

WELCOME,

It's been a busy few months for the Commission, as we continue to work closely with Sir Nick Kenyon and our Panel members to refine the direction of this national enquiry.

The second Commissioners meeting was particularly fruitful and with an overall question now in place, we look forward to moving into the research phase. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved with this. Our survey officially launches on **5 March** and will be running until May 2018. We really want as many people to contribute to the Commission as possible, so please do take part in the survey and share amongst your colleagues, partners and learners.

Best wishes,
The Music Commission team

PANEL MEETING 2

29 January | Roundhouse | London

Nick Kenyon hosted the second Panel meeting at the Roundhouse in Camden, where he was joined by Marcus Davey (CEO and Artistic Director) who gave an inspiring introduction to the many initiatives supporting progress and progression within his organisation.

Following an update on the research programme, the Commissioners were invited to review a series of thematic areas in focus groups and debate the priorities for the Commission going forward.

The meeting concluded with an agreement on the research programme and an overarching question for the Commission [see above right].

The next Panel meeting is Monday 26 March.



Young Creatives Programme at the Roundhouse.
Photo © Ellie Pinney.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR SUPPORTING PROGRESS IN ENGAGEMENT WITH MUSIC?

'At a fundamental level, The Music Commission can raise the profile of music in the education and development of young people in this country. It will hopefully be a mouthpiece for all those who are working in the sector to help maintain high quality and sustainable work with young people. It will, I hope, make it clear that occasional participation is quite different from sustained engagement and progress and will help those responsible for promoting musical development, both in and out of schools, to understand the commitment and the resources required to put progression at the heart of their work.'

– Carolyn Baxendale
Head of Bolton Music Service & Commissioner

SURVEY TO LAUNCH ON 5 MARCH

A reminder that we want to hear from you!

Further details are available on our website.

NEWS

20 March | Music Education Council seminar | London

The Commission is working with MEC to host their Spring seminar, 'Whose Curriculum? Seizing the Initiative', where we will run a stakeholder focus group asking for members to directly contribute evidence to the Commission's research programme.

7 February | Music Mark Member's Meeting | London

Lincoln Abbotts and Nerissa Taysom gave a short presentation at City Hall about the Commission and its research programme to heads of London music services, inviting them to take part in the upcoming public consultation.

RESEARCH UPDATES

We have continued to expand our research team. We're delighted that Professor Martin Fautley (Birmingham City University) and Professor Susan Hallam (Institute of Education) have agreed to join us.

2018 has got off to a swift start for the research team, who met on 5 January to finalise the research design and methods. The research programme will generate information and evidence in order to assist the Commission Panel to consider their overall question. There are three research questions that the programme will now consider:

1. What are the current opportunities and barriers for supporting progress in engagement with music?
2. What do different stakeholder groups see as the priorities for supporting progress in the current educational climate?
3. How do other subjects conceptualise progress and progression, what mechanisms do they have for supporting progress and what models of practice can be applied to music?

Our methods for gathering evidence and public opinion are:

- A multi-modal survey to be launched on 5 March.
- Stakeholder focus groups, who will be tasked with debating some of the issues and writing a collaborative statement to answer the Commission's overall question.
- A literature review, which will be published alongside the Commission's final report in November 2018.

For further information about the research programme or its design, please contact our Research Manager, Nerissa Taysom – ntaysom@abrsm.ac.uk.

NEWS CONTINUED...

1 February | Help Musicians UK | Glasgow

Lincoln Abbotts was in Scotland as part of the launch for Help Musicians UK and to meet colleagues at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The Commission will be working closely with both organisations over the next few months.

23-25 January | ABO Annual Conference | Cardiff

This was a chance to speak more informally about the work of the Commission, as the team spoke with some of the 350 delegates from across the classical music industry in a weekend of talks and presentations.

22 January | ABRSM Governing Body Away Day | London

Nick Kenyon joined Michael Elliott, Trustees and senior colleagues from ABRSM, where he led a roundtable discussion on priorities and aspirations for the Commission.

24-25 November | Music Mark Conference | Kenilworth

The Commission team co-led a workshop with Carolyn Baxendale and Professor Martin Fautley, who gave their personal perspectives on supporting progress. With over 60 delegates in attendance, the opportunity to workshop ideas and get feedback through focus groups was invaluable.

CATCH THE COMMISSION

THE MUSIC & DRAMA EDUCATION EXPO
22-23 February | Olympia Central, London

Come and find us at the ABRSM stand (B1) and be amongst the first to participate in our survey. We will also have a roaming member of the team who will be on hand to answer any of your questions. Please remember to tweet us once you've submitted your response!