



## MEC NEWS: WINTER 2021

# WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2021

We are fortunate to engage in two worlds that we are passionate about: music and education. Music soothes us and education gives us hope for the future. Both keep us grounded and 'human'. The Music Education Council trustees spent much of 2020 trying to tease out what we all need as a collaborative group beyond what we carry out in our day job or what our key passions might be.

We know that our membership is our strength; you, as members, are the ones that lobby, that attend key meetings and share reports. But we need a broader, more diverse inclusive community. So when you pay your subscription this year, we are asking you to nominate a person or organisation for free membership for the year. We would like a wider range of voices to be heard when we gather. See details below regarding our first seminar of 2021 and spread the word. So while we are all getting on with the day job and our passions, what does that leave for the Music Education Council? Informed by the membership, the Council can offer the space to think to explore, to muse and to future scope. This is what the Music Education Council can do for us.

Fiona Pendreigh, Chair, Music Education Council

**MEC Musings: The Long-term Impact of  
Lockdown**

Richard Jones explores the long-term impact of lockdown on schools. [MEC musing; Lockdown Impact on schools – Richard Jones Music Education Blog \(musicquestions.com\)](#)

**'If you have a piece that you would like considering for MEC Musings next time, we are particularly looking for contributions from the industry regarding lockdown impact.'**

## **MEC Seminar: The Impact of Music on Health and Wellbeing**

11 February 10am-12pm This event is free

With the recent launch of the '**National Academy for Social Prescribing**' and the '**Thriving Communities Fund**', new strategic partnerships are bringing together NHS England, Sport England, Natural England, the Office for Civil Society, the Money & Pensions Service and NHS Charities. Many arts and music organisations are also finding a place in this new collaborative ecosystem.

Although the idea that music can enhance the life experience supporting a general sense of wellbeing is not new, evidence of the beneficial effect of music on, for example, clinical care and mental health is now widely accepted. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has 3039 evidence papers covering everything from 'Music for Insomnia' to 'Using Prescribed Music to Enhance the Quality of Life for People with Dementia and Their Carer'.

'The Impact of Music on Health and Wellbeing' seminar looks at current best practice in 'Arts and Health' and explores how music can best support the advancement of social prescribing through promotion, collaboration and innovation.

Confirmed speakers include:

- John McMahon, Arts Council England, Lead for Arts and Health
- Daisy Swift, Head of Learning Wigmore Hall
- *Natalie ELLIS*, Head of Art of Cambridge University Hospitals, *NHS Foundation Trust*

- Barbara Eifler, Chief Executive, Making Music
- Fiona Harvey, Education and Youth Ensembles Consultant, Association of British Orchestras
- Sarah Derbyshire, Chief Executive, Orchestras Live
- Matthew Swann, Chief Executive, City of London Sinfonia

[Register to attend for free](#)

## Save the Date: This Year's Events

Additional save the dates for your calendar. If you would like to contribute to these events please email [admin@mec.org.uk](mailto:admin@mec.org.uk)

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

## News from MEC members and friends

### BBC Bitesize Resources

The BBC is to deliver the biggest education offer in its history. Find more information about this on [BBC Bitesize](#). As part of the wider offer, BBC Ten Pieces, BBC Young Composer and the BBC Orchestras and Choirs would like to support music and creative curriculum. The BBC offer a wealth of existing free content on the Ten Pieces website alongside some bespoke new home-learning resources to get stuck into this half-term.

### Reimagining our music classes for Zoom

Musicians everywhere are coming up with creative responses, structuring courses in new ways, and

devising thoughtful and compelling blends of performance issues, history, score study, watching videos, and listening to historical performances  
[Oxford University Press](#)

## **ISM Online Resources**

ISM has put together a page of online resources for primary, secondary and instrumental music learning, as well as other useful resources from our corporate members and partners. Many of these are free or discounted during the pandemic.

[Online learning resources](#)

## **ISM Report on its Music Teachers' survey published December 2020**

Among other things the survey showed that 68% of Primary teachers and 39% of secondary teachers reported that music provision is being reduced as a direct result of COVID-19. Singing, practical music making, extra-curricular activities and face-to-face instrumental lessons are all negatively affected. Music teachers' health and wellbeing are being negatively impacted as a result of changes in delivery of classroom and extra-curricular music and levels of support being received. [View the online PDF report here.](#)

## **Government news from December and January**

### **DFE Latest Guidance for Schools**

The DfE has published its latest guidance for schools: which confirms that schools can continue to engage peripatetic teachers during this period, including staff from music education hubs. [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK](#)

### **Cultural Recovery Fund**

The Cultural Recovery Fund is now open for applications and closes at midday on Tuesday 26

January. Funding is available to support cultural organisations as they transition back to a viable and sustainable operating model. [Cultural Recovery Fund grants programme](#)

### **Commons debate on the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on music education**

Andrew Lewer (Northampton South) leads a Commons debate on the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on music education. Michelle Donelan (Minister for Universities) concludes the debate for the Government saying “I hope that hon. Members present are left in no doubt that the Government’s commitment to music education is solid. I will end by once again thanking all of the teachers, those working in music hubs and the music education sector at large for their hard work throughout the past few months.” [Read more online here.](#)

### **Commons debate on Disabled Children: Accessible and Inclusive Education**

Dr Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow) leads a Commons debate on Disabled Children: Accessible and Inclusive Education. She highlights the importance of music as a key element in inclusive education and calls on the Minister to comment on ensuring that music is not omitted from any efforts to include children with disabilities going forward. [Read more online here.](#)

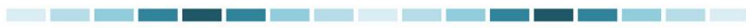
### **Lord Winston asks what provision will be made for music under Turing?**

Lords debate on the [Turing scheme](#) (which aims to replace the UK’s participation in Erasmus+) Lord Winston asked what provision will be made for music under Turing. [Read more online here.](#)

### **Ofqual issues a holding statement on the plans for examinations in 2021**

Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator, Ofqual issued a holding statement on the plans for examinations in 2021. He promises more definite news as soon as possible, but highlights the fact that the government has announced that schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams due to take place in January where it is right to do so. [Read more](#)

[online here.](#)



Remember:

- 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 [members@mec.org.uk](mailto:members@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.

## CONTACT US

**Email:** [members@mec.org.uk](mailto:members@mec.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.mec.org.uk](http://www.mec.org.uk)

**Twitter:** [@mectweets](https://twitter.com/mectweets)

**Facebook:** [@MusicEducationCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MusicEducationCouncil)

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**duetgroup**

[www.duetgroup.co.uk](http://www.duetgroup.co.uk)

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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