



## Music Education Council Member News 2019 Issue Five

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 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. MEC Update, Fiona Pendreigh

We were saddened by Richard Hallam's decision not to take up the position of Past Chair due to personal circumstances. Richard has dedicated his life to music education and more recently has taken MEC forward to a position where it can truly say it is representative of music education across the UK. I thank him sincerely for all his hard and selfless work and wish him and Sue all the very best for the future.

I also extend my thanks to Lincoln Abbotts and Bridget Whyte who have served as Trustees and worked hard alongside Richard to bring MEC to where it is now.

This is my first opportunity to welcome, and introduce to you, the new MEC Trustee Board. Following elections in June, Phil Castang was elected as Chair Elect and Michelle James became Treasurer. Philip Flood stays on as Secretary for a further year. To make up the Trustee Board to the required five Trustees, Richard Jones has been co-opted as Trustee to fill the gap left by Richard Hallam not filling the past Chair role.

Although we might appear to have been a bit quiet recently, a lot has been going on behind the scenes within the new Trustee Board and the Forum. As I said in the previous Member news, 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 ...'

A very successful Forum meeting in July considered the MEC mission and how it should be taken forward. Richard Jones reports later in this update.

Trustees are currently leading a piece of work to create clarity around MEC's brand purpose – both how we see ourselves internally and how we are perceived externally, our mandate – what we do,

why and for whom, and functions – how we achieve our objectives. Trustees will be updating the Forum early in the New Year and will share details with the full membership as soon as possible after that.

I held very rewarding meetings across Northern Ireland in mid-June and am looking forward to MEC working more closely with those colleagues. I also attended the Wales Music Partnership Forum where, amongst other things, there was an update regarding a Music Services Feasibility study and discussion around Lead Creative Schools / Creative Learning Through the Arts.

Richard Jones attended the Scottish Association for Music Education conference last month and represented MEC at the International Music Council meeting in Paris. See below his reports on these events.

2. **MEC Autumn Seminar** – you may have been holding 30<sup>th</sup> October in your diaries for the MEC Autumn Seminar. In view of the important work looking at the ongoing focus for MEC, Trustees decided to postpone this event and pick it up again in future. So, there you go, a free space in your diary courtesy of MEC. Watch this space for a new date, venue and Council refresh.

3. **Music Education Awards** – The Trustees feel that MEC needs to take stock of the awards and how best to take them forward so that they truly celebrate the best practice in music education across the UK. Forum members will be asked to take forward a Task and Finish Group to consider the Awards' future with a view to re-launching them for 2020. If you have any thoughts or comments about how the Awards have celebrated good practice in the past and how they should be taken forward then please e-mail us at [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk)

4. **MEC Forum meeting** Preceded by a meeting of the new Trustees the MEC Forum met on 17<sup>th</sup> July to consider a way forward for MEC. With much positivity members discussed how MEC could truly be the one voice for music education across the UK and really *add value* to the sector. This is no easy task as there are many campaigning reports, particularly in the sector in England, which share broadly the same message but delivered in different tones. MEC has to note these nuances yet has to find a way to be an organisation which can galvanise and lead, become more fleet of foot to take an overview and become the “go to” organisation for grounded opinion. In order to do this MEC has commissioned an external review of our organisational strategy and then out of that a communications strategy will be developed.

The Trustees took the thoughts of the Forum members and have shared them with external critical friend Marc Jaffrey, who has agreed to work with the Trustees and Forum and to suggest a way forward for MEC, as well as a new communications strategy, by the end of this year.

5. Emma Lines (MEC Forum Member) attended the “**Play to Learn, Learn to Play**” day hosted by Scotland’s Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG).

In the morning there were discussions around the “What’s Going on Now?” findings and some discussion groups. The Full Report and Executive Summary can be found here <https://whatsgoingonnow.co.uk/download-pdfs/>. Emma was part of the Equalities discussion. The afternoon was a performance 1,200 pupils from across Scotland. This included schools from across Scotland including pupils from MEC Member Drake Music Scotland project at Craigmillarloch School in Inverclyde playing using [Figurenotes](#); The West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra

and Nicola Benedetti; and conducted by Sir James Macmillan! Some photos and videos can be found by searching the hashtag #PlaytoLearn on social media.

6. **MEC attends the Scottish Association for Music Education Conference.** Richard Jones reports on his time at Moving On - Scottish Association for Music Education Conference - September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Stirling University

You know you are in Scotland when you park your car and hear bagpipes. Bravo to the pipers of Lochgelly High School and to the two young violinists who had to perform to the delegates and Day 1 keynote speaker Nicola Benedetti. Whilst Nicola's main message was to announce the applications were now open to her new foundation (<https://www.nicolabenedetti.co.uk/foundation/>) she pointed out that the best advocacy is built on recent experience and the importance of collaborative working by those organisations that were campaigning for a better music offer for children and young people.

Over the two days of the conference there were close on 180 delegates in attendance and the atmosphere was overwhelmingly positive. This coupled with a trade exhibition of twenty plus stands made it an event well worth attending, and if it wasn't so soon in the English academic year I would recommend teachers from the other nations to attend.

The programme contained 27 sessions which were identical on days 1 and 2 meaning that delegates who attended both days could attend 8 sessions. The sessions catered for all phases of school education and there was an excellent mix of national presenters such as Charanga, TCL and Beat Goes On to presentations of best practice from Scottish teachers and a couple of Teachmeets While MEC cannot endorse any individual products or resources, I personally particularly enjoyed Camille Mason's SALI Box resource for instrumental teachers, and teachers looking for a new online recording resource should look at Soundtrap a resource created by Spotify. Ellen Martin gave an excellent session on whole class string teaching with some innovative ideas that I had not seen before and Vaughan Fleischfresser presented an excellent advocacy session.

Of course, given the state of the nation all is not rosy. Teacher recruitment is not easy in many curriculum subjects with rural schools finding it particularly difficult to recruit and music services are under financial pressure. However SAME is lobbying well with the Scottish Government and as I wrote earlier delegates were very, very positive about the future.

7. **MEC at the 6<sup>th</sup> IMC World Forum on Music** Thanks go to MIA and NAMM for enabling Richard Jones to represent MEC internationally by attending this event. From 28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October over 400 delegates from around the world attended the 6<sup>th</sup> IMC World Forum on Music in Paris entitled "Give me Five! The 5 Music Rights in Action", organised by the International Music Council which also celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and is an organisation of which we are probably unaware. The event caused me to think how privileged we are in the UK and despite all the concerns we have for the status of music in the curriculum, teacher training and recruitment, funding and access, quality of provision, impact of the NPME etc., many of us have little or no appreciation about the status of music in countries of conflict and are stuck in our little moany bubbles!

So check out Arn Chorn-Pond ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Crv9Bre\\_T2g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Crv9Bre_T2g)) who grew up in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge regime, was sent to a child labour camp and forced to compose and perform propaganda music for his captors and is now back in his homeland once more allowing Cambodian Opera to flourish.

Follow that by Dr Ahmad Sarmast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqi3JpHKwXU>) working in Afghanistan, re-establishing a musical culture and one which also gives opportunities to girls. Check out Ramy Essam, best known for his appearances in Tahrir Square in Cairo during the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, now in exile and facing self-censorship because members of his band and his lyricist have been imprisoned as a way of getting at him. Finally visit [www.safemuse.org](http://www.safemuse.org) an organisation which offers persecuted artists and artists at risk a safe place to stay and work with freedom of artistic expression.

In Colombia Music supports a national plan to create better citizenship and over 1000 music schools have been created (<https://www.fundacionbatuta.org/>)

<https://www.singingwells.org/> A great resource for East African music clips and video

“I feel like a fighter rather than an artist. I want to be a musician with all of the five rights”. (Farzane Zamen ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farzane\\_Zamen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farzane_Zamen)))

Go to the IMF website and read the 5 Music Rights (<http://www.imc-cim.org/about-imc-separator/five-music-rights.html>) and Number 3 especially and then think of how privileged you are to work without fear of repression, in a country where culture is allowed to thrive and maybe look outside of the straight jacket of your curriculum and your method book and bring a wider sphere of music to your students and help them understand the power of music.

Some short thoughts and actions

- “Give us instruments not guns” Arn Chorn-Pond
- Advocacy – Who or what is your circle of influence? How can you increase that? Who do you invite to your events?
- Music as a weapon of mass reconciliation
- 40,000 new tracks uploaded per day to Spotify, yet research show we listen to a narrower range of music than in the past.
- What are the responsibilities of musicians/artists in the free world to those in suppressed countries?

## International Society for Music Education (ISME) News

1. Submissions for ISME 2020 in Helsinki deadline is 8 October 2019 so if you’ve not submitted by now you’re probably too late. But still plenty of time to submit to one of the pre-conference seminars of the various interest-specific Commissions. Head on over to [www.isme2020.fi](http://www.isme2020.fi) to check those out and make your submission (make sure you are a paid up ISME member first!).

2. This is the time of year where ISME members get involved to shape the future of the Society and recognise the contribution of our leaders, past and present.

Nominations are now sought for:

- **President-Elect:** this is a six year commitment - two years as President-Elect, two as President and two as Past President. You do not have to have been a Board member or held any other office with ISME in order to stand for this role.
- **Members at Large:** ISME has a Board of 12 who are elected each biennium in the lead up to the General Assembly, which is usually held at the World Conference. Yes, there is a significant time commitment to undertake the role, but there are also opportunities to network, learn, share and grow. Have you considered offering service to your profession? Why not nominate for the Board?

- **Honorary Life Member:** who should be honoured at next year's General Assembly for their long standing and significant contribution to music education and ISME? You tell us. Nominate someone.

To make a nomination you must be a current ISME member. For full information about who can be nominated and how to nominate go to the Member Information Repository in the ISME [website](#). You must log in to view this page.

Included there are links to the pages in the ISME policy manual, so you can see the process for nominations, review, etc.

## MEC Member News

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1. **Drake Music Scotland wins Scottish Charity of the Year 2019** Drake Music Scotland was delighted to accept the prestigious Scottish Charity of the Year Award at a ceremony hosted by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, attended by over 500 people from the charity sector in Scotland. The award was given in recognition of the work Drake Music Scotland does enabling disabled people to play music, using a variety of digital musical instruments, specialised technologies and the easy-to-learn Figurenotes notation system. The past year has seen them going from strength to strength with a trip to Singapore by their Digital Orchestra – the world's first youth orchestra of disabled people. They played to 10,000 people across the three nights of the international True Colours disability arts festival, returning home triumphantly to perform again at the organisation's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh in May 2018 with Aidan O'Rourke of well-known Scottish folk supergroup LAU and many other highly talented disabled musicians.

2. **Charanga's Musical School survey** Close to 1,000 teachers (music specialists and non-musicians) shared their experiences of using Charanga's primary music resource with us in April:

- 93% reported improvements in their performance (the quality of their music teaching & subject knowledge) and well-being (workload, confidence & enjoyment).
- 97% reported an increase in pupil attainment, engagement & musical activity.

48% of English primary schools now use Musical School to enrich their music teaching. [More here](#)

3. **Supporting music education in Denmark** Charanga recently announced an inter-institutional partnership in Denmark. It was marked with the launch of [danmark.charanga.com](http://danmark.charanga.com), a digital platform giving teachers, schools or an entire Kommune access to bespoke teaching materials in Danish. The platform includes a new course designed to help practitioners teach the foundations of musical understanding to children aged 7–9. Read more [here](#).

4. National music education charity **Orchestras for All** (OFA) has announced details of its 2019-2020 Modulo Programme. The programme – [more information here](#) – supports secondary school music teachers and community music leaders to set up and develop a small ensemble (a 'Modulo')

of between 4 and 10 young people in their school or community. The young players can be of any instrument and of any skill level or experience, and the programme supports 35 schools and community groups each year across London, the West Midlands, North West of England and Yorkshire.

Once a teacher or music leader has registered on the programme they are provided with all the music and rehearsal resources (including specially created musical arrangements) required to get a Modulo ensemble up and running. Each Modulo attends one regional and one national Modulo Meet, taking place in iconic venues across the country – including the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Each school also hosts an in-school masterclass from one of our artistic partners: BBC Philharmonic, City of London Sinfonia and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

5. **Training the Community Musician** 17 February 2020 - 18 February 2020 **Sound Sense** invites you to take part in the second Training the Community Musician Symposium, bringing together practitioners who teach Community Music in formal, informal and non-formal sectors. Following on from feedback from Training the Community Musician symposium 2019, this second symposium will delve into and explore three of the themes that came out of the open space discussions of the previous symposium. The symposium will combine using Open Space facilitation with panel discussions and provocations. [More information here.](#)

6. Ground-breaking research from **Sound and Music**, the UK's national organisation for new music, has shed light on the significant barriers faced by young people attempting to develop their skills in creating and composing their own music, as well as the limited support offered to music educators and the lack of value placed on this area by policy makers. Over 550 educators from across the UK completed a survey from which these findings are drawn. Respondents were nearly unanimous in agreeing that creating and composing music should be a central element of music education and that it has a positive impact on young people's identity and wellbeing. However, the overwhelming majority also agreed that there were insufficient opportunities for young people to create and compose their own music, and that they face a number of significant barriers. Deeper analysis of the findings also reveals that there are serious structural deficiencies in how young people are taught to create their own music, which point clearly and compellingly to the need for changes in perceptions, provision, policy and practice. The report also offers 21 key recommendations for the sector to begin to address these urgent issues. [Download the full report here](#)

7. **Sing Up Day Special:** Collaboration with Trinity College London. Sing Up Day is the one day of the year where children from all over the world come together to celebrate the joys of singing. This year, Sing Up has partnered with Trinity College London to give schools the opportunity to take part in the [Arts Award Discover](#) at a discounted price. This is an exclusive offer that marks the beginning of the unique partnership between these two organisations. Last year, Sing Up Day was celebrated by thousands of children from more than 450 schools and singing groups, and spanning 30 countries from around the world; more young voices than ever before. For more information and to get the latest updates on Sing Up Day 2020, visit [www.singup.org/singupday](http://www.singup.org/singupday)

8. Summer may be over, but the **Music for Youth** calendar is heating up! [Regional Festival](#) events for 2020 are now open for registration, and the [MFY Proms](#) are just round the corner! Have you taken part in Music for Youth events over the past 50 years? Share your photos and stories with Music for Youth as it approaches its [50th Birthday](#) next year!

9. **NYO Inspire** is a game changing inclusion and access programme which provides free opportunities to Grade 6-8 plus teenage musicians to develop their orchestral playing. At the heart of the programme is the power of peer inspiration and learning; we believe teenagers can gain so much from open exchange and sharing with fellow teenage musicians.

The objective is to offer every dedicated teenage musician the chance to have a breakthrough experience through NYO Inspire, both as musicians and audience members. Within this we have a special focus on supporting and empowering musicians underrepresented in NYO and the professional orchestra sector.

Through in-depth workshops, rehearsals, and public performances, NYO Inspire events offer the opportunity to develop ensemble playing skills, meet enthusiastic musicians from across the country, and work closely with NYO Musicians and Tutors in a friendly and creative environment. If you are, or you know, a committed teenage musician that needs access to further orchestral opportunities and play at Grade 6-8 plus (or equivalent), join us on an NYO Inspire project and experience transformative music-making. **Applications close 28<sup>th</sup> October.** [Details here.](#)

## 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. Needless to say both Houses have been somewhat pre-occupied recently so not much to report. Catch up [here](#) with the July Commons debate on Music Education in England.

2. Times Education Supplement reported that the DfE has postponed publication of the proposed Model Music Curriculum. See TES [report here](#).

## Other News of interest

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1. The creative industries is the UK's fastest-growing sector, employing more than 2 million people, worth £101.5 billion to the economy, and presenting incomparable opportunities to drive inclusive growth right across the UK.

However, while talent and creativity can be found everywhere, access to the money, markets and networks needed for success is not. We need to work together more closely in order to create the right environment to ensure that talented creative enterprises, cultural organisations, individuals and creators from all backgrounds and right across the UK have access to the support they need to thrive.

To this end, we are delighted to share that **Creative England and the Creative Industries Federation are joining forces**. We will be launching the united organisation, which will have a UK-wide reach, in



Spring 2020. In December, Caroline Norbury (Founder and Chief Executive, Creative England) will become Chief Executive, Rick Haythornthwaite (Chairman, Creative Industries Federation) will become its Chair, and Alan Bishop will commit to a new non-executive role. [Full information here.](#)

## 2. **Funding of up to £1,000 for education sector women available**

Women & Leadership International is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across the UK's education sector.

The campaign is providing women with grants of up to £1,000 to enable participation in one of two leadership development programs: Leading Edge (for junior and aspiring leaders and managers) and Executive Ready (for mid-level leaders and managers).

### **Expressions of Interest**

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October**: [www.womenandleadership.org/education](http://www.womenandleadership.org/education)

3. A new report, commissioned by the **Global Cultural Districts Network**, urges cultural districts to plan, deliver and evaluate their social impact more effectively. It finds that cultural districts in countries across the world are falling significantly short of the social impact they have the potential to achieve, a new study has found. [More information here.](#)

4. **National campaign Music for Dementia 2020 has announced the launch of the first ever Musical Map for Dementia.** The aim of the map is to provide people living with dementia with information on music-based events and services in their area. The campaign is calling on individual and organisations such as choirs, music groups and music therapists from across the country to submit their details for inclusion on the map. If you run any form of dementia-friendly music service or are aware of one in your local area please visit [www.musicfordementia2020.com](http://www.musicfordementia2020.com) and fill out the online form.

5. Meanwhile, an 8-week trial in an A&E department in a hospital in Fife has shown the positive effects of providing music playlists to patients with dementia. See a media report on the study [here.](#)

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](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk) and stating that you no longer wish to receive the news updates.