



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Six

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).

New data protection regulations came into force on May 25th 2018, giving you greater control over how organisations like ours can process your personal data.

At MEC we respect your right to privacy and want to be as transparent as possible about what data we collect and how we use it. Our updated [Privacy Policy](#) provides extra detail on where and why we collect your personal data, how it will be processed and the safeguards we have in place to protect it. As a recipient of our email updates you can ask to be removed from the mailing list at any time by e-mailing admin@mec.org.uk and stating that you no longer wish to receive the news updates.

MEC News

1. **Message from the Chair.**

With this final edition of the MEC News Update of the 2017/2018 academic year, I have three requests together with my very best wishes for a wonderful break over the summer.

First, sign up to the MEC seminar (**see item 4 below**). Numbers are limited, and you may miss out if you leave it to the last minute!

Second, please let Angela and/or me have your feedback on how MEC is supporting you in your music education work under its new constitution and structures. Your MEC Trustees will meet on September 13th and we will take a discussion paper to the MEC Forum on October 18th. This will drive MEC's work in 2019. Your views and comments are an important part of this process.

Finally, continue to contact me directly, (as many of you do, thank you), so that I know what is happening where it matters most, at the forefront of the music education work that you each engage in. My next ACE meeting will be on October 24th and my next DfE meeting is on October 30th.

2. Special Interest Groups

Early Years

The Early Years SIG had a successful first face to face meeting in Birmingham on July 6th – the full notes can be seen [here](#). In addition to the SIG's closed Facebook group, which enables discussions between MEC members with an interest in this area of work, a parallel online group is being convened to engage with the wider sector.

A statement in response to the recently published revised Early Learning Goals is being developed by the SIG. (See Early Education response to the revised goals [here](#)). The group will take these discussions forwards. The group will also look at other matters relating to the birth to five age phase of relevance to Music Education Hubs and the workforce, informed by the comments from the MEC Survey, as well as other matters such as developing a visual map drafted by Julie Digby.

Watch this space for Youth Music's quality framework, which will be available shortly.

The SIG will meet again in person in Birmingham on October 12th. Some of the above work may be taken forward by a Task and Finish Group, with a clear remit and timescale. Contact Angela (admin@mec.org.uk) before September 7th if you want to be more closely involved in this work.

Research

At its first face to face meeting, the Research Group had a wide-ranging discussion including how to be more impactful in supporting other activity; how research could be synthesised, collated and communicated to others. The full notes from the meeting can be seen [here](#). Martin Fautley has agreed to take this SIG forward.

Curriculum The MEC music curriculum SIG met on Friday. As this was the first time the group had met in this iteration, we spent time working on a series of statements about the curriculum that we could all work within and how these related to the MEC survey final report. We then went on to identify policy barriers to making these principles a reality and how MEC may be able to influence these. Those present committed to working on a paper that would be shared with those not able to attend last week and ahead of the next MEC seminar on 13th September, when the curriculum SIG will meet again.

Music Technology MEC member **JAMES** would welcome feedback on [this document](#) which has been discussed by the Music Technology SIG.

3. Task and Finish Groups – no further developments since last month, contact Bridget for the latest on Licencing and Lincoln for the latest on the Music Commission

4. MEC Seminar September 13th will be in collaboration with Musicians' Union and Sing Up. [Booking](#) is open now for:

Nurturing a sustainable music education workforce

This seminar will look at different models for developing and sustaining an effective music education workforce. It will cover:

- Developments in employment status usage, including IR35
- How training and CPD can support career progression
- How the voice of music educators can be represented within hubs and music services
- Opening up meaningful dialogues around quality

5. Make sure you also note the date for our **final seminar** of the year **Dec 12th, Bristol**, which is focussing on inclusion.

6. A good group gathered at the **MEC Seminar on 6th July** in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC) for the MEC seminar on Connectivity. Julian Lloyd Webber welcomed the group and delegates were treated to a short tour of the venue. The group heard from Richard Shrewsbury from the RBC about its education work and how decisions were made on who to work with; Ciaran O'Donnell from Birmingham Music Education Hub about how it works with its partners and how it chooses where to work; and from Judith Webster of Music for Youth about its regional and national work and how it reaches out to add value to local and regional events.

Delegates then discussed questions on connectivity:

- within and across the workforce
- within the music education ecosystem - in particular the role of schools and curriculum within the mix
- beyond the perceived sphere of music education influence
- between stakeholders
- across music(s)
- between music education and the music industry

Notes of the discussions can be found [here](#).

7. **MEC Forum National Strategy Groups**

England: MEC's English strategy group met in May and received an interim report on the MEC Survey. We are endeavouring to ensure all MEC members taking forward activities relating to the National Plan for Music Education are liaising with each other at the appropriate times. MEC's next formal event is the seminar followed by September 13th in London, focussing on the workforce in collaboration with Sing Up and the MU; and December 12th in Bristol, focussing on 'inclusion' in collaboration with Colston Hall and Bristol Plays Music. (See items 4 and 5 above).

Scotland: has its own Music Education Partnership Group, chaired by John Wallace, with whom MEC is working closely. Colleagues in Scotland were very interested in MEC's English survey and we continue to discuss whether a 'Scottish' version would be helpful alongside the work already being carried out.

Wales: Professor Paul Carr's report on International Best Practice in Music Performance Education Models and Association Learning Outcomes for Wales is available [here](#). MEC Chair Dick Hallam contributed to the report and spoke at the launch, which was hosted by the RWCMD. The situation in Wales is being monitored closely and the MEC Forum Strategy Group (Wales) will meet again on October 4th.

Northern Ireland: The situation in Northern Ireland is positive. Darren Canmore is the Interim Head of the Northern Ireland wide Music Service. Darren is working closely with colleagues in each of the former regions to move towards consistency across the whole of Northern Ireland with a national set of charging and remissions for students and terms and conditions for the workforce. A number of colleagues are planning to get together for a meeting as part of the ABO's conference in January 2019.

8. **MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS AND WILL MICHAEL JAZZ AWARD 2018.**

Use your summer wisely – or persuade a music hub / service that you believe deserves recognition to do so. Closing date for the awards is 15th October. See more details [here](#).

9. SPOTLIGHT ON

This edition's "Spotlight On" – is [Music Mark](#). Read about its recent summit, annual conference and other key work.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. ISME's World Conference is just about to start in Baku, Azerbaijan and MEC will have its information available on the ISME National Affiliate's stand. Kathryn Deane is the Keynote speaker on Wednesday with a presentation titled "Building a Potting Shed" we look forward to hearing what that is all about. Kathryn and Pete Moser will present the work of the MEC legacy project that was funded following the 2016 World Conference in Glasgow and Pete will report back after 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 Musicians' Union (MU)** has commissioned an extensive piece of research into the current [state of music education](#). This will seek to build on the findings of the MU's 2017 Education Report, which highlighted challenges relating to access to music education, workforce fragmentation and contradictory government policy. The research will revisit these themes and generate new data by surveying the views of teachers, parents, headteachers and other stakeholders. The MU is seeking to obtain the views of teachers, head-teachers and others through a range of surveys. Through these, it will diagnose and explore any issues challenging music education.

2. **Music Mark North West Conference**, 4th September, Royal Northern College of Music
A day of professional development and networking for teachers and Music Education Hub/Service staff. Book [here](#). Music Mark Members **£50 + VAT** Non-Members **£100+ VAT**

3. **Music Mark Annual Conference, 22nd-23rd November, Kenilworth**
The debate continues on the future of music education. Network with over 350 delegates, choose from a wide range of breakout sessions, workshops and CPD sessions.
Priority [booking open](#) for Music Mark Members only. Booking for Non-Members from September.

4. Last week, Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive of the ISM and founder of **Bacc for the Future** spoke in Parliament about the EBacc and the harm it is causing to creative, artistic and technical subjects. She was giving evidence to the [House of Lords Communications Committee](#).
The [Edge Foundation's work with Lord Baker](#) got a mention, as did the statistics published by campaign allies the [Cultural Learning Alliance](#) (CLA).
A transcript is not yet available, but you can watch it again on [Parliament TV](#).

5. **LSO Discovery** opens [applications](#) for two of its early-career composer programmes **LSO Soundhub & LSO Jerwood Composer+** [Deadline: Wednesday 18 July 2018 midday](#).

6. **ABRSM** is conducting research into the adult learning market. We're on a mission to find out how adults taking part in music education can be better supported in the UK and Ireland. There are two surveys to complete, one for teachers with adult learners (<https://teachingadults.questionpro.com>) and one for adult learners themselves (<https://adultlearners.questionpro.com>). There is an optional prize draw at the end of both surveys.

Please send through your networks and to any teachers you know who might be interested. The surveys will close at the beginning of September.

7. **The Music Commission** www.musiccommission.org.uk The fourth and final meeting of The Music Commission Panel took place on June 25th, with National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter as guest speaker. As part of the most recent MEC Seminar in Birmingham, Lincoln referenced some of the key themes that are emerging from the Commissions thinking, and that connect to the findings of the recent MEC survey. All data and feedback received via the public consultation, focus groups and meetings is now being analysed and is informing the writing of the reports narrative, set to publish in November. MEC colleagues will continue to be kept informed.

8. A Bank Holiday to remember! MEC member **Sistema England** requests that you circulate the following information through your networks. The Sistema Europe Youth Orchestra is holding its summer residency in Birmingham this year at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. SEYO is made up of young people from Sistema-inspired programmes all over Europe. They will be performing in Birmingham and London. Do support them if you possibly can. Tickets are available as follows:

[Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, Sunday 26 August 2018, 5pm](#) (with public activity all afternoon around the Southbank Centre site)

[Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Monday 27 August 2018, 2.30pm](#) (public activity from 12pm)

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. Organisations can now apply to manage a [£3 million social investment fund](#) that supports culture and creativity across the *Northern Powerhouse*. The £3 million pot is available to fund managers who are looking to invest in projects that use arts and culture to benefit local communities. These could include programmes where theatre is used to improve child literacy or art workshops for the elderly.

2. **Public consultation on a draft Culture Strategy for Scotland** The engagement report has informed the development of [a draft strategy which has now issued for public consultation](#). The draft strategy sets out a vision for culture in Scotland supported by a series of ambitions, aims and actions that will deliver the new National Outcome for culture: we are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely. The consultation will run until Wednesday 19 September 2018 and responses will shape the final strategy which will be published later in 2018.

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. A new petition "Ensure that free musical instrument tuition is available to all schoolchildren." Has been launched on the Parliamentary petitions [website](#). A similar campaign ran

in Scotland – see the public Facebook Group #changethetune. The highlight was a 120-strong flash mob on George Square: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dbh1aRU_BA

2. World's best teacher Andria Zafirakou is using her \$1 million prize money to bring [artists into deprived London schools](#) to inspire and engage students.

3. Andria is also amongst the first speakers for the Creative Industries Federation's *International Summit* in October who have [been announced](#)

4. **Arts Council England** has launched [a survey](#) on creativity in daily life. The short [questionnaire](#) is part of the Durham Commission on Creativity and Education which is a joint project between Arts Council England and Durham University.

The Commission would like to hear from people across the UK and beyond to explore what already works well and where there might be gaps in what is currently provided.

The questionnaire asks people among other things to share what helps and limits them to be creative, whether creativity is valued, and what creativity means to them.

The questionnaire, which will run until the end of July 2018, will be followed by further detailed investigations and a final report in the autumn of 2019.

5. Do you want to show your thanks to a business or individual who has given money to the Arts for the first time? Consider nominating someone for the [Achates Philanthropy Prize](#) which is [open for submission](#). Two prizes will be awarded, one to a business and one to an individual or trust, for the example they have set in supporting culture philanthropically, for the first time. The business or individual (or trust) are nominated by a UK cultural organisation who complete the application. Closing date 3rd September