



MARCH 2021



MEC NEWS

Welcome to our March newsletter

Despite a few rainy days, things seem to be getting lighter. The sky is brighter, the days are longer... and my shoulders are feeling lighter too. As a sector, we are becoming more confident with our decisions and our direction of travel. We have clarity about the amazing impact we have to offer across society. We are proud of the impact music has on health and well-being and we are comfortable with sharing that expertise.

There is more flexibility with how we communicate and engage, we have shed the more traditional ways and are more collaborative in words and in action. We are fleet of foot – and it is making sense.

It is encouraging to note the breadth of individuals and organisations that are joining the Council. This gives us the energy to act strategically, tactically and practically for the whole of society.

Fiona

The Impact of Music on Health and Wellbeing Network

The Music Education Council seminar, 'The Impact of Music on Health and Wellbeing' welcomed almost 700 online attendees. The seminar set out to explore the potential of social prescribing, look at best practice across the music sector and arrive at a set of strategic aims to take forward through MEC's new 'Music, Health

and Wellbeing Network'. The seminar heard from John McMahon about Arts Council England's commitment to funding arts and health, and Sarah Paine, Midlands Lead at the National Academy for Social Prescribing, who spoke about Thriving Communities.

ABO, City of London Sinfonia and Orchestras Live, presented the findings of a new report, "Orchestras in Healthcare". The full report can be found at <https://abo.org.uk/news/2021/abo-city-of-london-sinfonia-orchestras-live-launch-new-report-orchestras-in-healthcare>

Barbara Eifler, CEO at **Making Music**, spoke about how important musical activity is to the health and wellbeing of amateur musicians around the country, particularly during the Covid-19 crisis.

Daisy Swift, Learning Director at **Wigmore Hall**, told the audience about key programmes, what constitutes best practice and why it's important for Wigmore Hall's learning programme to encompass Health and Wellbeing.

Natalie Ellis, Head of Arts at **Cambridge University Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust** shed light on how colleagues at the NHS trust understand the growing importance of the arts and health programme.

You can watch the seminar again by visiting <https://musiq.education/mec-seminar-february-2021/>



Join the Music Health and Wellbeing Network

The MEC 'Music, Health and Wellbeing Network' sets out to influence multi-sector understanding and interventions by:

- advising government, educators, wider-social sector decision-makers and citizens
- maintaining a focus on what 'quality and excellence' mean in music, health and wellbeing
- engaging in an international dialogue on effective practice
- positioning latest research and advocacy materials from the UK and around the world at the fingertips of those campaigning for greater uptake in music learning and those making key decisions across sectors

If you would like to join the MEC's 'Music, Health and Wellbeing Network' please email members@mec.org.uk

MEC Reportage: Reasons to be Cheerful

Following the MEC 'Year of Sudden Impact' seminar, Richard Jones follows up with a series of filmed interviews on why the music education sector can be optimistic about the future.

EFDSS

Richard Jones talks to Sarah Jones, Programme Manager: National Youth Folk Ensemble at the English Folk Dance and Song Society, about organising two online courses, working online with disabled young people, the Arts Award and the health and wellbeing benefits of folk music and dance.

Orchestras Live

Richard Jones talks to Stuart Bruce, Senior Creative Producer at Orchestras Live about their Share Sound and Destinies Projects, working with many partners across the country including large shire music hubs in rural areas, and the health and wellbeing benefits of the work produced by his organisation.

Devon R2BC

Richard Jones talks to Lewis Gibbs, Head of Babcock LDP Music, Hub Lead for Devon & Torbay about how the Music Hub in Devon is structured, how the commissioning process works, how schools have taken up the Hub's digital offer in the last 12 months, the isolation of music teachers and schools and how they are responding to online CPD.

[Watch All The Talks Online Here](#)



News from MEC members and friends

The National Academy for Social Prescribing is seeking new Trustees who will bring a wealth of skills and experiences to complement the existing board. **Read here for more information.**

A huge blow for music and music education in London as the planned Centre for Music project in London is scrapped https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/18/city-of-london-scrap-plan-for-tate-modern-of-classical-music?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

English Folk Dance and Song Society workshop – Musician aged 12-18? Want to learn more about playing folk? Join a FREE online Youth Folk workshop in May half-term with the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Register your place here: <https://www.efdss.org/learning/young-people/national-youth-folk-ensemble/sampler-days>

Applications for the Sound and Music Summer School 2021 are closing on Tuesday 6th April at noon. The Sound and Music Summer School is a week-long residential that gives young people aged 14-18 the opportunity to explore and develop their musical creativity. Whether they're into songwriting or jazz, film music or classical, this is their chance to take things to the next level. This is a fantastic opportunity to be inspired by professional composers, musicians and peers; experience new areas of musical creation from composing for moving image to

writing for the voice and expand the limits of imagination! There are bursaries available so that all have an opportunity to take part.

Ofqual publish plans for awarding qualifications in 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-qualifications-will-be-awarded-in-2021>

The British Museum has opened applications for a new programme. **Where we are...** is a new UK-wide national programme for young people aged 16–24 that co-designs and co-delivers meaningful local projects in arts and culture. **Applications to be a key partner close 22nd March.**

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/young-people/where-we-are-programme>

Children’s catch up tsar emphasises the importance of time for sport and creative activities as part of pupil catch up plans. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55984097?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55984097?fbclid=IwAR1TI0D7MSMe3VxTFQTBQsfh4YVYsKsVpFFto5wqMhAm0nK76LpSub-X62w)

[fbclid=IwAR1TI0D7MSMe3VxTFQTBQsfh4YVYsKsVpFFto5wqMhAm0nK76LpSub-X62w](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55984097?fbclid=IwAR1TI0D7MSMe3VxTFQTBQsfh4YVYsKsVpFFto5wqMhAm0nK76LpSub-X62w)

Brass Band Conductors’ Association announces 2021 Virtual Conducting Competition

The Brass Band Conductor’s Association (BBCA) has announced that it will once again be holding its flagship Conducting Competition, this year as a virtual event, with judging of the 3 finalists taking place online on 27 June 2021. Applicants can enter the competition and upload their videos via the Brass Bands England website **Events page** which contains full details of the entry fee and **competition rules**.

The closing date is 3 May.

Music Education Policy Group – Annual Background Report 2020

Released in January this report reflects discussions held in October 2020, in which MEC took part, on how the COVID-19 Pandemic has influenced the music education sector and what this might mean for future music education policies. Six months on much has changed but the 19 recommendations are well worth considering. **MEP Group Annual Background Report 2020.pdf - Google Drive**

VISION 2030 for Finnish Music Education

All sectors of Finnish Music came together to create a new holistic vision for music education 2030. It is interesting to note how they have created the concept of “hobby music” which we in the UK might describe as school based and community ensembles.

Children in Finnish Schools are guaranteed one hour of curriculum time per week meaning that they are guaranteed a minimum of 300 hours tuition. Music tuition accounts for 3.5% of school hours. Those selected through a national test can access five hours of musical tuition per week if they so choose at low cost. A two-page resume of the vision can be seen here. **Visio 2030_Onepager_EN.pdf - Google Drive**

The Music Education Partnership Group welcomes the formation of the Scottish Instrumental Music Teachers Network. This new network has emerged out of the public health crisis of the past year when instrumental music teachers have shown remarkable resourcefulness. The network will enhance communication between teachers working on the ground, whether they are active in either the formal or non-formal areas, or both.

Sign up here <https://sway.office.com/MUs0yfrjCtqcMPTw?ref=email>

Membership Renewal

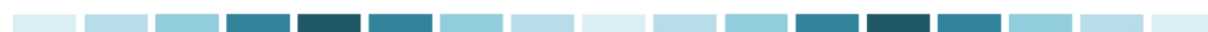
By remaining part of MEC you are helping to support music education and giving yourself the opportunity to update and widen your personal expertise and knowledge by hearing and learning from experts in the wider MEC community

Invoices have now been issued for membership of the Council for 2021. Two new features have been introduced for 2021:

- Membership will be for one year on a rolling basis, rather than for the calendar year. Don't let that tempt you to delay renewing though as you could miss out on important news and collaboration opportunities if your membership is not up to date.
- Membership also includes an opportunity to nominate another organisation or individual for free membership for one year. The 'Pay it forward' scheme enables MEC to widen the membership base to reflect the broadest, most diverse community of expertise.

Please make every effort to renew your membership by the end of March – or get in touch by then if there are issues with making payment.

[Visit Our New Membership Website](#)



CONTACT US

Call us: **01233 896827**

Email: **members@mec.org.uk**

Website: **www.mec.org.uk**

Membership Website: **mec.whitefuse.net**

Twitter: **@mectweets**

Facebook: **@MusicEducationCouncil**

Music Education Council, c/o Duet Group, Bank House, 2A Bank Street,
Ashford, Kent, TN23 1BX

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Remember:

- 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 admin@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.

The Music Education Council draws its membership from across the entire music education and music industry sectors. Through its corporate members MEC represents tens of thousands of music educators across the UK. This gives it a unique picture of music education and is why Music Education Council is the umbrella body for all UK organisations connected with music education.

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