



Music Mark ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/2021



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING

Highlights from 2020/21

September 2020



1,400 music tutors join us live online for our first teachers' CPD day



October 2020

Six Dimensions of Leadership training begins

November 2020

398 delegates attend our first ever virtual conference



December 2020

We publish a set of ethics for members to sign up to and refresh our membership structure



January 2021

Gary Griffiths begins consultations with our member music services and music education hub leads in the UK and beyond to assess support needs

April 2021

Sam Stimpson's report on Workforce Diversity in London is published. Almost 300 attend our Big Meet to discuss the publication of the Model Music Curriculum

March 2021

We host Big Meets for colleagues in England and Wales to discuss schools reopening



February 2021

Funding allocations to Music Education Hubs from DfE are announced



May 2021

An updated version of the school governors' guide to Music Education is published by Arts Council England, in partnership with Music Mark and the National Governance Association



June 2021

Our UK-wide Get Playing campaign launches

July 2021

London Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) mini-conference takes place



August 2021

Bridget is announced as a member of the expert panel for the refreshed National Plan for music education in England (NPME2)

Supporting our Membership

In 2020/21 we supported our membership by offering training, online events and guidance, in a year which offered both change and challenges. We are proud to connect the music education community so we can work together on key issues with a unified voice. At a national level, this allows us to influence policy-makers on behalf of our membership and advocate for a meaningful and high-quality music education.

“ *Having the national picture and latest information continually to hand; you do the hard work for us –*
 Comment from 2021 Member Survey ”



100%

100% of the Music Education Hubs in England are members of Music Mark, with a growing membership in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Channel Islands and overseas.

We regularly influence on behalf of this group to key public bodies such as national arts councils and devolved government departments for education.

93% of respondents to our member survey would recommend Music Mark membership or partnership.



89% rated us either 4 or 5 stars.



“*Supportive, helpful, informative*”

These were the most commonly used words to describe us in our 2021 member survey

Music Mark membership increased by **352** between January 2021 and August 2021. We now have **110** individual members signed up, a continued increase on 2019/20.



2,690 teachers and headteachers from all over the UK have signed up as part of the Music Mark Schools programme.



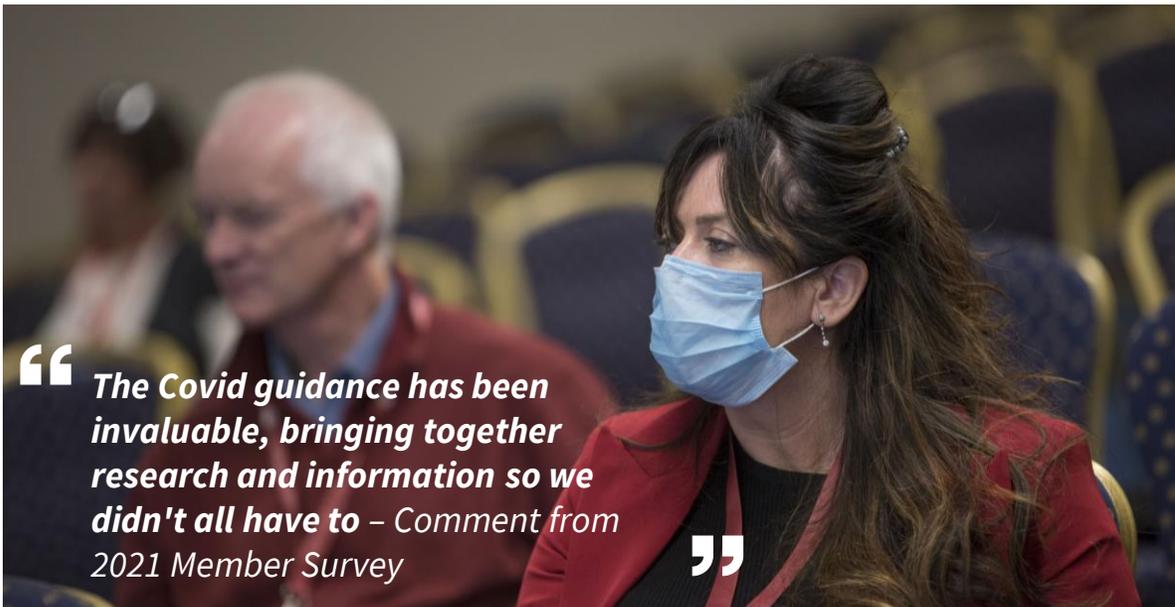
“ *Solidarity of our sector with unified expert voice. We'd pay the membership fee for this alone. The rest is a bonus!* – *Comment from 2021 Member Survey* ”

Supporting our Membership

In 2020/21, we've worked on several key campaigns, programmes, and initiatives to support our membership

Music Unlocked

Since we first produced and published our pandemic guidance, '[Music Unlocked](#)', on 1st June 2020, independent consultant Gary Griffiths has continually monitored government guidance across the UK and updated the documents with concise, relevant and sensible measures for music educators. Music Unlocked has been viewed 25,557 times by schools, practitioners and organisations across the country, and has since been nominated for a Music & Drama Education award. Our pivot to online working has meant supporting members with virtual big meets, creating build back stronger strategies (such as the Hub Support Programme) and maintaining an online learning resource page which has been visited 28,094 times.



“ *The Covid guidance has been invaluable, bringing together research and information so we didn't all have to* – Comment from 2021 Member Survey ”

Get Playing

In June 2021, we launched Get Playing; a campaign to encourage young learners across the UK to connect with their local music service and make music, after reports of declining numbers in new players due to Covid related challenges. We created a marketing pack for music services to use, including bespoke Get Playing illustrations. [The webpage](#), featuring an interactive map to locate your nearest music service, has been viewed nearly 3,000 times.



#CanDoMusic



[#CanDoMusic](#) launched in August 2020 in partnership with the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) and the Music Teachers' Association (MTA). With a website signposting to practical resources, #CanDoMusic demands that music in schools is not sidelined. Throughout the pandemic, it has championed the message that – with reasonable safety measures in place – it is not only possible to make music, but essential. By the end of the academic year the site had almost 20,000 users and #CanDoMusic had become one of the most regularly used hashtags in the music education sector.

Within its first few months, the hashtag #CanDoMusic had over 1 million impressions on social media.

Events & Training

Throughout the past year we've been running more online events, including regular big meets for all members, webinars, and virtual training courses. The online format has opened up attendance to our wider membership, and allowed for a variety of presenters to join us remotely. In 2020/21, we've had guest speakers from Ofsted, the Department for Education, and Arts Council England.



The top 3 sessions we ran this year were:

- *Why Just 'Doing' Music Isn't Enough* with Mark Phillips, HMI for Ofsted
- *How to facilitate a successful online workshop for young people* with James Redwood
- *Music Unlocked: Into the Practice Room* Autumn Term 2020 Music Teachers' CPD Day



Our videos and webinar recordings have received over **1,181** hours of your viewing time

95% of people who attended our events found them useful or very useful

95%



This year, we delivered **40** online learning sessions

Digital Annual Conference

On 20th November 2020, we were joined by 398 delegates for our first ever virtual Annual Conference. With speakers including Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Julia Jones AKA Dr Rock, and Yolanda Brown, the online event offered over 14 hours of video content for delegates to watch on our custom-made conference microsite.

24%

24% of our delegates were attending a Music Mark conference for the first time



“ *Musical learning for children is about joy, celebration, sharing and love* - Dr Kanneh-Mason, 2021 conference keynote ”

Termly Music Teaching CPD Days



After receiving over 1,500 sign-ups for our first ever CPD Day in September 2020, we continued to run termly CPD Days throughout the academic year for music practitioners. With the online format and organisational ticket option allowing many more teachers to attend than face to face events in the past, our CPD days have become a valued training resource.

The Hub Support Programme

In collaboration with Arts Council England, the Department for Education, and Sound Connections, Music Mark has produced a suite of training and resources to help support the development of English Music Education Hubs. We created flexible, needs-based opportunities for both organisations and individual colleagues to help rebuild and develop in the wake of the pandemic.



In the first round of the Partnership Innovation Fund, we allocated £43k towards eight innovative projects by Music Hubs and Services working together to stabilise and recover.

£43k



The Workforce Development Programme builds on the professional development support offered in previous years. We've worked with managers, emerging leaders, business teams, and chairs offering a rich and responsive programme of events, training and support groups, including the popular 6 Dimensions of Leadership. We have connected 20 heads of service through our peer groups and matched 22 mentees through our mentoring scheme.

“ *I am grateful to have the support of such a knowledgeable network –*
Comment from 2021 Member Survey **”**

You Said...

You'd like to see more training and resources for teachers

You wanted Music Mark to do more in the field of equity, diversity, and inclusion

You wanted to see us do more work around Youth Voice

You wanted to hear more about events from Music Mark and across the sector

You wanted Wales to be better connected to Music Mark's work

We Did...

We now programme CPD days for teachers every term

We launched Talk into Action, an EDI movement for the sector in December 2021

We programmed a series of Youth Voice panel discussions for 2021/22

We launched the Events & Training Newsletter sent to the membership every month

We now routinely have our key resources translated into Welsh

What's next?

“ *In the academic year 2021/22, Music Mark will continue to champion local, regional and national partnerships for the benefit of all children and young people's music education and we will be particularly focussed on considering how the sector does that with ED&I at its heart* ”
– Bridget Whyte, Music Mark's CEO

Hybrid Events

Though we are delighted to be returning to hosting in-person events we will continue to have an accessible online programme including making our conference a hybrid event. In addition to being there in person delegates can access resources and conference content for weeks rather than a few hours. We will continue to host big meets, CPD and key training opportunities online to ensure accessibility for the widest audience.

Youth Voice

In early 2022 we will publish a Youth Voice resource, using case studies from across the sector, and some from adjacent sectors, to showcase best practice in incorporating the voices of young people in organisational planning and decision-making. This resource will provide ideas and inspiration for your own Youth Voice journeys.



A Common Approach

We are working on a refresh of **A Common Approach**, an instrumental music curriculum first published in 2002. A Common Approach provides instrument-specific learning objectives and related activities to support teaching and learning from beginner to advanced levels in a range of contexts, including individual, small-group and whole-class lessons. Music education professionals from around the UK have contributed their ideas and expertise to update the content, and in Spring 2022 the resource will be launched in a new digital version to cohesively support new and established music teachers.



Talk into Action



[Talk into Action](#) is a movement focussed on supporting Music Education organisations as we move towards improved Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within the sector. Organisations will be invited to sign the 'Talk Into Action' pledge; a set of active commitments aimed at improving EDI. They will have access to resources, articles, regular events and training that will support their work. We are looking at EDI across workforce, governance, children and young people and programming.

We will never reach the destination if we are doing our jobs right. Embedding equity, diversity, & inclusion is a never-ending process – Attendee from the London EDI mini-conference

Thank you

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Photo credits

With many thanks to the following organisations for providing their images:

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