

#### Update from MEC Chair Phil Castang

As many of you will know, Fiona Pendreigh has left MEC for pastures new, and continues to be busy supporting the music education sector through all kinds of activities. MEC is immensely grateful to Fiona for all the years of dedicated service, and in particular for steering MEC through the challenging COVID storm.

In order to fill the vacancy left by Fiona's departure, MEC's Board members voted to co-opt Sharon Jagdev-Powell to serve the remaining term to July 2023. We are delighted to have Sharon on board.

Sharon is Deputy Head of Leicestershire Music, and a viola player. Her career in music education spans 25 years teaching secondary music in London and Nottingham, and she has also worked as the Project Manager for Musical Futures Nottingham.

Experienced in influencing and implementing change, Sharon is keen to improve outcomes in music education, and to drive change to enable access to music for all. She is an anti-racist music educator with a goal to decolonise music education. Sharon is an external advisor for Hal Leonard focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and she is passionate about empowering young people to enable them to connect and enrich their lives with music.

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#### MEC Seminar: The Importance of National Youth Music Organisations and Centres of Advanced Training

March 17th, 10am-12pm, online seminar

Free for MEC members, £10 associate members (Music Mark, ISM), £15 general admission

Join colleagues from across the sector for a strategic look at the role of National Youth Music Organisations (NYMOs) and Centres of Advanced Training (CATs). NYMOs and CATs were once regarded as talent filters for the industry pipeline, but much has changed in recent years. New organisations, a more expansive vision and a greater sense of purpose suggest it is time to restate the value of National Youth Music Organisation's and Centres of Advanced Training?

This seminar will explore how National Youth Music Organisation's and CATs are re-evaluating their role within the music education ecology. Moving from exclusivity to inclusivity, we will also look at how NYMOs and CATs are tackling inclusion.

Speakers include:

- **Orphy Robinson MBE, Musician, vice-chair NYJO and Ivors Academy Board Director**
- **Pamela McCormick, Founder/Director at United Development**
- **Sarah Alexander OBE, CEO and Artistic Director of National Youth Orchestra**
- **Darren Canmore, Ulster Youth Orchestra**
- **Matthew Wigley, Head of Young People's Programme, Sage Gateshead**
- **Rachel Elliott, Education Director, English Folk Dance and Song Society**
- **Ben Parry, Artistic Director, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain**

Sign up for the seminar

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#### Follow MEC on social media

Make sure you are following MEC across our social media channels, including our new Facebook and LinkedIn pages, as well as Twitter.

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#### Ofqual/SQA/CCEA update

Ofqual has published a subject-by-subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022. More information on GCSE, AS and A level Music and Music Technology is available from the exam boards.

The SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) has published Modifications and revision support for 2021-22.

The CCEA (Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment) in Northern Ireland has published a Summer 2022 Support Package.

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#### APPG for Music Education

The first session of the APPG for Music Education of 2022 took place on 1st March.

The meeting, organised by the ISM and chaired by The Earl of Clancarty, took place virtually. It was well attended by politicians and the music education sector, with just under 90 attendees in total.

Presentations were delivered by:

- **Georgina Burt, England Development Manager, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)**
- **Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive, Incorporated Society of Musicians**
- **Phil Castang, Director of Creative Learning & Engagement at Bristol Beacon and Chair of MEC**

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#### SEND/Additional Support Needs Research Study

Kelly-Jo Foster-Peters is working on a research study on SEND and Additional Support Needs music education partnerships. Originally this study only targeted Music Hubs in England, but has now opened up the research to local authorities in Scotland. The aim of the research is to transform future partnerships to improve quality and sustainability for the benefit of all.

- [England Hubs SEND study](#)
- [Scotland Local Authorities ASN survey](#)

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#### Connect: Resound Summary Report by NYMAZ

In their new Connect: Resound Summary Report, NYMAZ says that strategic funding and support for digital innovation is instrumental if the music education sector is to achieve a significant step-change in giving every child and young person the opportunity to make music.

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#### Call for proposals for publication in World Arts Education Week

World Arts Education Alliance (WAEA) has launched a call for proposals for a peer-reviewed book entitled 'Arts Education: A Global Affair'.

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#### Canadian Research Project finds Inequities in Music Education

The report, Everything is Connected: A Landscape of Music Education, was led by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada in partnership with other organizations, including MusiCounts, Music Canada, Canadian Music Educators Association, People for Education, and the Canadian Network for Arts and Learning.

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#### 10th anniversary of the London Music Fund

The London Music Fund (LMF), founded in 2011, celebrated its delayed 10-year anniversary at the Southbank Centre, London, in February. In attendance was the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, who spoke about the role music education has in the lives of young Londoners today.

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#### The Power of Music: An exploration of the evidence

The book 'The Power of Music: An exploration of the evidence' by Susan Hallam and Evangelos Himonides is now in the hard copy publishing phase with Open Press. When it comes out it will be available free. In the meantime, it is available on the Open Science Framework along with a summary and a set of key points. All of these resources are free.