



SPRING 2021



MEC NEWS

MEC Chair's message

Across the many organisations and individuals within the Music Education Council we have been focussing on recovery in our sector and beyond. We have emphasised the benefit of music as part of this process and we have seen the creation of collaborative policies and documents that are helping us all look to the future.

This direction of travel has prompted our Health and Well-being Network. (see March MEC News for details)

The Music Education Council is UK-wide, and we regularly attend key meetings in all our nations. We connect with our colleagues in Europe and beyond, sharing exemplars through Music Education Policy Group, EAS (European Association for Music in Schools) and ISME (International Society for Music Education). Our membership represents our sector at the highest levels.

By participating in our Advisory Group you can feed intelligence in and help to shape the key issues for the Council to consider.

You may want to spark an interest, inspire people to think, to take a lead. At a more strategic level, you can offer your wisdom as a trustee, informing and inspiring our membership. We want to increase our trustee numbers so that we have a more representative group of people leading the Council.

These strands come into focus at our next Seminar Music Education: 'Ten Years On' a Strategic Review at 10am on Thursday 15th July. You will hear from our UK

nations, we will announce our new trustees at the AGM and we will welcome our new Chair, Phil Castang.

Fiona Pendreigh

May 2021

MEC Seminar: Music Education: ‘Ten Years On’ a Strategic Review

July 15th 10am-12pm

On the 25th of November 2011, ‘The Importance of Music: a national plan for music education’ was published as part of the 2010-2015 Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government. Darren Henley’s review into music education in England, which was published in February of the same year, set out a vision for music education calling for a national plan for music education in England and music education hubs as lead organisations in the delivery of music education. In Scotland, the 2019 report, **What’s Going on Now?** explores the current state of music education and highlights the widening gap between the “haves and have nots”.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, many constructive conversations were taking place across the sector exploring what a revised National Plan for Music Education 2.0 might look like. With an advanced stage strategic review in Northern Ireland currently on pause, also due to the pandemic, and a new plans taking shape in Wales, music education is seemingly in a state of flux. Ten years on, this seminar asks ‘**how well is music education strategy performing across the United Kingdom**’? and ‘**what next for music education**’?

Join colleagues from across the sector for a strategic review.

Speakers and panellists include,

- Chi-chi Nwanoku, OBE, Founder, Artistic & Executive Director, **Chineke! Orchestra**
- Hannah Fouracre, Director, Music Education, **Arts Council England**
- Matt Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, **National Foundation for Youth Music**
- Bridget Whyte, Chief Executive Officer, **Music Mark**
- John Wallace, Chair, **Music Education Partnership Group**, Scotland
- Sam Spence, CEO, **SLS 360**, Arts & Music Education Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Consultants

This event is **free for members** or **£6 for non-members**.

[Register to attend here →](#)

Save the Date:

Additional save the dates for your calendar. If you would like to contribute to these events please email admin@mec.org.uk

- Seminar: **Music and Social Justice** on Thursday 14th October
- Seminar: **Sustainability in Music Education** on Thursday 11th November

A special event to coincide with COP26 the UN climate change conference in Glasgow.

MEC Reminders

E-mails – check your JUNK MAIL! Unfortunately it seems that some members inboxes don't like the members@mec.org.uk address, or the mailing service we are now using. Please check your junk mail folders and mark MEC as a trusted sender – don't fall into the trap of missing important news.

Member Directory - If you are a MEC Member please join our **members directory**. Just log into our members website, go to **My Account** then Contact Details. You will then see the section at the bottom of the page to be hidden or appear in our directories, click on that section and a popup box will open so you can change your preferences.

Membership

Notification of membership renewal went out to all members in January.

The Music Education Council exists to ask the difficult questions. Your membership and active participation in MEC will help us set the agenda and influence the pace of change we need across all areas of music education.

If you have not yet renewed, please note that membership is now on a rolling basis – so if you join during May, your membership will run to May 2022. It is also possible for organisations to pay by monthly instalments – just contact us to ask for an arrangement.

[Go to our renewals page here →](#)



JOIN US...

Not currently a MEC Member? Sign up online now →

Pay it Forward

The membership fee for 2021 includes an opportunity to nominate another organisation or individual for a **free membership for one year**. This will enable us to widen the membership base to reflect a broader, more diverse community of expertise. Once you have joined MEC or renewed your membership we will email you a nominee form to forward on to your chosen organisation or individual. If you have not received the e-mail please contact members@mec.org.uk. If you have the nomination e-mail then please make use of it by **31st May 2021**. If you are a member and we don't hear from you then trustees will nominate a new member on your behalf.

Elections for the Board – open to renewing and new MEC members

A notice calling for nominations for Chair Elect, Honorary Secretary and New Trustees was sent out on 6th May. If you've received it, please act on it; if you've not received it, please check your junk box; if it's not in your inbox or junk mail then please contact members@mec.org.uk for a copy. Closing date is **3rd June 2021**.

Over the last 18 months the current MEC Trustee Board has been working hard to refresh and re-position MEC into the UK umbrella organisation for music education in its broadest sense. MEC aims to gather together the most diverse and knowledgeable voices in the UK, promoting the educational, health and social value of music. At its heart, MEC is a UK Council that, through its members, acts as expert adviser, champion of standards in learning and enabler of change. MEC aims to help create a society where everyone benefits from the personal, social, health and educational value of music.

Going forward MEC is keen to have representation on its Board from a broad, diverse and representative range of people with diverse interests and expertise. Now is the perfect time to join the Trustee Board of MEC to help take this exciting new vision and programme of work forward.

Advisory Group

An invitation was sent on 12 April to former members of the MEC Forum to become founder members of the new Advisory Group. If you are a past member of the

Forum and have not yet responded, please do so by no later than **20th May 2021**.

For all other MEC members, this new Advisory Group has been created to help us to be more inclusive of voices from the wider music education sector and sectors connected to our work. The Advisory Group will operate on a self-nomination basis and will provide Trustees with wide-ranging expertise and advice from across the full MEC membership.

The Advisory Group can suggest discussion topics for each meeting as well as for ongoing discussion groups and working groups for specific tasks. It will be an opportunity for all to reflect on what is happening in the sector, identify key issues, seek future solutions and inform policy makers.

Meetings will take place either virtually or in person quarterly or as required should the need to arise. In order to provide continuity, Advisory Group members are asked to commit in principle to serve a 2-year term.

If you wish to be considered for membership of the Advisory Group, **please visit [here](#)** for terms of reference and a self-nomination form. Please return the form by **31st May 2021** to admin@mec.org.uk.



News from MEC members and friends

Contribute to research into evaluation in community music with children and young people

Are you a community musician with experience of working with children and young people in the UK? MEC member Nell Farrally is looking for musicians at all career stages to take part in an online interview for her PhD research exploring evaluation practices in community music. More information and to express an interest in taking part: <http://bit.ly/34YXrqt>

ISME World Conference – 17 – 22 July 2022 in Brisbane. The theme is A Visible Voice

Call for submissions

All the information you need is [here](#) and it is strongly recommended that it be read carefully before submitting. There are so many new options that were created for Helsinki, but will be seen in action for the first time in Brisbane. The new options are designed to address delegate feedback in particular for more opportunities to network. They also add more variety to the program. Note: if you want your submission to be included in a Commission stream at the conference then you need to tag it when submitting otherwise it will be considered for 'run of program'.

Call for performance groups

Any ISME World Conference always includes live music and Brisbane will be no exception. The call for performance groups is [here](#) and again it is strongly recommended that it be read carefully before submitting.

Sound Connections are recruiting! Deputy Director (Maternity Cover)

Deputy Director part time maternity cover (0.6 contract/3 days per week, fixed term for 12 months)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Friday 28 May 2021

Sound Connections is a development organisation championing young people's music-making, with inclusivity and social justice at the heart. We facilitate Wired4Music, a network for creatives aged 16-25 powered by youth voice; we run a dynamic programme of professional development; and we lead ground-breaking research, advocacy and change programmes.

<https://www.sound-connections.org.uk/news/we-are-recruiting-deputy-director-maternity-cover>

Music & Drama Education Expo

Registration is now open for @MusicEdExpo (24 & 25 September!) #MDEE21 is Europe's largest conference and exhibition for music and drama education. See the full programme and register free here: <https://bit.ly/3y2Ye6r>

Government

We hope that members spotted the consultation on **recurrent FE funding** – which proposed a 50% cut in funding for music and the performing arts. It ended on 6 May and we know that many of you will have responded to the consultations. There is also a **petition** asking Gavin Williamson not to implement this cut.

Music, Health and Wellbeing

5 A Day Music – A Recovery Resource for Schools

We all have felt the effects of the pandemic – no more so than the children we teach. **5 A Day Music – A Recovery Resource for Schools** is for teachers and schools to help with the recovery for students. This helpful document guides teachers through how to re-integrate creativity into their classroom, supporting the wellbeing of their students (and possibly themselves!)

<https://bristolplaysmusic.org/teach/5-a-day-a-recovery-resource-for-schools/>

Music for Wellbeing

The Wellbeing diary is a part of a research project that uses a wellbeing evaluation model developed by Northumbria University researchers (ethics approved, ref. 23709) to encourage awareness of physical and emotional experience, sense of meaning and connection to others, mapping the feelings of your immediate experience. From Mozart to Marvin Gaye, and from Metallica to Mongolian voices, here you can listen to playlists to lead you from one state of mind and body to another in the way that you choose. The playlists are created to **calm you down, enliven you**, or offer self-care and self-management of your **mood and feelings**. There are also **videos** with music to offer support for breathing and exercise. **here** <https://www.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk/music-for-wellbeing/>

Open Spaces first Open Symposium - Music for Well Being

Wednesday, 2 June, 5.30pm-7pm

Connections through Music – with NHS England’s Lead for Trauma Informed Care, Dr Angela Kennedy and composer and aid worker Prof Nigel Osborne, MBE. Angela and Nigel will share stories, film, new technology (x-system) through experimentation, questions and conversations. Together with wellbeing researcher Paras Patel, they have worked on neurophysiological measures of human emotion in music (in particular HRV) and have collaborated in bringing together experiences of dealing with trauma in the health services and in the NGO sector respectively - something of particular importance during the pandemic. **Register for the session here.**



CONTACT US

Call us: **01233 896827**

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

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

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

Twitter: **@mectweets**

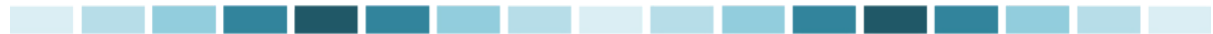
Facebook: **@MusicEducationCouncil**

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

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www.duetgroup.co.uk



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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