



DECEMBER 2020

MEC NEWS

The Music Education Council Seminar: The Year of Sudden Impact

We had a fantastic response to the MEC 'Year of Sudden Impact' seminar and would like to thank everyone who gave their time on a panel or attended a session. It's great to see colleagues across the music education sector picking up the threads and continuing the conversation at a local and regional level. Over the coming months MEC will be reviewing its membership structure so that it is more accessible and can support the sector to move towards a more equitable, diverse and inclusive ecosystem. Watch this space for details of how to join the People's Assembly for Music Education and the MEC Music, Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Network.

We hope you will want to be part of the Music Education Council and be a part of making these exciting developments happen.

MEC relies on the support of its membership to continue to lead on this important work. If you are a current member, thank you for all that you have been doing over the last year; membership renewal will be sent out over the next few weeks. If you are not a member yet, have a look at our website to find out more <https://mec.org.uk/>

Fiona Pendreigh, Chair, Music Education Council

[To view the seminar online click here.](#)
[And click here to view the "Reasons to be Cheerful"](#)

[interview with Sue Beckett and Richard Jones.](#)

Introducing: Duet Group and MEC partnership


The Music Education Council is committed to creating a society where everyone benefits from the personal, social and educational value of music. At its heart it is a UK Council that, through its members, acts as expert adviser, champion of standards in learning and enabler of change. These aims are shared by the Duet Group, which acts to advance education in the art of music for the benefit of the public. Duet is dedicated to supporting musicians through musical performance and composition opportunities, and, in particular, through the education of young musicians. The MEC is delighted to announce the support of the Duet Group. Through this new collaboration, Duet will provide in-kind support in the form of operational resources such as marketing and administrative assistance. This partnership will give the MEC a secure and sustainable foundation to deliver an annual programme of activity that is devised collaboratively by the Council and its members.

In addition, based around a set of extensive core skills materials created by The Duet Group, [MusIQ](#) has been developed in partnership with the Music Education Council. MusIQ is the definitive guide to free online Music Education resources for teachers, students and learners of all ages. If you have resources that you believe should be signposted from within MusIQ please e-mail details to musicresources@duetgroup.co.uk

Save the Date: Next Year's Events

We very much hope to see you in person in 2021. Here are some save the dates for your calendar. 11 February will be online. If you would like to contribute to these events please email admin@mec.org.uk

- Seminar: **Music, Wellbeing and Social Prescribing** on Thursday 11th February

- Seminar: **Youth MEC, curated by young musicians** on Thursday 15th July plus AGM
 - Seminar: **Music and Social Justice** on Thursday 14th October
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News from MEC members and friends

MEC Trustee Richard Jones has written a new blog highlighting the latest research from America on aerosol droplet incidence in music instruments. [An Hour Well Spent – Performing Arts Aerosol Study Preliminary Results 3](#)

Brass Band England's latest Rehearsal Guidance

Brass Band England's latest rehearsal guidance (developed in close discussion with DCMS) – pre-National Lockdown 2 and likely to be valid again once national lockdown restrictions are lifted. Under the current guidance, in order to run a Covid-secure rehearsal, bands must produce and follow a risk assessment to cover all aspects of the rehearsal process, from members' arrival until they leave, to ensure social distancing throughout and making sure 'mingling' does not occur throughout the group. [Example risk assessments are available from BBes advice and resources page here.](#)

The Music Education Partnership in Scotland has released this important report on online instrumental and vocal teaching during COVID-19 lockdown.

There is no doubt that, collectively, we are going through one of the greatest crises that we will ever experience. This research shows how music educators responded positively in the first five months of the

crisis and 'just got on with it'.

[View the report here](#)

[Go to the website here](#)

Youth Music has released three important reports this year, here's a recap.

- **A new generation ready to transform the music industries**

This report features the voices of 1,300 young people with plans to begin careers in the music industry. It showcases how, despite the overwhelming tenacity, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit in young people, current routes for them to move from education to employment are not fit for purpose. [Read more here.](#)

- **How COVID-19 has affected youth music-making**

This report brings together a range of data sources to analyse and reflect on how COVID-19 has affected youth music work in England.

[How COVID-19 has affected youth music work in England](#)

- **Reshape Music:** A report exploring the lived experience of Disabled musicians in education and beyond *sets out the significant barriers faced by Disabled musicians to access music education and music-making.*

[Reshape Music report on Disabled Musicians in education and beyond](#)

- **In addition to its important reports, Youth Music has made available funding for creative music businesses through the £2m Incubator Fund, [view the article here.](#)**

Making Music's Adopt a Music Creator 2020/21 project pairs leisure-time music groups with emerging music creators to create brand new music.

[Adopt a Music Creator](#)

Benedetti Foundation Virtual Sessions

The Virtual Sessions are back! And this time we taking you on the first part of a trip around the world through the eyes of The Violin, [read more here](#).

Creative and Critical Projects in Classroom Music – Fifty Years of Sound and Silence’

The Institute for Lifecourse Development in partnership with Routledge is delighted to invite you to a free event to mark the launch of ‘**Creative and Critical Projects in Classroom Music – Fifty Years of Sound and Silence’** written by Chris Philpott (School of Education and ILD Centre for Thinking and Learning), John Finney (University of Cambridge) and Gary Spruce (Birmingham City University).

[See more about the book here](#).

Attendees at the event will be given a promotional code for 20% off the price of the book. The launch will take place on **Tuesday 1 December 2020, 5.30-6.30pm (GMT)**. The talk will be hosted on MS Teams and will last 45 minutes, followed by a 15 minute Q&A and discussion session.

[To register and book your free place please click here for the Eventbrite link.](#)

Charanga offerings

Yumu: Supporting Hybrid, Blended and Home Learning In light of further COVID restrictions and any potential deeper lockdown, teachers are turning to [Yumu](#) (the children's area of the Charanga platform) to support students’ music-making and learning at home, at school or anywhere else. Yumu currently supports 878,637 children.

The Adapted for COVID Scheme

If you haven’t already, do take a look at the [Adapted for COVID Scheme](#); complete with signed songs, replacement and additional activities if teachers have any concerns about teaching music safely. Seven more Units of Work were added to the Scheme recently.

Free Trials

For complimentary access to Charanga's platform, teachers need only click [here](#) to explore its model music curriculum, resources, instrument courses and creative apps for 30 days.

Policy

- 22 July Lords Debate on the Teaching of Arts online and under Covid restrictions. *The Earl of Clancarty: To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is planned for the teaching of arts and other creative subjects in schools (1) online, and (2) in classrooms, as the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted.* [Lords debate on the Teaching of Arts](#)
- 9 September Lords Debate on the Immigration Bill – scroll to just after 9pm for discussion on visas for musicians [Lords Debate on the Immigration and Social Security Co-Ordination Bill](#)
- Arts Council England and the National Academy for Social Prescribing have launched [a £1.4m fund](#) to support community activities that promote wellbeing. Closing date for applications 8 January 2021
- Northern Ireland Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín announced a new £2 million fund for community based culture, arts and heritage projects in response to Covid-19. The Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund will be distributed by the Community Foundation NI and will prioritise projects which support people with disabilities and those who are vulnerable. [Northern Ireland Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund](#)

News from ISME

The ISME 2020 Conference, scheduled to be held in Helsinki in August, went online – as did the various Special interest Group seminars. The online presence enabled many more people from around the world to experience the richness of an ISME conference than would have been able to attend in person. ISME

President Emily Akuno writes:

"I cannot help but marvel at the wonder that the human being is. One of the characteristics of humans is the ability to snap back, push on, re-energise and/or rebound. With many 2020 events postponed, cancelled or altered, I note with joy that a number of our ISME teams and partners are gearing up for activities in ways that are not only encouraging, but are a demonstration of the sheer strength of the human being's will to survive, to succeed and to regenerate."

Sessions from online events that were held as part of this summer's conference are now loaded to the [ISME YouTube channel](#), and more sessions are being loaded every week as each of the participating Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Commissions finish their events. Plus the confirmed 34th World Conference proceedings are now available to download at isme.org.

ISME has also launched a new SIG: Decolonising and Indigenising Music Education (DIME), coordinated by Clare Hall, Te Oti Rakena, David Johnson and Anita Prest. DIME's mission is to promote music education research, practice and partnerships for and with Indigenous communities. You can find [more information here](#).


AOB

Justine Simons OBE - Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries in London and the Chair of the World Cities Culture Forum writes in Harper's Bazaar on the importance of Culture in post-Covid recovery: <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/uk/culture/a34560761/why-culture-the-arts-crucial-uks-recovery-post-pandemic/>

As part of #HereForCulture, **DCMS** has brought together a bunch of cultural events and resources [available from home here](#).

New government guidance for singing has been released. **COVID-19: suggested principles of safer singing**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing>



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.

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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.

 [Forward](#)

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