



Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue Seven

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 mentions (plus hyperlinks) 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. Booking is now open for the **seminar to be held on 14th September** at Regent's University London, Inner Circle, London NW1 4NS. Visit [Eventbrite](#) to secure your ticket – places are limited. Book by no later than 11th September to secure your place.

And don't forget – if you are a membership organisation then your members are entitled to purchase tickets at the MEC member rate – please share this posting with your members.

The Future of Music Education: 2018 to 2020 and beyond.

Following on from the seminar at Leeds College of Music on July 18th the Music Education Council invites all members and non-members to come together to hear from Keynote speaker Mark Philips Her Majesty's Inspector; Senior HMI in London (confirmed) about music education in schools in England and then to further discuss the key issues and actions for the music education sector leading to music education for all across the UK and across the age range.

Plenty of time for networking and discussion around:

- MEC's Key Themes (quality and progression; evidence-based advocacy; and inclusion: access and diversity);
- Themes of the MEC /ISME project (Social Justice, Well-being and Identity); and
- The MEC Working Group areas (Adults; ASN/SEND; Early Childhood; HE/ITT; Music Technology; Research; School Music Curriculum and First Access; and Singing)

Attendance at the previous seminar is NOT necessary

Provisional Programme:

10.30 Arrival and registration: coffee/tea
11.00 Welcome
11.05 Sir Nicholas Kenyon: The Commission
11.30 Mark Philips Ofsted
12.30 MEC update

13.00 Lunch / networking
13.45 Breakout groups
15.00 Plenary feedback
15.30 Networking tea/coffee
16.00 End

2. **Hold the date 27th November** (NCVO, London) for a further seminar. Booking will open shortly – look out for specific e-mails on this event.
3. Applications for the **2017 Music Education Awards** are open. Visit www.mec.org.uk/awards-2017 for application forms and more information. Closing date is **9th October**.
4. **MEC Survey** – A Forum meeting will take place on 7th September. In order to inform the discussions at that meeting and MEC's plans going forward the Trustees would like to hear views from the full Council membership on how MEC should function and what it should be focussing on. Please visit [the survey](#) before **5th September** to have your say on the way forward.
5. The **MEC seminar on 18th July at Leeds College of Music** was well attended and allowed delegates lots of time for discussion about key issues and ways forward. A note of the seminar can be seen [here](#). Colleagues who were **present** at the seminar are invited to comment further if they feel their particular issues are not picked up adequately in the published information. Colleagues who were **unable to attend** are invited to contribute further by sending your comments to Angela Ruggles at admin@mec.org.uk and Dick Hallam, MEC Chair at halla@globalnet.co.uk or phone Dick on 07850 634239 if you wish to discuss anything.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. The ISME 2018 World Conference submissions systems for presentations and performances are now live on the conference website – www.isme2018.org.
2. The ISME July newsletter has been published. It contains a story from a really courageous music educator from Brazil; information on a project in Pakistan whose leader has received death threats for using music with children with special needs; and information on the Commission on Special Education and Music Therapy. You can view it [here](#) – but please don't hit any unsubscribe links as this will unsubscribe MEC from the newsletter.

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. Help needed to update The **Short Guide to Accessible Music Education**. This valuable resource 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 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>

Visit the guide and send any additions or corrections **by no later than 10th October** to Emma at emmelines@drakemusicscotland.org

2. MEC member **ABRSM** has announced **The Music Commission**, a 12 month investigation into understanding progression in music. A follow-on piece from the Making Music research published in 2014, the Music Commission aims to offer practical solutions so that more people can sustain their interest and involvement in learning music.

The Music Commission will be chaired by Sir Nick Kenyon, and will publish its final report in Summer 2018. MEC Trustee Lincoln Abbotts will help to ensure that MEC members are fully involved and kept up to date with progress.

Further details are available here www.musiccommission.org

3. MEC member **Scottish Association for Music Education** holds its 21st Conference at Stirling University 7th and 8th September offering the usual wide range of active and interesting learning and training sessions. Brochure is available to view on www.same.org.uk from where booking can be done. "If you can only manage to one CPD in the coming school session, unquestionably this is the event for you", Stephen Miller, President, School Leaders Scotland.

SAME is also preparing its first dedicated CPD conference to support primary class teachers and music making, Saturday 13th January, 2018, Stirling University.

Further info on website and from office.same@btinternet.com

4. MEC member **Making Music** [invites us to read and share](#) the Kings College London report *Towards Cultural Democracy*, which recognises the breadth, depth and importance of community arts in the UK.

5. MEC member **Dalcroze Society UK** highlights its **training programme** for 2017-18 (London) If you work in the field of music, dance or drama, as a teacher or performer, then there is a course for you starting this autumn. Come and explore the connection between sound and movement, the language of music, space and timing and much more in this unique, intensive course. No previous movement experience is required though some knowledge of the language of music, the ability to sing and a willingness to move and explore is all that is required. Guaranteed to change the way you think and feel about the arts!

The new Foundation Award in Dalcroze Eurhythmics starts the weekend of Sep 30th/Oct 1st 2017. It comprises 9 weekends and you will explore the three main branches of Dalcroze: rhythmics, aural training and improvisation.

For more information: www.dalcroze.org.uk or contact the Administrator:

admin.dalcroze@gmail.com

6. Last month MEC member **the ISM** joined forces with a-n The Artists Information Company (the UK's largest artists' membership organisation) to launch **#FreeMoveCreate**. In response to the findings from two large surveys, this new, collaborative campaign aims to protect flexible travel for musicians and others working in the creative industries, something you told us was one of the most important priorities for the music profession in the context of Brexit.

The surveys found that:

- **70%** of professional performers travel overseas for work
- Some musicians travel to the EU to work more than **40 times a year**
- The average stay is **eight days**, with France and Germany topping the destination list

Protecting flexible travel between countries is not just important to performers – **it affects everyone who works in the creative industries**, including composers, technicians, producers, actors, artists, dancers and directors. ISM encourages you to sign-up to [#FreeMoveCreate](#).

7. MEC member **Bristol Music Trust** tells us about - **Breaking the Glass Ceiling**

In preparation for the opening of the National Centre for Inclusive Excellence in September 2018, Bristol Music Trust is holding the 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling' symposium at Colston Hall, Bristol, on the 29th September (11-3:30), followed by a special presentation from the National Open Youth Orchestra (3:45-4:45).

Highlights include:

- Keynote from Suzanne Bull, (CEO Attitude is Everything and DWP sector champion for Music)
- Artist panel including James Rose (BSO), Kris Halpin (Drake Music Associate) and Charlotte White (British Paraorchestra)
- Industry panel including representatives from BBC, MU, BSO, Barbican, CC Skills, and Music Education Hubs

The day will end with a performance of a specially commissioned piece of music from the South West Open Youth Orchestra and the Bristol Youth Choir before a showcase gig in the Colston Hall Foyer.

This event is free but places are limited to 150. Please email siggy.patchitt@bristolplaysmusic.org.

8. MEC member **Charanga's** secondary programme [VIP Studio Sessions](#) supports the teaching of contemporary music genres. An excellent tool for KS3, BTEC and GCSE, VIP encourages more young people to get into music. With an online recording studio that turns every ordinary PC/Mac into a music computer, young people can use it 24/7 anywhere they can get online.

July saw the world premiere of **Grown: A Grime Opera** - a project combining Grime, Electronic music and Classical and Minimalist influences. Written by VIP's author Max Wheeler with lyrics from Grime MC Eyez the opera is a fusion of Grime and Classical orchestration looking at the themes of youth, age and growing up.

Commissioned for the Sounds of Essex, a two-day festival organised by Essex Music Education Hub, the opera was performed with Essex Youth Orchestra with contributions from VIP students.

You can read more about the project [here](#)

9. MEC member **Sarah Derbyshire** tells us about *The Wish* - the latest in a series of innovative orchestral projects involving young people in Luton. Commissioned by Orchestras Live and The Mix (Luton Music Hub), and developed by composer John K Miles and specialist music leader Claire Henry, *The Wish* was conceived with the aim of inspiring young children to engage with music and take up an instrument whilst supporting learning at Key Stage 1.

"Exactly what we wanted – to introduce the families of the orchestra to 7 year-olds so that they can make an informed choice when deciding to take up an instrument. We consider this project to be one of the best we have done with Orchestras Live and will have the most far-reaching impact."

(Kerry Watson, Luton Music Service)

The Wish was premiered in July 2017 by City of London Sinfonia, with two performances attended by 450 children and staff from primary schools in Luton.

Watch the film documentary and read the evaluation report on Orchestras Live's website:

<http://www.orchestraslive.org.uk/news/the-wish/>

10. Lots of news from MEC member **Youth Music**:

- **New Case Study from Youth Music: 7E in Birmingham**

Youth Music have recently published their latest case study featuring the important work of 7E in Birmingham responding to the challenges of gang violence and radicalisation. Here it is: <http://bit.ly/2soqMoW>

- **Youth Music website – new page on music-making and healthcare**

Over the last three years, Youth Music has invested nearly £1m in projects that provide music-making activities for children and young people in healthcare settings. This new page outlines the musical, personal and social outcomes reported by projects working in settings that primarily treat physical health problems in children and young people. Here it is: <http://bit.ly/2ulhIQW>. A separate section on music-making and mental health will be published in due course.

- **Youth Music - Project Highlights**

Youth Music have recently put together a 'project highlights' round up of some of their favourite music, photos and films from a variety of different projects. Here it is:

<http://bit.ly/2v4VPZ1>

- **Association of Independent Music (AIM) chooses Youth Music as its charity partner**

AIM have chosen Youth Music as the charity partner for their awards ceremony taking place at The Brewery on Tuesday 5 September attended by 800 guests from the music industry. Further information here: <http://bit.ly/2fLipC7>

- **Blog from Matt Griffiths, CEO of Youth Music**

It's Proms season, and a new style of 'relaxed concert' has got Youth Music CEO Matt Griffiths thinking: 'If inclusion is a one-off, isn't it just a token gesture?' See his blog here: <http://bit.ly/2v10hNs>

Policy News

1. Don't forget to share with MEC (admin@mec.org.uk) any policy-related news that you pick up across the four nations. 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. With the Summer recess slowing down any policy activity from Government departments nothing has been identified this month. MEC Chair, Richard Hallam, will be pushing for a meeting in the Autumn with Nick Gibb – be ready with your views on what key issues should be raised at that meeting.

3. Towns and cities across Northern England will be able to [bid for a share of a new £15 million fund](#) to help build a lasting regional legacy from the Great Exhibition of the North, Culture Secretary Karen Bradley announced on 4th August.

4. Official DCMS figures show that job growth across the creative industries [grew 5 per cent](#) between 2014 and 2015, as well as a 16.9 per cent increase in exports of cultural activities.

5. The [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing](#) (APPGAHW) was formed in 2014 and aims to improve awareness of the benefits that the arts can bring to health and wellbeing. During 2015–17, the APPGAHW conducted an Inquiry into practice and research in the arts in health and social care, with a view to making recommendations to improve policy and practice. The full report and a short version – with some great illustrated stats – are available on the group's website. It will be interesting to learn how far the Government follows up on the group's recommendations.

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. [Board members wanted for Ofqual and Ofsted](#)

This is your chance to help make a difference to education, & the wellbeing of children & young people. There are 5 positions on the Board of the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and 4 on the Board of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Closing date is noon, Friday 8th September 2017.

2. For people wanting to make a living within the music industry, BBC Music introducing hosts [Amplify 17](#) at Excel, London on 6-8 October 2017.

3. [The Age of Creativity Festival 2017 - 1st - 14th October at Venues across England](#) “The festival fortnight will shine a light on the diverse work that is going on up and down the country in this field and raise the profile of what we do with a collective voice. But we need your help to make it happen! We need venues, organisations, teams and individuals to create opportunities for older people to take part in creative and cultural activities as participants, audience members, volunteers and artists.”

4. The Family Arts Campaign has launched its [Age Friendly Standards](#) which provide specific guidance on welcoming older generations. Displaying the logo affirms that an organisation has considered the often more complex needs of older visitors.

5. Plans to create a cultural hub in London’s Square Mile have been announced and were explored in Rhinegold’s Classical Music Magazine. The [Culture Mile](#) initiative will see the regeneration of an area in the north-west corner of the City over the next ten to 15 years through creative exchange, cultural collaboration and learning projects. Education is a key aspect of the initiative, with organisations working together to create a programme of learning opportunities, aimed particularly at under-served groups. A consultation event for people who live or work in the area will be take place at Smithfield Rotunda Garden between 11am and 6pm on 24 August. Anyone wishing to ask a question or register for updates should contact the Culture Mile consultation team on citypublicrealm@cityoflondon.gov.uk or visit the [website](#)