



Music Education Council Member News 2019 Issue Three

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 with MEC News Update Item as the title of your e-mail.
- Contact Chair Fiona Pendreigh via 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.

TRUSTEE AND FORUM DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBER ELECTIONS – SEE PARAS 6 AND 7 BELOW

MEC News

1. Message from MEC Chair, Fiona Pendreigh

At the recent meeting of the MEC Forum, I provided Forum members with an outline of my vision for MEC over the next few years. I wanted to share that with you here.

My vision is for us to celebrate:

- The Music Education Council – as A Concerted Approach.
- The Music Education Council – as The Chatham House of the music education sector.

The Chatham House rule originated with the aim of encouraging openness of discussion and facilitating the sharing of information. **You** are the Chatham House of music education, to ensure that we can discuss, debate and disagree over the nuances within our sector. That is because we have the expertise.

And, quite rightly, we can still have, and fight for, our own perspective from within our organisation or as an individual – that's why we have so many organisations - because we are passionate about a specific population or a way of doing things.

In order to keep it simple for others out there, who may not have the interest in the detail, we know we have the rest of the council membership behind us when we state the current COUNCIL perspective. MEC's perspective is not that of a handful of individuals, or the loudest voice, but a considered, considerable agreement across the sector.

My vision is that this considered, considerable agreement, say 80% of us, agree with a direction of travel, either because we trust the expertise of our peers, or because we have been part of the discussion. We are prepared to declare this next part of the journey as a whole music education sector, a concerted approach even if, as an individual or organisation, we decide to explore or take a different route.

MEC IS NOT A RIVAL ORGANISATION BUT A PLACE TO SHARE.

We constitute the Music Education Council, so we need to be confident about what we are saying and how we say it to our different audiences.

2. **Reminder of MEC's strategy**

The music education council is exactly that, a council. None of us is paid to do this but we are passionate about music education and we choose to be a member:

- to make decisions – should we or should we not enter into particular consultations.
- to give advice – particularly on music education
- to represent a particular group of people –specific to our own organisations and as a whole

We have agreed that to work in a collaborative way is going to benefit most. Yes we have our own organisations and businesses to run in a business like way, but we also recognise that being in the music education sector means co-operation and an empathy with the way others work and how we can create synergies.

Our Success criteria based on our mission and priorities

Within the Music Education Council our success criteria **in terms of sector working** are key measures for the **Forum**.

- Evidence of more collaborative working across the sector;
- Less duplication of work;
- Better use being made of research reports and conference outputs to directly inform practice; and
- Evidence of more people who deliver music education being aware of the work that MEC does and, through the Special Interest Groups and Task and Finish Groups, being aware of work across the sector

If there are changes to be made then the Forum is the right place to discuss these.

Whilst **in terms of music education delivery** our success criteria apply to the **Special Interest Groups and Task and Finish groups**.

- Agreement on what constitutes quality – and improvements in delivery which reflect that definition
- Evidence of improved access to music making for all, particularly people in special circumstances
- Evidence of progression routes being more accessible across a range of genres
- Evidence of music being recognised as a means to delivering improved standards in a number of different areas (education, behaviour, health, community etc.)
- Evidence of music being used in a wider range of settings (healthcare, residential and nursing care, prisons, community development etc.)
- Evidence of better prioritising of the use of public money

Membership of **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** is open to all MEC individual members and to member organisations (with their agreement). Members can join a SIG at any time. There are two strands to their work:

- to draw attention to specific issues within their specialism, to fight their corner; and
- to consider their perspective of generic issues; how does an issue feel when looked at through their lens..

All MEC members receive regular updates on the activity of these groups and on any cross-cutting activity via the MEC News Updates.

Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) are established to deal with key tasks that have been **identified by the MEC Forum** for priority action. Tasks are specific and time-limited, with a clear intended outcome. TFGs will engage with and report to the full council via seminars, consultations and the MEC News Updates.

3. **MEC Seminar – 11th July**, Hold the date

Trustees and Forum members are busy discussing the content of the day. It is likely to spring from the work on the Forum Project – details at para.4 below. Booking will open soon so watch your inbox.

4. **MEC Forum** met on 28th March, before the MEC seminar. One of the outcomes was an agreement to run a Forum Project, headed up by Gary Spruce, with

- Fiona Pendreigh
- Deborah Annetts
- Bridget Whyte
- Lincoln Abbotts
- Matt Griffiths

The remit of the project is to:

- Examine the reports on music education that have been produced recently by individual corporate members of the Music Education Council and the Music Education Council's Special Interest Groups.
- Consolidate into one document the approximately five key issues facing music educators in the pursuit of providing an inclusive, diverse and high quality musical education.
- Consolidate into one document the recommendations for action made in the various reports against those key issues.
- Identify action *for the music education sector* – adopting the theme of the 28th March seminar “regardless of what Government does or does not do, this is what the music education sector can do to improve music education across the board”.
- Produce a short, cross-music education sector report that encapsulates the above.

5. **Child Licensing Task and Finish Group.** A group of Music Education Council's Member Organisations has come together to look at how as a sector we can address the issue of outdated Child Licensing legislation which is affecting both educational and amateur performances across the country. Despite a number of constructive conversations with civil servants at the Department for Education there has been little movement on addressing this issue. To help with further lobbying the MEC group has launched a survey which it is hoped will amplify MEC's messages by demonstrating the scale of the problem and the impact it is having on opportunities for children and young people to participate in music making at a local, regional and national level. Please click [here](#) to complete the survey. Closing date **15 June**.

The MEC Member Organisations that make up the Task and Finish Group working on this issue are: The Association of British Orchestras, the British and International Federation of Festivals, Brass Bands England, The Choir Schools Association, The Incorporated Society of Musicians, Making music, Music for Youth and Music Mark.

6. **Trustee Elections** Nominations are invited for the positions of **MEC Chair Elect and Treasurer**.

Are you affiliated to a Corporate Member Organisation; or an Individual Member of MEC? Do you want to help shape MEC as the voice of music education and the umbrella organisation for music education across the UK? Now is the time to put yourself forward to serve the MEC membership as a Trustee.

Trustees should not be affiliated to any of the Standing List organisations on the MEC Forum. So, if you are not affiliated to a Standing List organisation – *or are willing to forego your organisation's place as a Standing List member if you are elected* – are interested in becoming **Chair Elect**, and can commit to serving MEC for 6

years (2 as Chair Elect; 2 as Chair and 2 as past Chair) then please download the information and nomination pack [here](#).

For the role of **Treasurer** the commitment is 3 years and the information and nomination pack is [here](#). Don't think that this role is purely about looking after the finance – most of the financial work is carried out by MEC's Management Services, so as Treasurer you will be full member of the Trustees Board – including sitting on the Forum – and will help to set the agenda for MEC.

Make sure that for either position your nomination reaches admin@mec.org.uk by no later than 5pm on **31 May**. If you have any questions about this, please in the first instance e-mail Angela at admin@mec.org.uk

7. **Forum Directly Elected Member Elections** Nominations are invited to serve on the MEC Forum as a Directly Elected Member. Are you affiliated to non-Standing List Corporate Member Organisation; or an Individual Member of MEC? Do you want to help shape the priorities on which MEC focusses over the coming years? Now is the time to put yourself forward to serve on the Forum. Directly Elected Forum members do not represent their organisation; they act as the checks and balances to the discussions between the Standing List organisations, and provide insight and expertise from their own individual experience. Download the information and nomination pack [here](#).

Make sure that your nomination reaches admin@mec.org.uk by no later than 5pm on **31 May**. If you have any questions about this, please in the first instance e-mail Angela at admin@mec.org.uk

8. **Wales Update** Following on from the 2015 task and [Finish Report of Music Services](#) and an Inquiry by the Culture and Welsh Language Committee in 2017 and publication of the Chair's subsequent report [Hitting the Right Note](#), The Welsh Government have now commissioned the '[Consultancy Co-operative](#)', a mid - Wales based organisation, working with David Barnard to carry out a feasibility study into the overarching recommendations, it will be completed by the end of July 2019. The objectives of the study can be viewed [here](#).

Welsh LA Music Services remain hopeful that any solution found will seek to ensure that access and inclusion for all pupils, and the maintenance of career pathways that encompass regular employment and CPD will be at the heart of any reform. The Welsh Government has recently committed £3M in additional grant funding for Music Service provision, and it is hoped that any findings of the study will build on sustained, hypothecated, central funding.

9. The new [MEC website](#) launched on 4th March – visit it 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.

10. **Membership renewal** is overdue 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 – **THIS IS THE FINAL NEWS UPDATE THAT WILL BE SENT TO UNPAID MEMBERS**. And of course, you cannot seek nomination, or nominate anyone for the Trustee or Forum vacancies if you are not a paid-up member.

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. The 2020 World Conference takes place in Helsinki. The conference website will open soon at www.isme2020.fi. Details of the call for papers can be seen [here](#). Take a look for some new ideas for different sessions and forums that will provide opportunities for greater interaction between delegates.

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. **21 June is [Make Music Day!](#)** Organise an event or sharing this info with your networks:

The global rules are:

- On 21 June
- Free to the public

And why would you get involved?

An excellent opportunity for:

- getting more and new people making or experiencing music
- showcasing the work you do
- targetting people who are not actively involved in music, celebrating music and the social value of joining in
- helping foster social connections in your community
- raising the profile of your work through the Make Music Day map where it will be picked up by the promotion team

What could you do?

- perform in a public space: bring your music to the people to discover
- organise a 'come and try...': can you get newcomers involved?
- go rural: how remote can you get? Film your performance if there's only sheep around to witness it!
- go viral: no time to organise a public event? Try live-streaming from your usual space.

On www.makemusicday.co.uk: [register](#), find [inspiration and toolkits](#) (events, libraries, rural, digital...).

2. [Janet Fulton](#), Principal Percussionist of Manchester Camerata, has been awarded the prestigious Salomon Prize, presented by the Royal Philharmonic Society and **Association of British Orchestras**. The Salomon Prize is the only major award presented to an orchestral musician working in Britain. It celebrates the extraordinary talent, versatility and passion of today's orchestral players, not only in performances onstage, but in countless other settings, inspiring those who may never set foot in a concert hall.

3. Bacc for the Future's supporting organisations are urged to write to the Education Secretary Damian Hinds, asking him to do the following:

1. Undertake a thorough review of the EBacc and its negative impact on the availability of creative subjects in our maintained secondary schools.
2. Give clear guidance to all schools in the maintained sector, whether they are an academy or not, that all schools must deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the creative subjects.

Visit the Bacc for the Future's website for a [template letter](#) that you can adapt to send directly to Damian Hinds.

4. Last month **Charanga** surveyed users of [Musical School](#) – Primary Music Magazine's '[Best Curriculum Scheme](#)'. Teachers' feedback will be used to develop the resource, but our initial findings will make for

interesting reading sector-wide. Praised by specialist music teachers and non-musicians alike, it's clear that the curriculum resource is opening up inclusive, progressive and life-enhancing opportunities for children. We're giving teachers the confidence they need to teach music, while supporting student creativity and learning. More than 600 teachers have completed our questionnaire so far. We'll publish the results on our website in May.

5. **Music Mark** is wrapping up its membership consultation on the Model Music Curriculum. As well as holding two sessions with members in Northampton and Gateshead, Music Mark also hosted an online members-only forum. A survey of over 5000 Music Mark School Members closes today. [Read More](#). Music Mark has published its second edition of [Y ME? because it's Your Music Education](#). Y ME? is written by young people for young people, and offers peer to peer support for those pursuing their music education. Please help us share widely with your networks of children and young people. Know someone who would be keen to contribute? [Let us know!](#)

This Summer Term, we are invite you to develop your potential and that of your team's. Explore what it means to support [Staff Wellbeing](#) in our afternoon training session June 18th.

6. **Sound Sense** has been working with the The Child Protection Company, putting together an online training package tailored specifically for community musicians. By combining two courses; [Safeguarding in Music Education](#) and [Introduction to Adult/Child Protection](#), community musicians will be covered for all eventualities whilst working with vulnerable people in a range of settings and ages. Each course takes about two hours to complete and once completed you will be emailed with a certificate valid for two years.

7. **EVERYONE'S INVITED TO NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2019! 3rd - 6th July 2019 #MFYNational** A feast of live music! Hear performances from the very best jazz, brass, classical, folk, choral and contemporary young musicians. Open to the public, every July around 10,000 of the UK's brightest young musicians perform at world class venues and city-centre locations across Birmingham as part of the annual **Music for Youth National Festival**. Come and explore the National Festival by purchasing a day ticket, giving you entry to Symphony Hall, Town Hall and the CBSO Centre for one day. Or make the most of everything on offer at the festival by taking advantage of our multi-day festival passes. You can view the full schedule for the National Festival [here](#).

8. **Sound Connections is recruiting!** We are looking for a new Programme Assistant to join our team. This post provides crucial support across all areas of our work and is often the first contact people have with the organisation. We are looking for an outstanding candidate that brings a good mix of energy and thoughtfulness, with excellent attention to detail and customer care. For full details of the job specification and how to apply please visit the Sound Connections website [here](#). The deadline for applications is **12pm on Friday 31 May** with interviews taking place on Tuesday 11 June.

9. On 7 May 2019 **the ISM** published its fourth report into the effects of Brexit on the music profession, titled [Impact of Brexit on Musicians](#). This unique research, conducted in February 2019, builds on previous surveys of musicians and reveals the concerns of more than 2,000 musicians in areas such as future work, mobility and visas, transportation of instruments and equipment, and health and social security. The report, supported by Lord Black of Brentwood, Baroness Neville-Rolfe and Lord Jay of Ewelme amongst many musicians from across the industry, demonstrates how much the music workforce depends on EU27/EEA countries for professional work, revealing a profession who are deeply concerned about the future as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

10. **English Folk Dance and Song Society** Registration is now open for the National Youth Folk Ensemble Free Sampler Days for young people. These will visit Wolverhampton, Cambridge, Southampton, Liskeard, London, Derby, Durham and Leeds over May/June half-term.

Explore English folk music, learn from inspiring tutors and play with other young musicians from your region. Take part in a day of creative folk music workshops and, if you want to, audition for the 2019–20 National Youth Folk Ensemble.

Each Sampler Day features music workshops, a Q&A with Ensemble staff and an optional short audition, if you wish to apply for the National Youth Folk Ensemble.

More information can be found [here](#).

11. On Tuesday 14th March, the Creative Education and Careers Working Group met at the Building Centre to discuss Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) for the creative industries, the introduction of T-Levels and the Creative Careers Programme. A summary of the discussion can be found [here](#); and the T-Levels presentation [here](#).

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. **ENGLAND: 29 April – Oral Questions: Jeremy Lefroy** Across the House this afternoon, colleagues have mentioned the importance to a broad-based curriculum of *music*, drama, sport, public speaking, outdoor pursuits and many other things. I am delighted to hear that Ofsted will need to look at this, but does he agree that it is vital that these activities should be offered by all schools in all areas, not just by the schools in which parents and others can provide contributions to ensure that these activities happen?

Nick Gibb I completely agree with my hon. Friend. All the areas that he has cited are vital for children in schools. Art and *music* are compulsory in the national curriculum up to age 14, and the Government have provided almost £500 million between 2016 and 2018 for arts *education* programmes. As he pointed out, Ofsted's proposed framework increases the emphasis on schools' provision of a broad curriculum, and inspectors will also expect to see rich extracurricular activities for pupils.

2. **ENGLAND:** Lots of discussion on the importance of music and the arts in early years education in a 29 April Oral Questions session <http://bit.ly/2LxBwzk>

3. **ENGLAND:** Oral questions to the DCMS on 11 April about music education and working with the DfE <http://bit.ly/2Luaetu>

Other News of interest

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1. **Sound Diplomacy**, a London-based music strategy consultancy, has released a 13-point manual illustrating how investing in music can lead to economic, social and cultural development in cities. [‘The Music Cities Manual’](#) sets out 13 steps for city councils or civic leaders to increase economic growth through music.
2. Arts and culture has overtaken agriculture in terms of its contribution to the UK economy, according to research from [Arts Council England](#), whose chair is warning that continuing cuts threaten further growth. The Guardian [reports](#) on Sir Nicholas Serota’s speech as ACE published a study quantifying the contribution of arts and culture to the UK’s GDP. It showed that the sector added £10.8bn to the economy at the last count in 2016, £390m more than the previous year, more than the agricultural sector.
3. University degree courses in arts subjects are among the least ethnically diverse in the country, new research [by AP reveals](#). In 2017/18 undergraduate arts degree courses saw an 86% enrolment by students classified as white, placing arts degrees 15th out of 19 subject categories. This was down from 87.2% four years earlier, in 2014/15.
4. On Sunday, April 14, 2019, one hundred young members of the [UK’s National Orchestra for All](#) (NOFA) took to the stage of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for their 2018-2019 season finale concert. As ever, the young musicians of this unique, mixed ability orchestra came from all over the UK; as ever, they brought the audience to its feet. And once again, they delivered a world premiere, this time An Orchestra of Overheard Conversations—which they also co-composed. NOFA’s musicians, aged 11-18, are not auditioned; rather, they are nominated for commitment and dedication to music making in the face of challenges in their lives that make access to traditional ensembles and orchestras extremely complex. On Sunday, they proved once again the extent to which young musicians with complex lives can rise to a challenge and have a remarkable impact.

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.