

**Sound Connections  
Briefing Paper**

**Useful sources of information  
for new music leaders**

**March 2015**



## Introduction

Since 2002, Sound Connections has developed an outstanding track record in developing, supporting and empowering practitioners and organisations to deliver high quality music-making for children and young people in social need across London. We do this through innovative music programmes, high quality information and training provision, and cutting edge research and advocacy.

Sound Connections' successful Start Up! workshop has been running since 2010. It aims to provide newcomers to the field of music leading with information on the profession itself, from an overview of the type of work available, through how to navigate local and national contacts, and how to link in to what's going on.

*"Start Up! will give you the inspiration and confidence boost you'd benefit from. It helps you navigate the complex world of music education."* – Start Up! participant feedback, November 2014

This briefing paper aims to act as a follow-on to Start Up!, pointing to useful sources of information for anyone looking to learn more about music leading, and the world of music education in general. We will be revisiting this paper, reviewing and updating the information as appropriate.

## Online community

The world of music education can sometimes feel elusive and disparate. We've heard how freelance practitioners can end up feeling isolated and unsupported, and we tackle this by hosting regular networking events (Would Like To Meet...) for people who want to connect and re-connect with peers, organisations and collaborators.

Mailing lists are a simple tool to help you stay connected with what's going on in the online (and real-world!) community. Almost any organisation that distributes news, advertises jobs and training opportunities, and delivers events will have a mailing list people can subscribe to. The ones listed below are key organisations recommended for new music leaders to subscribe to:

### **Voluntary Arts Network** (free)

<http://info.voluntaryarts.org/enews/#.VQcQEPysWAU>

### **Early Years Arts** (free)

[www.earlyarts.co.uk](http://www.earlyarts.co.uk)

### **Creative Industries Development Agency** (free)

<http://cidaco.org/category/news/>

### **Sound Sense Bulletin Board** (fee-paying membership)

[www.soundsense.org](http://www.soundsense.org)

### **A New Direction** (free)

<http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/newsletter>

### **Creative & Cultural Skills** (free)

<http://ccskills.org.uk/about>

**Cultural Learning Alliance** (free)

<http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/>

**Creative Industries Federation** (free newsletter and fee-paying membership)

<http://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/news-and-events/>

**Musical Futures** (free)

<https://www.musicalfutures.org/newsletter>

and of course, **Sound Connections** (free)

[www.sound-connections.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.sound-connections.org.uk/get-involved)

## Social media

Social media has made a huge impact on the music education community. Facebook groups, Twitter and blogs are used widely for practitioners to share their work and thoughts, and this has been capitalised on by some of the key organisations in music education:

- Youth Music Network:  
<http://network.youthmusic.org.uk/help-support/getting-started>  
The Youth Music Network is an online community for people who work in and around music education projects in the UK. Free to join, the Youth Music Network is a space for professionals to access and share a huge range of music education resources. It's also the main gateway for accessing Youth Music funding.
- Inspired by Music:  
<http://blog.writing-services.co.uk/>  
Anita Holford (freelance writer and communications practitioner) who specialises in advocating for music education. She is a regular contributor to the Youth Music Network, and this website is a fantastic hub of articles, videos and news.
- Music Education Works:  
<https://musiceducationworks.wordpress.com/home/>  
Another blog created by Anita Holford which aims to collect, summarise and share evidence of the impact of music education. The blog features specific categories of research into the impact of music education on young people and adults, and in the form of articles, stories, initiatives and videos. You can also sign up and contribute your own research and stories.
- London Early Years Music Network (LEYMN):  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LEYMN/?fref=ts>  
An open Facebook group for the network of early years music practitioners, hosted by Sound Connections.
- Community Music Activity – Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Communitymusic/?fref=ts>  
An open group for community music practitioners of all specialisms to share practice, advice and anecdotes. The Community Music Activity blog can be found through this group.

## Published works

There is a wealth of published literature on music leading and the field of community music leading. Alongside the reports and case studies we publish regularly on the Sound Connections [resources page](#), we have identified below a selection we often recommend to people starting out. These are all available to buy online at Amazon, and Susan Hallam's new report is available to download. You can find a wealth of research papers about the benefits and effects of music education at the [iMerc \(International Music Education Research Centre\) website](#).

### Reports:

HALLAM, S. (January 2015). [The Power of Music - a research synthesis of the impact of actively making music on the intellectual, social and personal development of children and young people](#), UK: International Music Education Research Centre (iMerc)

(September 2014) [Making Music: Teaching, Learning and Playing in the UK](#), ABRSM

ZERSERSON, K. (4 July 2014). [Inspiring Music for All: next steps in innovation, improvement and integration](#), UK: Paul Hamlyn Foundation

(November 2013) [Music in Schools: What Hubs Must Do](#), Ofsted

(2011) [The Importance of Music: A National Plan for Music Education](#), Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### Books:

LEAK, G. (1 April 2003). **Performance Making – a manual for music workshops**, UK: Currency Press

MOSER, P. (February 2005). **Community Music: A Handbook**, UK: Russell House Publishing Ltd

MULLENS, P. (ed) & HARRISON, C. (ed) (20 Sept 2013). **Reaching out: Working with Hard to Reach Young People**, UK: The UK Association for Music Education - Music Mark

PATON, R. (2011). **Lifemusic: Connecting People to Time**. Dorset, Great Britain: Archive Publishing

PAYNTER, J. & ASTON, P. (2 Feb 1970). **Sound and Silence: Classroom Projects in Creative Music (Resources of Music)**, UK: Cambridge University Press

PAYNTER, J. & MILLS, J. (ed) (19 Jun 2008). **Thinking and Making: Selections from the writings of John Paynter on music in education**, UK: Oxford Music Education

RENSHAW, P. (30 Sept 2013). **Being in Tune**, UK: Guildhall School of Music & Drama

GLOVER, J. & YOUNG, S. (26 March 1998). **Music in the Early Years**, UK: Routledge

## **Appendix - a list of useful websites and forums ranging from working in the arts, to community music leading, funding opportunities and events.**

[www.artsindustry.co.uk](http://www.artsindustry.co.uk)

Arts industry news and jobs

[www.artsculturemediajobs.com](http://www.artsculturemediajobs.com)

Jobs website

[www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)

An award which aspires to support young people to enjoy the arts and develop creative leadership skills. Music leaders can train to be arts award advisers.

[www.artsfestivals.co.uk](http://www.artsfestivals.co.uk)

Listings of arts festivals throughout the UK

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

National Development Agency for the Arts in England

<http://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/jobs>

Arts Professional's dedicated jobs site for jobs in the arts

[www.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund](http://www.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund)

Helps aspiring music makers and performers looking for a way to get ahead and has various schemes around funding for professional development

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

Information about lottery grants and how to apply for them.

[www.ccskills.org.uk](http://www.ccskills.org.uk)

Creative and Cultural Skills. Creative & Cultural Skills is the Sector Skills Council for Advertising, Crafts, Cultural Heritage, Design, Literature, Music, Performing, and Visual Arts. They bridge the gap between industry, education and the government.

[www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)

Directory of Social Change – source of information and training for voluntary and community sect

[www.livemusicnow.org](http://www.livemusicnow.org)

Provider of live music to the UK's welfare educational, justice and health sectors.

[www.metamusic.org.uk](http://www.metamusic.org.uk)

Support organisation for workers in rock, pop, dance and indie music

[www.helpmusicians.org.uk](http://www.helpmusicians.org.uk)

Help Musicians UK provides help and support to musicians and their dependants. They also provide funding through a range of awards schemes to highly talented young musicians. They supply advice on funding opportunities and fund many other organisations and projects within the music industry.

[www.musicalfutures.org.uk](http://www.musicalfutures.org.uk)

A new approach to teaching and learning – based in schools

[www.musiciansunion.org.uk](http://www.musiciansunion.org.uk)

Union for anyone performing/teaching on a professional basis

[www.musiceducationuk.com](http://www.musiceducationuk.com)

Music Education UK is a hub for everyone involved in the sector - from dedicated professionals to enthusiastic amateurs, from nursery teachers to orchestral conductors.

[www.singup.org](http://www.singup.org)

Sing Up was launched in 2007 as The National Singing Programme for Primary schools in England under the UK Government's Music Manifesto. The four-year programme's aim was to raise the status of singing and increase opportunities for children throughout the country to enjoy singing as part of their everyday lives, in and out of school. During this time, Sing Up was hugely successful and was used widely in around 95% of English primary schools. In April 2012, Sing Up became a not-for-profit membership organisation, launching a Membership scheme offering packages for schools, freelancers and organisations.

[www.soundsense.org](http://www.soundsense.org)

Is the UK professional association that promotes community music and supports community musicians

[www.teachingmusic.org.uk](http://www.teachingmusic.org.uk)

Helps music educators reflect and improve their knowledge, understanding and skills in music education. Use it to access information, reflect on your practice, connect with others and contribute your own resources.

[www.voluntaryarts.org](http://www.voluntaryarts.org)

Aims to promote participation in the arts and crafts across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Contains a lot of information on jobs and training opportunities in the voluntary sector