



Music Education Council Member News 2018 Issue Seven

Remember:

- If you are a membership organisation please share these news e-mails with your members.
- If you have news you want to share with the whole music education sector contact admin@mec.org.uk with MEC News Update Item as the title of your e-mail.
- 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). Upcoming meetings with Ofsted 28/9; ACE 24/10; DfE 30/10.

MEC News

1. **Message from the Chair.**

With this first edition of the MEC News Update of the 2018/2019 academic year I am repeating some requests from the last update together with passing on my hope that you have had a wonderful break over the summer and best wishes for the coming academic year.

First, sign up to the MEC seminar today! (**see item 2 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, consider engaging with the SIGs (see item 4 below). The plan for England is to pull together all of the intelligence from the seminars, consultations and SIGs into a position paper early in the new year. This will be circulated for comment.

2. **ONE WEEK TO GO MEC Seminar September 13th** will be in collaboration with Musicians' Union and Sing Up. Taking place at Bloomsbury House, 74 – 77 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DA. Registration and lunch at 12.30 and further networking time from 13.45.

[Booking](#) is open 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

3. **MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS AND WILL MICHAEL JAZZ AWARD 2018** – application window still open.

You are invited to apply for a Music Education Award on behalf of your hub / music service.

For 2018 you have options:

- Apply for the Major Award – have your whole offer judged and be held up as a beacon of excellence;
- Apply for the Will Michael Jazz Award – have your jazz offer recognised for its excellence,
- Apply for a specific Commendation – by completing as few questions as you wish – even just one! – have a specific area of your work recognised – Commendations will be given to applicants who demonstrate excellent work in any one aspect of work or special project.

See more details [here](#). Closing date **15th October 2018**.

4. **Special Interest Groups** Don't forget the CPD, Curriculum, Singing, and ASN/SEND SIGs are all meeting from 11 to 12.45 on Sept 13th prior to the MEC Seminar. Lunch is provided for those staying on to the seminar, but you must book for the seminar [here](#).

Early Years

Julia Roderick, Sound Connections programme manager, has written [this article](#) about the Tri-Music Together project, an EY music project headed up by the Tri-borough Music Hub. A really beneficial read for other Hub leaders.

Lots of mentions of the importance of EYFS & home learning environment in [this speech](#) in which the Education Secretary sets the vision for boosting social mobility.

In case you missed the e-mail on this during August, comments are still welcomed:

Nicola Burke has offered to pull out the music points from the Early Education (EE) response to the draft revised Early Learning Goals. We hope that this will enable MEC to endorse the EE response and to expand on the musical aspects that should be present within Expressive Arts & Design. If you would like to read the entire response from Early Education, you can do so here:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/news/early-education-issues-detailed-response-draft-elgs>

The following is a response Nicola has prepared specifically in relation to Expressive Arts & Design. Please comment as you feel before September 7th. This will form the basis of a response that MEC will put forward following discussions within the Early Years Special Interest Group.

The Music Education Council (MEC) endorses Early Education's (EE) response to the proposed revised Expressive Arts & Design Early Learning Goals (ELGs). As EE pointed out, creativity is not the sole preservation of the arts and runs through all areas of the curriculum. MEC agrees that "draw and paint" is a very restrictive definition and suggest that music and dance are also referenced within the first ELG. MEC concurs that the process is more important than the product, so the emphasis should be on making music creatively and not on the end product.

MEC entirely agrees with EE that 'performance' should not be an ELG and that children should be engaging in singing and dancing. MEC adds that children should be playing creatively with instruments, not for the sole purpose of performing. EE have pointed out that the references to music making and dance have been lost, other than an overly specific reference to well-known nursery rhymes and songs. The vital creative aspects of children

experimenting with and changing music and movement have been taken out.

There is no mention in the revised ELG's that children should be encouraged to create their own music, their own songs or explore sound. This devalues the importance of children creating their own music and focuses upon children 're-creating'. Music is only mentioned within the 2nd ELG titled 'performing'. This implies that the sole purpose of engaging in music is to perform and is wide open to misinterpretation. Young children could be asked to participate in formal performances that are inappropriate for their age.

MEC agrees that the two existing ELGs are far better than these proposed revised ELGs. As EE have highlighted, the draft has framed what was 'Exploring and using' as 'Creating' and left out the imaginative side of children expressing their own musical ideas.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Additional / Special Needs

The Short Guide to Accessible Music Education launched its most recent update on Wednesday 18th July. <https://theshortguidetoaccessiblemusiceducation.wordpress.com>

Music Technology This SIG meets again on 11th September and is looking forward to linking with some of the other SIGs where music technology is most relevant. In the meantime, the following links provide a flavour of what MEC member JAMES has been working on.

<http://www.jamesonline.org.uk/resources/events/jors2018/>

<http://www.jamesonline.org.uk/resources/events/gdf2018/>

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

6. Make sure you note the date for our **final seminar** of the year **Dec 12th, Bristol**, which is focussing on inclusion. Booking will open once the current seminar is over.

7. **Nations** This year the MEC Forum established Strategy Groups for each nation. All MEC members can be kept informed of more detailed developments for each nation by contacting Angela (admin@mec.org.uk) to have your email added to the circulation list.

England: MEC continues to bring together information from a range of sources over the past 18 months, including MEC's own Survey ([report here](#)) and the findings from the Music Commission; ISM surveys; MU/MIA/UK Music survey; the collaborative work being undertaken by ABRSM/Music Mark/Youth Music; and Youth Music's Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England; as well as your contributions to the MEC Seminars and SIGs. It is anticipated that a position paper will be ready for circulation to MEC members for comment by January/February 2019. (NB timescale subject to any government announcements).

Northern Ireland: All is reported to be well! MEC is in contact with key colleagues in Northern Ireland and will be holding a MEC Forum Strategy Group (NI) meeting in January 2019 as part of the ABO conference.

Scotland: The Music Education Partnership Group met last week. MEC continues to liaise closely with this group. Ralph Riddiough's petition will be heard in Holyrood on the morning of 13 September. We will try to include links to the recording in next month's update.

Wales: Details of the response by the Welsh Government to the Hitting the Right Note report were circulated to all those who asked to be kept informed, together with MEC Chair's latest letter to Kirsty Williams AM Education Secretary. The MEC Forum Strategy Group (Wales) is meeting again on October 4th.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. ISME's World Conference took place in Baku, Azerbaijan and included a moving and thought provoking (would you expect anything different?) keynote from our own Kathryn Deane. See details of that presentation and lots of pictures and videos from the conference at the [Conference Showcase](#). Also catch an interview [here](#) with Dr Ahmad Sarmast – founder of the [Afghanistan National Institute of Music](#) – on the question of “Is Music Education a luxury?”

MEC Member News

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1. LATE NEWS – happening 7 & 8 September

An international conference exploring disabilities and music-making with presenters and disabled musicians from around the world.

The 2018 One Handed Musical Instrument Conference will bring together its annual OHMI awards with a major conference for academics and practitioners, exploring the barriers to music-making faced by people with physical disabilities.

With interest from all five continents, this is a one of a kind event will be led by established academics, professional musicians, and developers at the forefront of adapted instrument design. The two-day conference will also encompass a Gala Concert and the 6th annual OHMI Competition Awards. Hosted by comedian Al Murray, this year's Gala Concert will feature a range of performers; most notably, World Class horn player Felix Klieser will be making his UK debut, playing Mozart's Concerto No. 4.

Tickets can be purchased via the website at: <https://www.ohmi.org.uk/ohmi-conference-darr.html>

2. The ISM currently has 3 surveys running:

- Primary music survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/primarymusic>

This survey is assessing if National Curriculum music is being delivered effectively across all Primary year groups and closes at the end of September.

- Secondary music survey - <https://sussex.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/music2018>

This survey of secondary music provision is being run by Dr Ally Daubney and Duncan Mackrill from the University of Sussex who are inviting secondary music teachers to show what is going on in their schools. It closes mid- September.

- ISM consultation on the National Plan for Music Education 2020 - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/musiceducation2020>

We are consulting both ISM members and non-members on what should be included in the Department for Education's next National Plan for Music Education. This survey closes on 12 September.

3. As reported in the last news update **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.

4. On Friday 29 June, **Sound Connections** led a training day titled 'Beyond Diversity' at Amnesty International UK. In [this piece](#) Sound Connections Programme Coordinator, Tej Adeleye, reflects upon the day and considers how we might discuss these issues, find solutions and create true change in our places of work.

5. The **ISM and the Musicians' Union** have launched a [set of principles](#) to 'tackle and prevent bullying, harassment and discrimination in the music sector' Both organisations call for the entire music sector to support and adopt principles in the workplace.

6. **CLOSING SOON: ABRSM** is on a mission to find out how adults taking part in music education in the UK and Ireland can be better supported. There are two surveys to complete:

- One for teachers with adult learners: <https://teachingadults.questionpro.com>
- One for adult learners themselves: <https://adultlearners.questionpro.com>

There is an optional prize draw at the end of both surveys, where you can win one of 10 £50 Amazon vouchers. **The surveys will close on the 10 September.** Your answers will help ABRSM to understand what's working well and where learners require more support from the sector.

7. **Orchestra's Live** has published Sarah Bedell's independent evaluation of its 2 year flagship touring project, [Sound Around](#). The evaluation highlights many achievements and the significant, wide-reaching impact of Sound Around: for the young people involved, venues and audiences, our partners in each location and the RPO. It reports a step-change in practice and attitude which will have longer term implications for Orchestras Live's work, and for the orchestral sector.

8. Make Music Day UK was again a great success and generated over 500 free public music performances as national festival continues to grow. Why not consider getting involved next year? MEC members Making Music and MIA can tell you more about the plans.

9. The Tri-borough Music Hub asks for help supporting the [Cultural Inclusion Manifesto](#) and raising their profile. *"The Cultural Inclusion Manifesto is a recently launched initiative which aims to ensure that the cultural offer for pupils is both inclusive and sustainable. We are passionate about the rights of disabled children and young people to access a broad range of high quality cultural experiences. We firmly believe in the transformative power of the arts and the impact that engagement and participation has on the education, health and wellbeing of children and young people with disabilities"*. There will be a Cultural Inclusion Conference on 18th October at the Lyric, Hammersmith, details [HERE](#); and there is a call for submissions [HERE](#). Please do take a look at this and share with any networks you have, to help spread the word about this growing initiative that is vitally important.

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. You will be well aware of the GCSE and A Level results from this year and the reporting of the decline. Cultural Learning Alliance provide [an analysis](#) of the figures across arts subject.

2. Doctors are urged to consider “[social prescribing](#)” – referring patients to local voluntary and community services, including arts activities, to improve health and wellbeing – with the introduction of a new £4.5m fund.

3. The summer saw a fiasco over [visas at the WOMAD music festival](#). MEC Members ISM and the MU, along with UK Music are following up on the situation.

4. You will remember that the MEC Chair and other representatives attended DfE round tables focusing on the **£7.7m Curriculum Fund** to reduce the workload burden associated with curriculum planning. The DfE is looking to support the development of high quality, knowledge-rich curriculum programmes – ‘whole package’ resources that cover a subject for a key stage, and include everything that a teacher will need to teach, from the long term plan, to assessment questions, to teacher guides (and CPD), to individual lesson resources. As a first step, [the Department has announced the first phase of this fund today](#), through the launch of the Curriculum Programme Pilot. The Pilot will aim to establish how using curriculum programmes can reduce unnecessary teacher workload, and how focusing on knowledge-rich, well-sequenced programmes can improve pupil outcomes. The findings of this pilot will inform future policy and the funding of new programmes. The pilot will focus on curriculum programmes in science, history and geography across key stages 2 and 3. However, there is funding over 5 years, and the DfE will be looking to support the development of curriculum programmes in the arts subjects in the next phase. Further information about the pilot, including the criteria for programmes that are being tested, can be found on the [Curriculum Fund gov.uk page](#).

5. ACE The Conversation: the next 10 years. Dick Hallam contributed to the conversation in the Spring. ACE’s Report on ‘The Conversation Findings’; Evidence review: The next ten years; and Research with children and young people can be found [here](#). Further consultations will take place from October 2018.

Other News of interest

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1. A [petition to Westminster](#) calling on a return to free, specialist, small group, orchestral and other musical instrument tuition in state schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for all children who wish it (as still exists in parts of Scotland) was launched in July and within a week gathered 10k signatures and a rather bland response from HM Government. If it can get 100k signatures by 5 January 2019 a debate in Westminster will be secured. This would be timely. The originator asks that you please sign and share this petition and keep an eye on developments in Scotland where the petition on music education there will be heard in Holyrood on 13 September.

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.