



Music Education Council Member News 2019 Issue Four

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.

MEC News

1. Message from MEC Chair, Fiona Pendreigh

Our website page declares:

'The Music Education Council (MEC) acts as a medium for bringing together in a working relationship those organisations and institutions in the United Kingdom involved in music education and music education training, thereby creating a common meeting ground ...'

We have representatives from Wales, and Scotland on our Forum as well as in our membership. And we have been working hard to build relationships with colleagues in Northern Ireland. I would like to encourage a broader representation within our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Task and Finish Groups (TFGs).

Following successful on-going meetings with Wales and Scotland last year, I am taking MEC on Tour to Northern Ireland in mid-June. Meetings are planned in Derry, Omagh, Belfast and Newry with a view to building up MEC membership.

In Wales, MEC continues to work closely with CAGAC to facilitate meetings and discussions across the country and with Welsh Parliament, and last week I was interviewed as part of their latest consultation.

I am on the Scottish Music Education Partnership Group and have been invited to attend the SAME conference in September.

My most recent trip, taking MEC beyond the United Kingdom, was to Malmö for the EAS and ISME European regional conference. Entitled 'The school I'd like', it included among its delegates several MEC members delivering sessions. We intend to pick up on some of the key messages and see how we can make them happen across the United Kingdom – see the ISME section of this newsletter.

2. MEC Seminar – 11th July [Booking Now Open](#)

Music Education – Priorities for the Sector

Sing Up – Bloomsbury House 74-77 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DA

12.30 for Lunch and Registration.

Session One

Updates from ACE – hear the latest Arts Council activity

Updates from DfE and DCMS (to be confirmed)

Session Two

Key National Priorities – a presentation of MEC's summary of the key issues and priorities drawn from the national reports that have been published in the last 12 months. Discuss how you / the sector / MEC can move those priorities forward

Session Three

Show and Tell / Ask – Have you published research findings recently; or are you about to soon? Use this opportunity to air your findings – share them with colleagues across the sector and seek opinions and / or help in moving things forward.

If you have something you want to share in session 3 you will need to be able to produce an Executive Summary / one side of key points by no later than 5 July. Trustees reserve the right to decide who will get a slot if there are lots of requests. You will have 5 minutes to present and 5/10 minutes question time on the day.

Send details of what you want to present to admin@mec.org.uk by no later than 21 June

3. **HOLD THE DATE** – MEC's Autumn Seminar will take place on **30 October 2019**. *If any member has premises that can host a seminar for about 50 – 60 delegates on that date, please contact admin@mec.org.uk*

4. **Trustee Elections**. Voting is open for the position of **MEC Chair Elect**. Two nominations were received – Phil Castang and Richard Jones – and their biographies and vision statements can be read [here](#). Please have a read and then head over [here](#) to cast your vote.

If you are the representative of a MEC Corporate member please be aware that your organisation must cast only one vote. Individual members are entitled to vote too.

Closing date is 19th June at 5pm

The successful candidate will take up his position at the 2019 AGM – this will take place during the MEC Seminar on 11th July at the Sing Up Event space.

In the meantime, one nomination was received for the position of **Treasurer** – Michelle James. Michelle therefore joins the Trustee Board on 11th July and will serve a 3 year term. Congratulations Michelle and welcome to the team!

5. **Forum Directly Elected Member Elections** Two of the longest serving Directly Elected Forum Members have to stand down each year. This year those were Emma Lines and Helen Mason. Both stood for re-election and are duly elected. They will, therefore, start a new term on the Forum from 11th July. Welcome back Emma and Helen!

International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. The 2020 World Conference website is now open at www.isme2020.fi. Details of the call for papers and call for performance groups are on the site. In Helsinki 2020 there will be new formats for presentations and new ways of assessing papers for inclusion in the conference.
2. **Were you at the EAS / ISME European Regional Conference in Malmo in May?** The conference theme – The School I'd Like – was inspiring and many of the presentations were thought provoking. Did you bring any practical ideas away with you on how some of the ideas could translate to the UK? *Share your thoughts and any suggestions for action with MEC colleagues* – e-mail admin@mec.org.uk by 15th July.

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. **Making Music**

It's nearly here – oh yes, it's [Make Music Day 2019, on Friday 21 June](#). Please do encourage your networks to create or register an event and to attend or take part in events already planned and on the [map](#).

In terms of music education, Making Music is calling for you all to save the date for Thursday 26 September, 12.30-18.30, in London (venue tbc), for a Forum on Adult Music Learning. Four sessions will address the challenges and opportunities involved with drawing more and new adults into active participation in music and offering development to those already involved.

This event is aimed at those involved in adult music learning or who provide resources useful for adults starting or progressing on their journey into leisure-time music-making.

If you are interested in presenting or being involved in a panel for one of the sessions, or showcasing your resources, please contact barbara@makingmusic.org.uk and meanwhile please save the date!

2. **Applications for Sound and Music's Listen Imagine Compose Masters in Teaching and Learning are now open!**

[Listen Imagine Compose](#) offers a **flexible, part-time and affordable** way of undertaking high quality professional development, leading to a masters qualification accredited by Birmingham City University. Relevant for music educators in secondary schools and colleges, the course is taught by leading teacher trainers with input from professional composers and musicians. Sessions are delivered on Sundays in Birmingham, with additional support including Skype tutorials and full access to the university's digital library.

For those looking to find out more, our [annual Away Day](#) (25th June) offers a similar chance to engage with peers, practitioners and practical approaches to classroom composing - **it's also free!** *The best CPD I've ever had in terms of catering for my needs as a teacher and a musician (Sarah Henton, Head of Music, Heart of England School)*

[Find out about Listen Imagine Compose CPD>>](#)

3. **The Teaching Musician PG Cert, PG Dip & MA at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**

The Teaching Musician is a flexible and vocational programme designed for experienced music educators. It offers a high quality professional development opportunity, leading to a suite of postgraduate qualifications, whilst being flexible to fit around your working life.

From instrumental / vocal teachers to ensemble leaders, amateurs and community musicians, The Teaching Musician provides opportunities to reflect and engage with current theory and research in music education. Led by expert practitioners, learning takes place through face-to-face training held during school holidays, online discussion forums, 1-1 supervision and a work placement.

Applications for the next cohort starting February 2020 will open on Thu 18 July via UCAS Conservatoires and close 30 Nov 2019. Student finance support available for full MA.

To find out more, visit www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/theteachingmusician, email admissions@trinitylaban.ac.uk or call 020 8305 3883

4. **Orchestras for All welcomes Susanna Eastburn MBE as new Chair of Trustees**

Orchestras for All (OFA), the innovative music charity which gives 11-18 year olds with complex lives the opportunity to access the life-changing experience of ensemble music-making, has today announced Susanna Eastburn MBE as its new Chair of Trustees.

Susanna is Chief Executive of Sound and Music, the national organisation for new music in the UK, a post she took up in 2012 following a series of senior roles in the arts, including Director, Music at Arts Council England from 2008-2012. In 2018 she was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for Services to Music.

Susanna commented: "It is hugely exciting to become Chair of Orchestras for All. The organisation's mission is one that I care deeply about. Creating music with your peers and having the highest quality musical leadership can be life-changing, but too many young people are prevented from accessing this opportunity due to their circumstances. [Founder and Artistic Director Marianna Hay]'s vision in creating Orchestras for All directly addresses that need, and as the organisation heads towards its 10th anniversary it now plays a unique and vital role in the UK. I am greatly looking forward to working with the fantastic team and Board in taking the organisation's work forward into its next chapter."

5. **SAME, the Scottish Association for Music Education** announces its 23rd annual conference, 5th and 6th September 2019 Stirling University.

28 sessions on offer, four hour-long workshops each day with opportunities across all sectors - Early Years, Primary, Secondary, ASN, Instrumental, Music Technology, Community Music.

See the brochure at www.same.org.uk or use this link

Brochure – http://same.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SAME_Conference_23_brochure_2019.pdf

6. For the tenth year running, schools all over the world joined together to celebrate the annual [Sing Up Day](#) event. On 19 March 2019, over 64.5k singers in more than 300 events across 30 countries and 10 time zones took part.

Singers of all ages and abilities came together to form choirs in schools and community groups that participated in special activities in recognition of the important place singing has at the heart of students' education and development.

The 2019 Sing Up Day anthem, *One moment, one people* by Beccy Owen, encouraged participants to share a message of positive action and to unify all who sing it.

105 videos, including videos from schools in 18 countries outside the UK, have been put together in a very special compilation video that you can [watch here](#)

7. **Find Your Way 2019-20**

Applications are now open for Find Your Way, the **ABO's** annual programme of sector-specific mentoring, coaching and placements for senior and emerging managers in ABO member organisations.

Designed to utilise the existing resources, artistic skills and expertise of the ABO and its members, Find Your Way offers emerging leaders the opportunity to discover their long-term potential. The 9-month programme, starting in October 2019, offers professional development based around a tailored Individual Development Plan co-developed with an experienced coach.

The ABO is looking for 6 participants who have ambitions for leadership in the orchestral/classical music sector. And in a new partnership with the ABO, Help Musicians UK are supporting applications from underrepresented groups at leadership level - female, black and minority ethnic, disabled and LGBT+ candidates.

For further details click [here](#). The deadline for applications is 5pm on 15 July 2019.

8. **Complete the Sound Connections workforce development survey!**

As the music education landscape changes, so does the professional development and learning needs of those working to support children and young people in music. At Sound Connections we are committed to evolving our offer to support our community, and we need your input to help shape this. We mean music education in its broadest sense: whether you teach in an educational institution, lead a local music-based group, use music as part of a youth or community project, are a music organisation manager, have a freelance portfolio career or are at the start of your journey of working with children/young people and music. We want to continue developing a community of practice that is inclusive of different approaches and practices and all voices are important. On completion of the survey you will be sent a discount code for the Sound Connections annual gathering, which will take place in February 2020. Survey closing date: **Friday 21st June 2019**

[Complete the survey>](#)

9. Bridget Whyte, CEO of **The UK Association of Music Education – Music Mark**, was invited in January to join the Department of Education's (DfE) Expert Panel for the development of a Model Music Curriculum. Music Mark prepared for and advertised a series of Member consultation opportunities to ensure Bridget Whyte could confidently represent the Membership in her role on the Expert Panel.

Music Mark undertook a series of consultations involving its members over a 3-week period between the 24th April and 13th May 2019. The consultation included three face-to-face facilitated discussions, an online forum and a survey. In total 230 people participated in the consultation – over 60% of which were classroom teachers. Some additional 1-2-1 conversations and discussion as

part of other meetings also took place and whilst there are no formal notes of these, the contributions reflected the general consensus of the more structured consultation. The [data collected](#) has provided both qualitative and quantitative data which it is hoped will support the Expert Panel in its ongoing work in drafting the non-statutory guidance.

10. **Trinity's latest Strings Syllabus puts Performance First**

Working on a new syllabus gives us a great opportunity to explore what string teachers and players need, survey the landscape, and look at the ways in which we, as an assessment board, can reflect and shape a changing musical environment. We know that teachers frequently work with groups of mixed-strings players, so we've included pieces from Trinity's *Take Your Bow* books for bowed strings. This open approach to students' learning across a number of settings is also reflected in the inclusion of fun pieces from books and pedagogies such as *Vamoosh*, *Stringsongs* and Suzuki. In addition, our new lists now showcase more female composers and contemporary works, as well as a wider range of genres such as films and musicals. For violin, we have published [new repertoire books](#) for Initial to Grade 8, with recordings of the pieces available to download or stream.

Download the syllabus at trinitycollege.com/strings

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. **Creativity and Wellbeing Week** - it's been and gone! Were any MEC members involved? Was anyone at the Creative Health Conference? Have we all read the [Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing Report?](#) Any views, issues, lessons to learn, action MEC should be considering? Contact us at admin@mec.org.uk And read the NHS blog on the subject [here](#). And Kings College launches its [Arts, Health and Wellbeing Hub](#).
2. [Arts Professional](#) reports that there has been no let-up in the decline in arts A level take-up, but possibly a slowing in the decline in some subjects at GCSE.
3. The independent panel, led by Philip Augar, published its findings and recommendations for the Government's review of [post-18 education and funding](#) in England on 30 May. See the Creative Industries Federation response to the review [here](#). And read an [encouraging speech](#) by Science Minister Chris Skidmore shortly after the review report was published, in which he hails the importance of humanities and the arts.
4. House of Lords Debate 16 May on [Mental Health of Children and Young Adults](#) highlighted the importance of arts and creativity and mentioned social prescribing.

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. The Guardian reported on a Birmingham City University / Royal College of Music / Royal Academy of Music report into a [postcode lottery for music A levels](#). Read the full report [here](#).
2. The MIA in its newsletter published [an article](#) written by Scott Caizley, a PhD researcher at Kings College London, looks at the experiences of low-income state school pupils at elite UK music conservatoires.
3. In launching its new [Informed Choices](#) web portal, the Russell Group, representing 24 leading universities, has announced that it is dispensing with facilitating subjects. Chief Executive Dr Tim Bradshaw said that this “will also help avoid the problem of misinterpretation. I sometimes hear it suggested that every student entering a Russell Group university must have studied at least one of these subjects, or indeed only them. We have always been clear that this is not the case. Our new approach makes this clearer still.
Universities, like many employers, value a rounded education. If, for example, a budding young scientist has met their course’s requirements by taking Biology and Maths A Levels, why shouldn’t they vary their experience with a language or an arts subject? Academic versatility can only be a good thing in a world where we will all be living and working longer, and where more of us are likely to change our careers and directions along the way, as I have.”
4. Fourteen community-led arts projects in England are each to receive £200,000 over the next three years, under a new £4m programme that will use the arts to support positive social change. The [Creative Civic Change](#) programme was launched in response to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation’s [ongoing inquiry](#) into the civic role of arts organisations.
The programme is funding communities with an existing track record of using the arts and creativity to address social need in their local area.
5. A campaign to promote the inclusion of the arts in education is being developed [by Equity](#) to prevent the industry becoming “a playground for the rich”.
6. PM Hopeful Matt Hancock has been reported as saying: “There’s been a focus on rigour which has been important but not on flexibility and preparing kids for the future jobs that are coming down the tracks.
“Not just the technology, it’s about the arts, the creativity. The jobs that the robots will do will be the straight-line thinking ones. The jobs that humans will do will be based on creativity and compassion. So schools need to prepare kids for caring and creativity as much as for rote and rigour.”

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.