



**THE  
MUSIC  
COMMISSION**

SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING MUSICAL PROGRESSION FOR ALL

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Overview

The Music Commission has been created to explore the factors behind sustaining and supporting musical progression for all, including barriers to continuing musical learning, assessing best practice in helping to sustain musical learning and identifying the right types of support for those who may wish to continue to learn music, but are currently prevented or hampered in doing so.

The purpose of the Music Commission is to make thought provoking contributions to the debate for improved musical learning, both arguing for its value and assisting decision makers to find solutions to what may appear to be complex or intractable problems; how to support people from all backgrounds, especially young people, to continue to learn music.

The activities of the Commission and its reports are intended as an exercise in public policy informed by rigorous, independent and analytical thinking. In the best traditions of intellectual discovery, the Music Commission is charged with carrying out independent analysis of this issue with the goal of making practical and realistic recommendations for policy makers, strategic bodies, funders and for music teachers and learners themselves about how to move it forward.

In addressing these issues, the Commission seeks to understand the routes into and through musical learning, in order that support needs can be addressed at different stages in an individual's journey through learning music. Whilst the principal focus of the Commission will be on musical learning in the UK and it is expected that whilst its recommendations will pertain to UK-specific geographies and contexts, the broad findings will be applicable to music learners everywhere. This is because, at its heart, the Music Commission believes that the individual, societal and economic benefits of learning music wherever it takes place are of significant value.

### Aims of the Commission

The Commission's aims are:

**1**

To provide evidence for, and increase understanding of the diversity of music education provision and achievement.

**2**

To establish an understanding of progression in music learning in and out of schools including the routes and pathways available for children and young people.

**3**

To articulate the need for all children and young people to have access to the best opportunities and conditions to learn a musical instrument and to make progress commensurate with their potential – their desire, aspiration and aptitude.

**4**

To identify solutions that will tackle the problems and barriers that some or all learners face in their musical development, so that achievement of good musical progress is inclusive and based on merit.

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### The Commission Panel

The Commission Panel will meet at four points within a 12 month period to review and advise on the progress of the commission. Both the role of the individual panel member and the panel as a collective may include, but is not limited to:

1	Act as a sounding board on the issues relevant to the Commission's work.
2	Expose the Commission to a full range of views on issues relating to the Commission's work.
3	Review research reports and advise on specific points, where evidence is limited or further work is required.
4	Help the Commission, where requested, to develop and maintain links with industry experts and/or media contacts.

### Membership

The Panel is made up of up to 15 high-profile artists, chief executives, economists and experts who have influential roles across a broad spectrum of sectors, yet share a passion for music and the beneficial role it plays in the UK today.

The Music Commission is led by its Chair, Sir Nicholas Kenyon. Sir Nicholas Kenyon became Managing Director of the Barbican Centre in October 2007. He was Director of the BBC Proms from 1996 to 2007. As a music critic he wrote for The New Yorker, The Times and Observer, and was editor of Early Music 1983-92. He was appointed Controller of BBC Radio 3 in 1992, and was responsible for the award-winning seasons Fairest Isle and Sounding the Century. He then oversaw the BBC's programming for the millennium and ran the BBC's Live Events and TV Classical Music departments, which mounted the Queen's Jubilee concerts of 2002. He has continued to write and lecture on the arts, publishing books on Mozart, Simon Rattle, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and early music. He is a board member of Sage Gateshead. He was knighted in the 2008 New Year Honours and in 2011 received the British Academy President's medal for outstanding service to the arts and humanities.

The Music Commission will be launched on July 7 2017 and will be delivered over a period of 12 months. The Panel will sit for the duration of the Commission and will be closed after the publication of the final report.

### Accountability and Reporting

The Music Commission Panel is responsible for reviewing and approving any reports and for recommendations published as a result of the Commission's research. Given the scope of The Music Commission, Panel members may be invited to convene in smaller groups to examine specific issues or invited to observe research activities i.e. focus groups. In both these instances, individual Panel members will be responsible for reporting back to the panel.

The Commission will be accountable to the public through a Commission website and through the occasional publication of interim findings via the media and directly to key decision makers. A Communication Plan will be presented to the Panel members for their approval at the first meeting of the Commission.

The final report of the Commission will be made widely available and sent directly to government, key education and music bodies and to all those who participated in and provided formal evidence to the Commission. The final report will be published to the media, made available online and through partner and other interested institutions.

### Logistics

- The Panel will meet four times between July 2017 and July 2018 to review and discuss the progress of the Commission. Each meeting will take place at a different location across the UK to reflect the national representation of the group with venues confirmed in due course.
- The Commission's work and its Panel meetings will be facilitated by the Commission's Secretariat, provided through ABRSM, and will be led by the Chair, Sir Nicholas Kenyon. The Chair will be responsible for the format of the meeting and liaising with the Secretariat over proposed agenda topics.
- The Commission's work will be supported by an academically-led Research Reference Group. The research programme for the Reference Group will be developed prior to the launch of the Commission and will be discussed and agreed at the first meeting of the Panel. The Panel will be able to direct and commission research on specific topics at its meetings as it deems appropriate.
- Agenda items and papers will be circulated by the Secretariat two weeks in advance of Panel meetings and Panel members will be expected to have read the documents during this period. The Secretariat will also take minutes at each meeting, which will be circulated electronically to the Panel in due course.
- Meeting attendance will consist of the Chair, Panel members, and Secretariat. Should it be appropriate for a non-member to attend, Panel members will be made aware in advance. Whilst Panel meetings will be held in camera, some Panel meetings may also serve as evidence sessions. It will be for the Panel to decide the extent to which these evidence sessions should be open to invited guests or the media.
- All Panel members will be paid expenses for travel and other essential costs incurred as a result of their attendance at Panel meetings. The Secretariat will be responsible for managing travel books and for processing claims for expenses.
- All documentation will be held in a secure document management system, to which Panel members will have access throughout the duration of the Commission. Panel members will also have a shared space on which to upload and share relevant information, correspondence and other items of interest to the Commission.
- Each Panel member will be required to submit a high resolution image of themselves and biography (c.300 words) to the Secretariat by June 2017. These biographies will be visible on The Music Commission website and other public-facing publications.