

## Music Education Council Member News 2017 Issue Eight

Please share these news e-mails with your members. Remember that MEC relies on the contact point within each member organisation to share MEC news with its own members. If you need another person to be an additional contact for your organisation just drop Angela an e-mail. ([admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk))

Don't forget that if you have news you want to share with the whole music education sector, send your 150 word contributions by the end of the third week in each month (plus hyperlinks) to [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:halla@globalnet.co.uk); 07850 634239).

### MEC News

1 Booking is now open for the [MEC seminar to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November](#) at NCVO, REGENTS WHARF, 8 All Saints St, London N1 9RL. Visit [Eventbrite](#) to secure your ticket.

The morning session will include revisiting music education in relation to Social Justice, Well-being and Identity with Gary Spruce; Sue Hallam and Ray MacDonald as part of the joint ISME/MEC development project, with a longer plenary session as requested by members.

The seminar also offers the final opportunity this year to contribute to the discussions around **the Future of Music Education for All: 2018 to 2020 and beyond** and to catch up with the progress made by MEC's Special Interest Groups and Task and Finish Groups with plenty of opportunities for small group discussions. (See item 4 below).

Further details of the agenda and timetable for the day will be published in next month's MEC news update.

*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.

2. You have just over one week left to apply for the **2017 Music Education Awards**. Visit [www.mec.org.uk/awards-2017](http://www.mec.org.uk/awards-2017) for application forms and more information. Closing date is **9<sup>th</sup> October**. **Take this opportunity to celebrate and share your practice**. Partial submissions are encouraged as a way of celebrating and sharing particular exemplary work, although these will not be eligible for the major award.

3. Many of you kindly contributed to the **MEC Survey** over the summer, which informed the MEC Forum and trustees' meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you. A full analysis of the responses is available [on the MEC website](#).

We have now moved on from the Working Groups, established two years ago. Their work will be taken forward by **Special Interest Groups** and **Task and Finish Groups**.

**Special Interest Groups** will enable colleagues from across our sector who share a particular interest to get together to raise issues and discuss matters of mutual interest.

**Task and Finish Groups** will tackle specific issues, with a clear outcome and a defined timeline.

4. Help is 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>

The Musicians' Union (MU) is now included in the latest edition. Visit the guide and send any additions or corrections **by no later than 10<sup>th</sup> October** to Emma at [emmelines@drakemusicscotland.org](mailto:emmelines@drakemusicscotland.org)

5. The **MEC seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> September in London** 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 have already given their feedback. Colleagues who were **unable to attend** are invited to contribute further by sending your comments to Angela Ruggles at [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and Dick Hallam, MEC Chair at [halla@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:halla@globalnet.co.uk) or phone Dick on 07850 634239 if you wish to discuss anything. MEC member John Finney commented on the seminar in his [weekly blog](#).

Isla Pendreigh, who has been taking an interest in MEC's work, attended the seminar and [wrote a blog](#) commenting on the issues that MEC is discussing from a young person's perspective.

6. Also on September 14<sup>th</sup>, Philip Flood, MEC Hon. Sec. and Director at Sound Connections, met with the UK Music Education & Skills group which is chaired by Oliver Morris, Director of Education & Skills and on which MEC member the MU is represented. This follows on from an initial meeting last year which was facilitated by Mark Pemberton (ABO) and Peter Garden (RLPO). MEC is very keen to develop further links with UK Music, with a particular focus on the music industry and the workforce. It became clear as the meeting progressed that there are significant similarities between MEC's priorities and those of UK Music. These include understanding how to address inclusion and diversity through our work, supporting progression from education to employment in the music industry, and effectively connecting the many organisations across music education and the music industry. It was clear that UK Music have a highly developed advocacy and lobbying role with government and with MEC's expertise in music education a meaningful partnership would result in clear benefits for all. It was decided to have further discussions to identify specific areas that MEC and UK Music can work together on. Watch this space for further news.

7. MEC's Chair Dick Hallam has written a blog entitled [Stormy Weather](#) with opportunities for you to post a reply. Have your say [here](#).

## 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](http://www.isme2018.org).
2. The [ISME August newsletter](#) has been published. It contains lots of interesting information including the announcement that Kathryn Deane will be one of the keynote speakers at the conference in Baku next July. You can view it [here](#) – **but please don't hit any unsubscribe links as this will unsubscribe MEC from the newsletter.**
3. ISME's Regional European partner EAS carried the following news in its recent news update. FULL SCORE Project - Final Outcomes: This 3-year project has been coordinated by the AEC with the support from the European Commission through the scheme "European Networks" of the Creative Europe programme. Within the framework of the FULL SCORE project, the AEC has established a structured cooperation with the [European Music School Union \(EMU\)](#) and the [European Association for Music in Schools \(EAS\)](#) by the creation of a Steering Committee for the Harmonisation of European Music Education (SCHEME). This strand of the FULL SCORE project seeks to strengthen the European Music Education Sector by overseeing the joint projects with EAS and EMU and exploring potential synergies and future strategies for the sector to train the musicians of tomorrow. [FULL SCORE Final leaflet in English](#)

## 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. Enormous congratulations to MEC member the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on being granted its Royal status at the same time as the opening of its superb new home. Principal Julian Lloyd Webber said "*The Royal title, personally granted by Her Majesty The Queen, marks the start of an exciting new era during which the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will advance standards of music education in our brand new facilities, in keeping with its role as the first conservatoire of the digital age.*" <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire>
2. Lots of news from **MEC member the MU: MPs & Peers: Please Support Musicians Working in the EU** The Musicians' Union and its members are asking MPs and Peers from all parties to sign up to the following pledge to protect performers' careers. Details [here](#). Most professional musicians and performers rely on touring and travelling for their careers and gigs are often organised at short notice. As some performers can be working in several different European countries over the course of a few days, the possible introduction of work permissions and/or visas for British musicians touring and working in Europe could be extremely detrimental. Our preferred option would be reciprocal free movement for musicians and performers across the EU's 27 member states, in the form of an exemption from visa rules for performers.

**Music industry lobby government over Ivory Ban:** The Musicians' Union, in association with MEC members the Association of British Orchestras and the Music Industries Association, wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Andrea Leadsom MP, seeking an exemption for musical instruments. The MU are pleased to note that in response to their early lobbying, an exemption for musical instruments is being proposed. The government is launching a 12-week consultation in late April, and the MU will be formulating a response with music industry partners.

**Management Agreement Launched for New Artists and Managers:** The Musicians' Union and Featured Artists Coalition, along with the manager's body Music Managers Forum, have joined forces to create a sample, long form management agreement in response to the often unfair terms found in unchecked contracts brought forward by members of the three organisations.

**MU joint partnership with NEU (NUT/ATL):** The Musicians' Union (MU) signed a new partnership agreement with working new National Education Union (NEU) - the union formed by the NUT and ATL. The MU and NEU will continue their joint membership package and work closely together in the future.

**Music & Drama Education Expo - Manchester 4<sup>th</sup> October:** The MU will be there in collaboration with the National Education Union (NEU). We are the main sponsors of the event and will be giving a presentation on the state of music education from the perspective of the workforce.

3. Thanks to **MEC member the MIA** for sharing this information: Recording industry organisation, UK Music, says that the number of attendances at live music venues reached 30.9 million last year; generating £4 billion for the economy. [Read more](#) here.
4. Congratulations to **MEC member Sound Sense** on the launch of their new website: [www.soundsense.org](http://www.soundsense.org). Thanks too to **Sound Sense** for sharing this information: "A Choir in Every Care Home" is a new set of free resources to inspire and support care homes to engage with music. The project, which is led by *Live Music Now*, *Sound Sense* and *Canterbury Christ Church University*, is a unique collaboration between 35 national organisations from adult social care, music and academic research. The project is funded by *the Baring Foundation*. The latest resources from the project include videos and toolkits to help both care homes and musicians perform more, higher quality singing. They are available together with the detailed research data and findings at [www.achoirineverycarehome.co.uk](http://www.achoirineverycarehome.co.uk).
5. **MEC Member Awards for Young Musicians** has some interesting news about award winners and champions in its new e-news format [here](#)
6. MEC member **Sing Up** is facilitating and delivering two new inspiring training events in London in October 2017, designed to benefit music teachers and choral leaders of both primary and secondary schools. These training sessions will allow participants to take part in high quality singing activities run by expert vocal leaders, learning valuable skills and improving their confidence to direct their own choirs or incorporate singing into their music curriculum. Attendees will learn manageable techniques and ideas to benefit the whole school straightaway. You do not have to be a Sing Up Member to attend the training events, and there are options for both primary and secondary school teachers. The events are: **Improve your school choir**, Wednesday 25th October 2017, 10am – 3pm. **Improve musical learning with singing** Friday 27th October 2017, 10am – 3pm. For more information visit [www.singup.org/training](http://www.singup.org/training)
7. In July, MEC member **ABRSM** announced **The Music Commission**, a 12 month investigation into understanding progression in music. A presentation was made at the seminar on

September 14<sup>th</sup> and [notes](#) are available following breakout discussions. MEC members have requested the formation of a Task and Finish Group to feed in to the work of the commission. Individual MEC members are also encouraged to engage directly. Further details are available here: [www.musiccommission.org](http://www.musiccommission.org)

8. MEC member **Scottish Association for Music Education** held its highly successful 21st Conference at Stirling University on 7th and 8th September. <http://www.same.org.uk/> Don't miss the next opportunity: <http://www.same.org.uk/conferences.html> Primary Music Making: Saturday 13 January 2018 [View Primary Music Making Brochure](#) [View Primary Music Making Booking Form](#)
9. As we go to press with this edition of MEC News Updates, MEC member **Bristol Music Trust** is holding its 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling' symposium at Colston Hall, Bristol. Watch this space for an update next month.
10. In case you missed it last month, MEC member **Charanga** mentioned its secondary programme [VIP Studio Sessions](#) which 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.
11. Lots more news from MEC member **Youth Music**: See the latest edition of Youth Music Network [here](#)

## Policy News

1. Don't forget to share with MEC ([admin@mec.org.uk](mailto: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. 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.
3. See [here](#) for Nick Gibb's answer to Diana R. Johnson's question to ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Answer of 14 January 2013, Official Report, column 533W, on teachers: qualifications, how many people have obtained each type of school-based qualification in (a) music, (b) drama, (c) theatre-studies and (d) art in each year since 2009-10.
4. And see [here](#) for Nick Gibbs' answer to Layla Moran's question as to what steps the Secretary of State for Education is taking to (a) protect the availability of arts and creative subjects and (b) remove barriers to pupils studying them.
5. This month also saw a significant debate in the House of Lords. Read about it [here](#) or watch it [here](#) from 14.15 to 16.34.
6. 2017 (and previous years) examination results are available here: <https://www.icq.org.uk/examination-results>

7. Ofsted measures: Sean Harford HMI, Ofsted's national Director of Education, said that for headline accountability measures, the grade 5 or above is to be used. Other measures – such as the grade 4 'standard pass' - will be used to inform judgements, but only as additional measures. [School inspection update September 2017](#)

## Other News of interest

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1. **NEW REPORT: The Arts empower children and improve life chances.** [ImagineNation: the value of cultural learning](#). This new publication builds on CLA's original *ImagineNation: the case for cultural learning* published in 2011, and sets out how studying arts and culture changes and shapes the lives of children and young people.

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 - 1<sup>st</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 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."