



## Music Education Council Member News 2019 Issue Two

### Remember:

- ) Membership organisations: please share these news e-mails with your members.
- ) News you want to share with the whole music education sector? contact [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) with MEC News Update Item as the title of your e-mail.
- ) Contact Chair Fiona Pendreigh (after 4<sup>th</sup> March via [chair@mec.org.uk](mailto:chair@mec.org.uk)) to make sure matters that concern or interest you are on her agenda when she meets with key people about music education.

### MEC News

#### 1. Message from MEC Chair, Fiona Pendreigh

#### **Music education... tell me about it...**

##### **So much...**

So much happening  
So much changing

##### **Too much...**

Too much to do  
Too much to read

##### **Lots to worry about...**

Which things will come to pass  
Which things will pass

##### **So that's why MEC is here**

Facilitating discussion and debate between experts  
Creating a collaboration of experts  
Filtering the critical fact from the opinion  
Building a consensus around the facts  
Showing a joined-up sector

And the reason why MEC can facilitate, create, discuss and debate is because we are all doing this together.

**Music Education - TELL ME ABOUT IT!**

2. **MEC Seminar – 28<sup>th</sup> March**, NCVO conference suite, London. Booking is now [open here](#)

- ) Hear from the organisations that have recently published reports on the state of music education in the UK;
- ) Discuss the implications of their findings on the music education sector;
- ) Plan the music education sector's response to those findings.
- ) What can YOU do to ensure a quality music education for today's and future generations of children and young people.
- ) Help develop the music education sector strategy for high quality music education.
- ) The event will start and finish with networking time - take some time out to talk to colleagues about the issues facing you in your work.

3. **MEC Forum** is busy discussing the papers that were developed by the SIGs and the covering paper that was drafted following the SIG Chairs' meeting on 11 January. Discussion centres around what is the purpose of / audience for the papers; what are the key messages coming from the papers; what should happen next with them. This discussion will be ongoing as will the development of the sector's position statement on music education. Join the discussion at the MEC session at [Music and Drama Education Expo](#) (7<sup>th</sup> March 12.15) and at the [MEC seminar](#) on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

4. **Fiona Pendreigh**, and other MEC members, were invited to attend a meeting at the DfE on 26<sup>th</sup> February on the proposed model curriculum. An opportunity has arisen to submit documentation to the DfE team working on the proposed model music curriculum to assist with the thinking behind the new curriculum, prior to it being written. Fiona and the SIG Chairs are considering what is best to submit by the 4<sup>th</sup> March deadline. More information about those discussions later.

5. The new [MEC website](#) is nearing completion. Expect the site to be out of action over the weekend 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Visit from 4<sup>th</sup> March to see the new design. You will see that the corporate member page is short on logos – please check your placeholder to make sure it links to your website and supply us with a square logo image – at least 500x500 pixels so we can upload it to the site.

6. The **MEC Music Education Awards 2018** winner will be announced at the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence gala on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Details of the winner will be on the MEC website on the night.

7. Following disappointing lack of action from government over the summer and autumn in response to letters to ministers, the **MEC Task and Finish Group for Child Performance Licensing** (CPL) has now agreed a plan of action to address the ongoing issues and the lack of consistency across the country in interpretation of the use of BOPAs and licensing requirements. Work is currently being undertaken to collate existing case studies and evidence from the sector to inform a planned dialogue with the DfE. We are also finalising a survey which will be circulated widely within the next couple of weeks. This aims to provide both quantitative and qualitative data on how the sector is affected by the current legislation. The survey will be made available through MEC as well as the membership and umbrella organisations represented in the T&F Group. We would strongly encourage all members to complete the survey as this will be a key part of our future work. MEC will

share the survey on its website and through twitter as will the organisations involved in the group. However, if any MEC Member would like more information please contact Judith Webster ([judith@mfy.org.uk](mailto:judith@mfy.org.uk)) or Bridget Whyte ([bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk](mailto:bridget.whyte@musicmark.org.uk))

8. **Membership renewal** is due for 2019. Invoices have been issued along with a new membership form so that we have up to date contact details and permissions to contact people through mailing lists. Please pay promptly – news update 4 will be the last sent to unpaid members.

## International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. The 2020 World Conference website will open soon at [www.isme2020.fi](http://www.isme2020.fi) Details of the calls for papers and performances will appear on the site during March. [ISME](#) membership runs for two calendar years and you will need to be a member during 2019 if you want to submit a paper or a performance proposal.

2. The ISME European Regional Conference / EAS Conference will be held in Malmo, Sweden in May 2019. See [here](#) for more information.

## 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. This year [Learn to Play Day 2019](#) - a free, nationwide initiative to get people of all ages and abilities playing a musical instrument - will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Supported by Jools Holland OBE, and run by charity Music for All, the event sees music shops, teachers, venues and schools throughout the UK partner with leading musical instrument brands to offer thousands of [FREE](#) music lessons across the weekend. Since being launched eight years ago, the Learn to Play Day initiative has helped thousands of people pick up and play a musical instrument. Many had never played before, while others played as a child but gave up.

Held in partnership with the Musicians' Union, the 'Take It Away' scheme and Making Music, the Learn to Play Day initiative has been growing in popularity with a record 10,000 free lessons held during last year's event.

2. **Youth Music** is thrilled to have launched 'The Sound of the Next Generation', a comprehensive review of children and young people's relationship with music. The research with Ipsos MORI shows that music is young people's favourite hobby, equal to gaming and ahead of sport, drama, and dance. Two-thirds of young people reported that they'd made music in the last week, and the research also found that music plays a huge role in young people's wellbeing. 1001 young people from the ages of 7 to 17 were interviewed. For the full report and accompanying resources, go here: <https://bit.ly/2Hllelj>

3. The **All-Party Parliamentary Group for Music Education**, in partnership with the University of Sussex and the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), has released a new report entitled *Music Education: State of the Nation* which outlines the current state of both music education and the broader education landscape in England. The report drills deep into the Government's own figures regarding the impact of the Government's flagship education policy, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), on creative subjects. Read or download the report [here](#).

4. **Sound and Music Summer School for Young Composers** Applications are now for this unique, residential course, held at the Purcell School in Bushey, Hertfordshire in August. Participants spend the week being mentored by a fantastic team of established, professional composers and musicians, who then record and premiere the students' pieces. This is an invaluable opportunity for your young musicians and as we are committed to making the Summer School accessible to all, we offer **bursaries to on average of 25% of the participants each year**. Application details can be found at: <http://www.soundandmusic.org/summerschool>

5. **Musical Futures: [Steps to Success in GCSE](#)** Music full day workshop gives ideas and strategies for teaching at this level which are both musical and theoretical. **Why attend?**

- ) A chance to explore practical approaches to the analysis of GCSE music set works and preparation for listening and appraising tasks through workshopping, composing and improvising
- ) Support students to transition successfully from Key Stage 3 - where music frequently has a focus on practical work – to the demands of GCSE music.
- ) Make GCSE more accessible for all students and specifically those students who may not have come to study GCSE via formal instrumental lessons.
- ) Research shows that students are more likely retain the learning if they are actively engaged in the process.

6. **Music Mark News:**

- Music Mark helps secure additional DfE funding for Music Education Hubs: [READ](#)
- Music Mark warns disadvantaged children at risk unless DfE support Hubs in Teachers' Pension Scheme: [READ](#)
- Music Mark launches Y ME? - a publication by young people, for young people: [READ](#)
- [Leadership Development Programme: Organisational Resilience with Nigel Taylor](#). Various locations nationwide. Supported by Arts Council England, this training is part of a one-year support package within Music Mark's broader Leadership Development Programme. [Book](#)

7. **Sound Connections** is pleased to launch, and invite applications for, its 2019 Innovate Programme and IMPACT Bursary Programme.

#### **Innovate**

Innovate is Sound Connections' longstanding programme supporting music projects for children and young people in London. If you are working with people age 0-25 in London through music then you can apply for support and investment of up to £2000 to explore new ideas and approaches to working with children and young people.

## IMPACT

You can apply for an IMPACT Bursary if you are working with people age 0-25 in London, through music, you can apply for a bursary of up to £600 to develop your organisation's confidence, knowledge and skills in:

- Evaluation and impact
- Social justice – eg inclusion, accessibility, diversity and youth voice.

To find out more please visit the [website >](#) and download the information and application packs for Innovate and IMPACT.

8. **Save the Date: 21 June is Make Music Day** Every year, in increasing numbers, musicians around the world take to the streets on 21 June for [Make Music Day](#). The celebration began 36 years ago in France and now includes over 800 cities. Amateur musicians, professionals, teachers giving free lessons, audiences—all turn out to celebrate the joy and vitality of music together.

9. **Orchestras for All (OFA)** has announced three new Conductors for Change training days aimed at anyone who wants to develop their ensemble leadership skills, including how to conduct and rehearse music groups. The training days are open to all, whatever level of skill and experience, and particularly suitable for music teachers and aspiring music leaders working with all age groups. Participants at each course will get the chance to work and practice with a mixed-skill level orchestra, developing their conducting and rehearsal skills.

The courses will take place at the King Edward VI College, Totnes on 21 March, St Marylebone School, London on 29 April and Lordwood Girls' School, Birmingham on 17 May. The London event will be delivered in partnership with **Making Music**, the UK organisation for the voluntary music sector.

Further information can be found on the [Orchestras for All](#) website or by calling Orchestras for All on 0207 267 4141.

## Policy News

*Don't forget to share with MEC ([admin@mec.org.uk](mailto: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. **ENGLAND: Nick Gibb** talks of the Government's commitment to high quality music education in an adjournment debate. See the transcript [here](#) – Nick Gibb speaks from 10.20pm.

2. **SCOTLAND:** Below is the link to the guidance that MEPG, CoSLA and Scottish Government have been working on. This is now live on the CoSLA website and has been shared with ADES, the Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee and with Larry Flanagan of the EIS. It will also appear on the Improvement Service Website. <http://www.cosla.gov.uk/music-instrumental-music-tuition-guidance-2019pdf>

3. **What's Going On Now?** in music education and youth musicmaking in Scotland - that's the question this study aims to answer, fifteen years after the publication of What's Going On? Drawing on a range of data on music education, on the evidence of a suite of specially-designed surveys, and on three detailed case studies, [What's Going On Now?](#) offers an assessment of music education and

youth music-making, identifying the key issues that emerge from the data and proposing a number of recommendations to tackle the inequalities in music education, change perceptions of music and its purpose, nurture music in schools, and facilitate new experiences and opportunities.

4. **WALES:** Following the publication of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communication (CWLC) Committee's inquiry into music education, the Cabinet Secretary for Education (CSfE), now Minister for Education, committed to undertaking a feasibility exercise to identify and assess options for the future delivery of music services, including the suitability of a single organisation to lead on this area; consideration of a National Plan for Music Education and the viability of alternative models of music delivery. Work is progressing on the feasibility exercise and more news will be available soon.

## Other News of interest

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1. For those of you who do not follow MEC on Facebook, here are some of the recent posts:

- ) A rise in popularity of classical music amongst young people prompts the launch of a new radio station. [Read more](#).
- ) Link to a [Big Issue](#) story on the music education crisis in England and Scotland
- ) The call for music education is echoed in America. [Read more](#).
- ) Link to the January [Policy and Practice Round up](#) from Cultural Learning Alliance
- ) So singing is really, REALLY good for you – [a report](#) on the Neuroscience of singing.

2. The Trailblazer Employer Group for the **Cultural Learning and Participation Officer apprenticeship standard**, is pleased to announce that the Level 3 Cultural Learning and Participation Officer apprenticeship standard has been approved for delivery, is now live and available for use at the [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#).