years practitioner looking to embed musical learning into your setting? Then the Sound Connections Early Years Apprentice Programme is for you! As part of [LEYMN's \(London Early Years Music Network\)](#) commitment to providing high-quality professional development opportunities, this unique one-year programme offers training in all areas of early years music, shadowing and observation of some of the sector's best practice and mentoring that will support you in your development of skills, experience and confidence as early years music practitioners. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 5pm. Further information here: <http://bit.ly/2p8IHim>.

4. MEC member **ABO** has released a statement about the orchestral sector and the general election. Read it [here](#).

5. MEC member **MIA** reminds us of **Learn to Play Day – 8 weeks to go!**

- We are now getting everything ready for the sixth annual Learn to Play Day taking place on Saturday and Sunday June 24th and 25th.
- We have shops and other venues signed up across the UK and we are already sending out posters and flyers to everyone that is taking part.
- We are proud to, once again, have the support of the Musicians' Union with the event and they have kindly pledged to cover HALF of any teaching costs from the day when using MU members!
- AR marketing are assembling a wide range of competitions to promote the event in major public magazines and we have had an amazing response from our industry brands with prizes of gear.

- Let us know if any of you taking part want balloons for the event, Get Alive brochures (extolling the benefits of learning an instrument) or “Compose Yourself” music cards to help composition?
- There is still time to take part in the event, simply write to alice@mia.org.uk or call 01403 800500
- All other details can be found at www.learntoplayday.com

6. MEC member **Making Music** tells us that Make Music Day UK (21 June) is now really taking off, and a grant from Arts Council England means being able to have a project manager able to help support events. So where are we up to?

- We have a number of great venues signed up – from four spaces in London Bridge Station all day, to various music libraries including Nottingham and Westminster, from Fuller’s pubs to the Café Nero chain and Stable restaurants, from city centre squares like the Grassmarket in Edinburgh to bandstands in Watford and Darlington.
- **Now we need more performers!** Performers and performing groups can come in all shapes, sizes, genres, and any experience, can be instrumental or vocal or both, and just need to register on the website (www.makemusicday.org/uk) to find a venue near them.
- Or: email Alison on uk@makemusicday.org and she will send you the spreadsheet of confirmed venues (as not all of them have yet signed up to the website); Alison can also help you find a venue, if there isn’t one already available in your area.
- You can also include your existing event on the Make Music Day website (email Alison) or easily create an event by throwing open the doors on your usual rehearsal day, or you could sing the Make Music Day song in assembly/your works canteen/in a flashmob event on your commuter train... If it’s musical and on 21 June, it can be part of Make Music Day!
- Music Sales have made available Bring Me Sunshine FREE as the Make Music Day UK song for this year and various versions can be downloaded from the website – and any further arrangements are welcome.

Find out more, get involved or register at www.makemusicday.org/uk or email Alison on uk@makemusicday.org.

7. MEC member **Sound Sense** highlights its continuing project **A Choir in Every Care Home**. This month they have been working with partners Live Music Now and Creative Inspiration on developing the resources available for practitioners at <https://achoirineverycarehome.wordpress.com/>.

8. MEC member **ISM** highlights Joint [research by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers \(ATL\) and National Union of Teachers \(NUT\)](#) [BBC] suggests that teaching posts in subjects not included in the EBacc are at the most risk of being cut due to funding pressures in secondary schools. The survey found that:

- 61% of staff in secondary schools had seen cuts to non-EBacc subjects, and
- 64% of teachers reported fewer vocational options open to pupils compared to previous years.

9. MEC member the **British Council** announces its first round of amazing projects supported by the Cultural Protection Fund. In the first round of grants, the money will be used by UK and international organisations to work in conflict-affected countries across the Middle East and North Africa. These organisations are building skills so that local experts can protect their own cultural assets for future generations; ensuring that sites under threat are documented, conserved and restored; and helping local people to identify and value cultural heritage. across. Read more [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. In a letter to Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, Schools Minister Nick Gibb has announced that there will be no change in funding formula or roles for hubs between now and 2020. He has, however, stated that hubs should “focus particularly on provision that is accessible and appropriate for disadvantaged pupils, those with disabilities and those with special educational needs”.
3. Details of changes to apprenticeship funding in England can be found [here](#).
4. Answer to a parliamentary question about music at KS4 and music GCSE can be seen [here](#).
5. Answer to a parliamentary question about numbers of music teachers can be seen [here](#).
6. Answer to a parliamentary question about uptake of GCSEs and the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum can be seen [here](#). If colleagues have any examples of a “broad and balanced curriculum” in practice – or the lack of one – please send to admin@mec.org.uk to be passed to the MEC Curriculum group.

Other News of interest

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1. Plans are underway to create the [first job centre](#) aimed specifically at young unemployed people seeking creative jobs. The Creative Society, a charity that helps young people to get into the creative industries, is planning to open the job centre in partnership with Somerset House in London.
2. MERYC-England – (Music Educators and Researchers of Young Children) in partnership with CREC (The Centre for Research in Early Childhood), Birmingham are pleased to announce a new, Trinity College Level 4 **Certificate for Music Educators**, focusing on **early childhood** (birth to five in a range of early years settings). This course is available nationally, supported by a team of very experienced regional mentors, and is a flexible, distance, part-time course that will be tailored to students' specific needs. Four core input days led by a highly expert team will take place at CREC in Birmingham in the Spring term (Saturdays, once a month). For further details and application please see the website: <http://www.crec.co.uk/level-4-cert-music-ed-early-childhood>
3. **MERYC-England** has recently become a charity with the dedicated aim of raising the quality of early childhood music provision in England. It will achieve this aim by running conferences that enable conversations between research and practice, by establishing qualifications that raise the standards of practice early years music education and by acting as a voice for the early childhood music sector to influence policy and strategic directions. <http://www.meryc.co.uk>
4. The European Music Educators and Researchers of Young Children EU MERYC will hold a four day event entitled **Creating Musical Spaces: Origins, Cultures and Childhoods** presenting some of our most influential experts in early childhood music education along with over 50 current research and practise papers and workshops from our international colleagues. There will also be

opportunities to visit local early years settings, museums and other 'creative happenings' with the added bonus of being able to eat in the Homerton's beautiful Grand Hall at our Gala dinner and have time for a tour of the city by punt or bicycle. Of course there will be plenty of networking opportunities too.

If you are at all involved or thinking about being involved with early childhood music education, we would welcome you to take a look at the website and hope that we might see some of you there in June. <http://www.meryc.eu/conferences.html>

4. Cambridge at the end of June no good for you? Or would you like to start and finish the month with some in-depth thought about early years music? Are you an early years educator, an artist, or someone that works with children aged 0-5 years, and interested in learning more about how to develop quality arts and creativity? Join a [National Conference on Arts and Creativity in Early Years](#) On 5th June in Birmingham.

In this one day conference, delegates can meet prominent international early years experts and practitioners and discover how to develop tomorrow's leaders of arts and creativity. The conference provides a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, disseminate good practice and discover different approaches in early years and the arts.

5. **Creative Industries Federation** has published a manifesto for the creative industries. Read it [here](#).

6. A revolutionary new teaching method linking music and maths that is taking the USA by storm will be introduced to UK instrumental teachers at this year's First Access Forum. **'Make Music Count'** is an innovative method of learning how to play the piano by solving maths equations. Developed in Atlanta Georgia, by Marcus Blackwell Jnr, the scheme has gathered momentum across the United States, and has recently been featured on CNN.

The First Access Forum takes place on Friday 9th June 2017 in Birmingham. Alongside the presentation from Make Music Count, the event also features research presentations, UK master teacher demonstrations, discussions around assessment & accreditation, and the launch of **Music Education Solutions**[®] new national training programme for WCET teachers 'Excellence in First Access.' Further information and booking is available [here](#).

7. The **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** has awarded [17 new grants](#) worth a total of £606,933 to projects enhancing arts education, participation and diversity across the UK.

8. Anyone fancy becoming an **Arts Council England Trustee**? Applications now open, see [here](#) for details.

9. **Yorkshire Young Sinfonia** to become the first youth orchestra to swap sheet music for iPads. See details [here](#).

10. **NESTA** has taken an in-depth look at the skills needed for jobs in the creative field. See [here](#) for lots of detail and neat visuals.

11. **UK Music** has [warmly welcomed](#) the Government's '*Building Our Industrial Strategy*' Green Paper, identifying multiple areas that could benefit the music business.

12. The **PRS Foundation**, in association with the **BASCA Trust**, has launched the first major UK fund for songwriters and writer-producers. Details can be found [here](#).

13. **10th May 2017: double artist portrait Saleem Ashkar & Michèle Vanvlasselaer @ [The Mosaic Rooms](#) (AM Qattan Foundation), London**

Acclaimed pianist Saleem Ashkar (Palestine) and visual artist Michèle Vanvlasselaer (Belgium) became friends and they will be talking about what they are developing as artists in and outside of the Middle East. Short films will be shown to illustrate their work and ideas, and Saleem Ashkar will also propose a short recital.

Saleem is artist-ambassador of Music Fund, an organisation which is supporting musicians and music schools in conflict areas and developing countries. Together with friends in Berlin, he recently set up the Al Farabi music school for young refugees from the Middle-East and elsewhere.

Visual artist Michèle Vanvlasselaer (Belgium) is currently working in Gaza (Palestine) on stained glass windows projects and a related training programme. The idea might be considered unusual to work on stained glass windows in Gaza, an area where war may break out in a snap. But many Gazan's have decided to live their lives beyond the limited conditions of survival, and instead create motivating and beautiful surroundings.

Music Fund founder Lukas Pairon is working on projects in Israël and Palestine (West Bank and Gaza) since 15 years, and will moderate the evening.

www.saleemashkar.com / www.michelevanvlasselaer.com / www.musicfund.eu
<http://mosaicrooms.org/event/in-and-out/>

14. The Institute of Musical Research invites applications from **early career scholars** to organise small conferences, workshops, or networking events during the 2017–18 academic year. Grants of up to £500 are available, and successful applicants will become IMR Early Career Fellows. This scheme reflects the IMR's aim to facilitate the transition of scholars from graduate study to careers inside and outside academia. More detail available [here](#).

15. ***Symposium for Digital Musicology*** is a one day event on 1st September that aims to bring together scholars from various musicological fields and computer scientists in order to **generate a discussion** about digital musicology – an interdisciplinary field in which **new technologies are applied** to musicological research. One aim of this symposium is to find out why there seems to be a reluctance for musicologists to **'go digital.'** Moreover, the symposium aims to explore what opportunities there are for musicologists when it comes to new digital technologies, and in which ways these can support **innovative ways of research**, and how musicologists are already employing these methods. It aims to open the discussion between computer science and musicology to stimulate **collaboration** that might trigger new **methodological approaches** within existing musicological fields. Closing date for papers is 1st July. Details are available [here](#).

16. MEC learnt of an early years programme called Music Story Rhymes, which is held at Tate South Lambeth Library on Thursdays. More details about the programme and the facilitator can be found [here](#).