



# The UK Association for Music Education – Music Mark

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**TIME:** 4:00pm

**VENUE:** West One Business Centre, London, W1B 1PR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Oonagh Barry, John Callister, James Dickinson, Gary Griffiths, Marion Hinds, Annabelle Knowles, David Little, John Kelleher, Carmel Loughney, Helen Mason, Thom Meredith, Ken Parr, Philip Shaw, Charly Richardson, Tim Rogers, David Smalley, Graeme Smith (GS) David Stowe, John Thomson, Ben van Weede, Stuart Whatmore

**MEMBER APOLOGIES:** Carolyn Baxendale, Glyn Bowen, Dick Hallam, Jay Deeble, Chris Maynard, Richard Milton, Colin New, Sue Nicholls, Tim Sharp, Daniel Somogyi, Ruth Steele, Nigel Taylor, James Thomas, Simon Yeo

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lucy Aldcroft, James Devaney, Jem Shuttleworth (JS)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

GS welcomed members to the AGM. Apologies noted as above.

### 2. Chair's Address

GS said:

"I am pleased to report on a very successful year for Music Mark. In an election year, with a subsequent spending review, advocacy was a key element of our work. I am not going to claim, as others have done, that we achieved the settlement alone, there were other voices arguing for the same thing. What I am going to claim is that our advocacy approach was an effective and important element. I will cite as an example where one of our members set up a meeting with their local MP, an influential member of the government party, who volunteered the opinion that music education was greatly underfunded. Jem and I were able to describe what that meant in practice and what our members were doing to make the most of the funding we received.

Of course securing funding was only one of our objectives for the year. As those of you will have seen at today's summit, we believe that for any single aspect of music education to achieve its full potential, all aspects of music education should achieve their potential. We have launched our schools membership this year, with the opportunity for teachers in schools to access resources, articles and follow and contribute to current debates about music education. Our engagement with and support for schools strengthens our advocacy for the additional work of music services and their music education hubs. Our conversations with DfE, Ofsted and the National Governors Association, to which we are adding national headteacher associations are bearing fruit.

I said we are not the only voices working for music education, and we are working hard to maintain partnerships with MEC, the CfSA, the Paul Hamlyn funded Inspire Music initiative, the Expert Subject Advisory Group, which will lead to the proposed college of teaching, and of course the Arts Council.

There is of course much still to be done before we can claim that every child has access to a quality music education which meets their needs and interests and allows them to fulfil their potential. Perhaps such an aim will always be out of reach, but I believe we will get further by not limiting our vision.

I am able to present such an optimistic view of our work because Music Mark has shown itself to be bigger than the sum of its parts. I should like to thank our partners, especially the ABRSM, all our members, especially those who have given their time to organising regionally and contributing to Music Mark focus groups, events and initiatives, and to my fellow trustees.

A key element of our role as trustees is to ensure the organisation, as a charity, is in a fit state to carry out its work in support of its charitable objects. Whilst achieving all we have done in our outward facing role, Music Mark has moved to new premises, increased capacity through some staffing changes and maintained the improved financial stability which was the key focus of my address last year.

So my final thanks go to Jem and the Music Mark staff team, James, Lucy, John and Abigail, for all their brilliant work”

### **3. Accounts of the Charity for the previous financial year**

Accounts for year ending 2015 were received via:

<http://www.musicmark.org.uk/who-we-are/corporate-documents/agm-2016-supporting-paperwork>

JS drew attention to the surplus of £11k for year end 2015 compared to the deficit of £100k reported for year end 2014. Reasons for surplus attributed to increase in membership as recognition of a developing organisation, changes to staffing structure and management income having been in receipt of the joint Department for Education (DfE) and Greater London Authority (GLA) programme grant.

JS also noted Music Mark (MM) remained subject to vulnerability, as is standard for many membership organisations, due to the high percentage of income from subscriptions alone. Steps are being taken to secure additional funding nationally which will benefit all regions whilst ensuring regional funding eligible for members is not sought after by MM.

### **4. Report of the Charity's activities**

JS highlighted the 2014/15 year introduced MM's focus relating to 'influencing, supporting and connecting' in all its activities, the establishment of a renewed face-to-face relationship with the membership by travelling and attending all members' regional meetings. A greater understanding of the breadth of the entire membership was gained, the school membership strand started and changes made to the website to better reflect members' identity and needs as its membership organisation. Throughout the year, direct relationships were rebuilt with sector organisations including Arts Council for England, Associated Board, Department for Education, Music Education Council, Ofsted and Youth Music

### **5. Retirement of Elected Trustees**

Carolyn Baxendale (CB) decided to step down as trustee to enable 'new blood' to step up and support the next stages of the organisation. JS thanked CB for her contribution to both the former shadow board and subsequent full MM board.

### **6. Outcome of Nominations for Elected Trustees**

Trustee nominations and subsequent voting process followed the byelaws resulting in **James Dickinson** and **David Little** being announced as newly elected trustees with immediate effect from the AGM. The board has right under the byelaws to co-opt up to a further four trustees, which would be decided upon at the next board meeting. JS thanked all candidates and offered congratulations to those elected.

### **7. Outcome of Nominations for Music Service Regional Representatives**

JS thanked the outgoing Regional Representatives, **James Dickinson** (East of England), **Ken Parr** (South West) and **Peter Smalley** (East Midlands), for the contributions made to MM during their term. Nominations and elections of Regional Reps were made in line with the byelaws. JS announced and

welcomed incoming Regional Representatives **Annabelle Knowles** (South West), **Jennifer McKie** (East Midlands) and **Charly Richardson** (East of England).

**8. Process for setting up Focus Group(s) and Chair(s)**

JS reported various approaches had been tried to meaningfully engage with Focus Groups to align with MM in its role as a subject association. It was acknowledged this area was not always successful and it remained a challenge. Looking forward with increased capacity and increased funding, MM as a subject association would look to convene specific Focus Group(s) and Chair(s) from the entire membership to focus on particular pieces of work, practice and research. This model was successfully reflected in the recent Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) Research Project with the membership.

**9. Reporting accountants or auditors for the Charity**

Year end 2015 moved away from the requirements of full audit to an independent financial examination. Trustees appointed **Kingston Smith** act as independent financial examiner for year end 2015 and would continue in this role for year end 2016.

**10. AOB**

There being no other business declared, the AGM closed 4:22pm