

# MEPG

## August 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a good summer in better than usual weather conditions, and that you are all taking the current challenges of back to school and back to work in your stride in all of your different localities and situations.

MEPG are currently working hard with all stakeholders to set up mechanisms to ensure that the music education sector gets maximum benefit from the election manifesto pledges, and Nicola Sturgeon's statement on the first hundred days of the new government. The first job to get done was to ensure that instrumental tuition fees were removed by the beginning of the new school session just started, and full marks to those individuals in the Scottish Government and CoSLA who achieved that in record time. The same working party are now working on embedding the long-term removal of fees, taking advice as necessary from within the wider MEPG partnership, and that work will be completed by November, when local authorities begin the process of setting their budgets for following years.

This working party will liaise closely with the Music for Scotland Steering Group I talked about at the last MEPG Forum meeting on May 4. Since the last MEPG newsletter in June this has been set up under the chairmanship of Lord Vallance of Tummel and has had two meetings. Sub-groups made up from within the MEPG membership reporting into the overarching steering group are also in the process of being set up to look at the longer-term benefits to be won through developments in pedagogy, CLPL and teacher education, blended learning and so on.

To explain again what **Music for Scotland** is, it is a snappier title for everything that was contained in the MEPG Strategy *TACKLE inequity REALISE potential CHANGE perceptions 2020-25* which we constructed together in collegiate fashion. This strategy had as one of its long term aims the removal of tuition fees for instrumental teaching. Since this has been achieved more quickly than we thought possible I put to the MEPG Forum on August 31 that a refresh of our strategy was in order, and that will now be proceeding apace. I look forward to constructing together with all of you, over the year to come, a more stable and sustainable future for music education in Scotland.

With best wishes,

John Wallace

# News from our Partners



## Youth Music Initiative Updates

- Ahead of a new academic year for the YMI [Formula Fund](#), which looks set to be filled with fantastic in-school music-making, exciting approaches to blended learning and activities celebrating COP26, our YMI [Annual Plan](#) been published. [Read the press release](#) announcing the annual plan, along with the Scottish Government commitment to funding out-of-school music making for children and young people.
- Now is your last chance to apply to the YMI [Access to Music Making](#) and [Strengthening Youth Music](#) funds for this year! The deadline for both funds is Monday 6 September at 12 noon.
- It's also the last chance also to apply to be a part of Creative Scotland's pool of [external assessors and panel members for Youth Arts Funds](#). Successful tenderers will support the assessment and decision making process for applications to our funds, including the Youth Music Initiative. The deadline for tenders is Friday 3 September at 12 noon.
- There are a number of upcoming opportunities funded through the Youth Arts Training & Workshops Fund. Sessions cover important topics from [Anti-racism](#) to the [Climate Emergency](#) and are free and open to anyone working in the Scottish Youth Arts sector. Take a look at the programmes organised by [Children in Scotland](#), [Engage](#), [Imagine](#), [YDance](#) and [YTAS](#).
- A reminder that the YMI [CPD and Training Fund](#), managed by the Scottish Music Centre, is open for applications. The fund is intended to support individuals and organisations who work with children and young people on out-of-school music projects.
- For more funding news, opportunities for individuals and organisations and resources to use with children and young people, [sign up to the monthly YMI newsletter](#) on our page of the Creative Scotland website.



### **SCO in Craigmillar**

In early August the SCO launched a five-year intergenerational community residency in the Craigmillar area of Edinburgh. The launch coincided with the inaugural Craigmillar and Niddrie Community Festival which included two events by the SCO – Principal Cellist Philip Higham performed solo works at the opening of local artist Nihad al Turk's exhibition *Daily Myths*, and SCO players performed *Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants* with children's TV presenter Chris Jarvis at Craigmillar Castle.

The Residency, which will run from August 2021 to August 2026, is the Orchestra's most substantial community project to date, following on from its successful three-year programme in Wester Hailes and building on the SCO's commitment to encouraging collaboration and co-creation in its local community. Over the course of the Residency, the SCO and its team of professional musicians and creative learning practitioners will deliver imaginative, cross-artform workshops and performances for children, young people, families, and adults to explore their musical potential and help develop their creativity. With large-scale community events planned in 2024 and 2026 involving local residents and SCO musicians, a schools' programme and wider community projects, the Residency is designed to bring people together through music to enhance health and well-being, to help people of all ages develop confidence and skills, and to empower residents to explore and celebrate their community and place.

Further information can be found at [www.sco.org.uk/craigmillar](http://www.sco.org.uk/craigmillar)

### **Masterworks**

The SCO's flagship project for secondary schools has been running since 1998 and this year will feature a full online performance of *riSE* and *fLY*, a body concerto for percussion by Julia Wolfe performed by Colin Currie, alongside a suite of interactive video resources. It is free for schools and teachers can sign up now at [www.sco.org.uk/riseandfly](http://www.sco.org.uk/riseandfly)

### **SCO Academy**

SCO Academy returns this autumn for school-aged string and percussion musicians from across Scotland. Developed in partnership between SCO and St. Mary's Music School, this iteration of the project will involve online and in person working with SCO musicians over a series of Sundays in November. For more information and to sign up visit [www.sco.org.uk/academy](http://www.sco.org.uk/academy)

### **Stan and Mabel Schools and Family Concert**

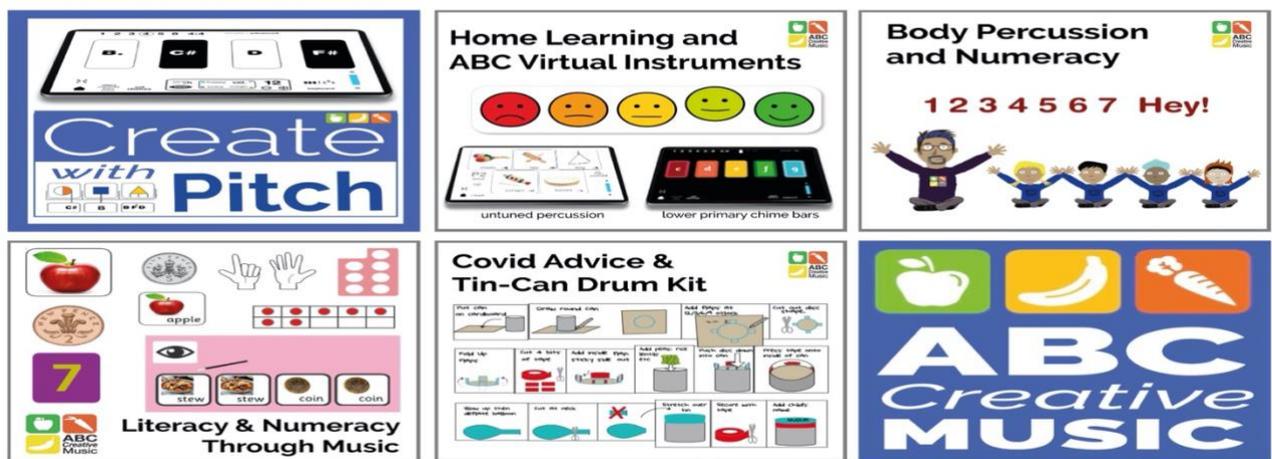
Join our favourite dog and cat duo Stan and Mabel for another musical adventure! Purr-fect for ages 4-8 and their adults. We can't wait to share this fabulous musical tale, written and illustrated by Jason Chapman and set to music by Paul Rissmann

Video resources and downloadable teaching materials will be available online from **Monday 6 September 2021** at [www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabelresources](http://www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabelresources)

The full concert with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Gregory Batsleer and Children's TV presenter Chris Jarvis will be premiered online for schools on **Wednesday 6 October 11am** and on **Saturday 16 October 2.30pm** for families.

[www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabelschools](http://www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabelschools)

[www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabel](http://www.sco.org.uk/stanandmabel)



### **ABC Creative Music- Making the Case for Creativity in Music Education**

As serious Jazz musicians, we're very, very interested in creativity. Our mission? To make genuine creative musical experiences available to all children: they empower and liberate, creating connection, belonging and engagement, which drives learning.

But there is genuine challenge in creativity. We hear how deeply nervous many educators, even specialists, are of real creativity, and we understand why. When creativity goes wrong it can be harmful to learners and teachers, and it can create overload, anxiety and stress. We need to understand creativity both when it works, and when it doesn't. And this challenge is bigger than the limitations of the prevailing classical model. After 20 years research, we have a deep theoretical framework, which informs the design of ABC Primary, EY and ASN resources, and which we wish to share.

### **Some highlights of our last 6 months...**

We recently published an academic paper on these ideas- you can read an introduction [here](#) (with a link to the full paper), presenting it at the RIME conference in April, including preliminary research funded through a YMI Strengthening the Sector grant, completed by Prof Gianna Cassidy of GCU. It formed the basis of a seminar series for students on the MEd course at the RCS from all art forms. A powerful reminder

of the potential of creativity in delivering engagement and real learning in concrete musical outcomes everyone wants, came in a recent Primary pre-instrumental pilot. Gavin Woods, Chair of Western Isles IMT network, wrote...

*I recently had the good fortune to be asked to deliver an 8-week pilot of the ABC Creative Music course to P5 classes. The course utilised creativity and role play to engage pupils in real musical activity and as a result, students learned from doing rather than just listening. The effectiveness of this method led to an entire P5 class correctly notating a series of random rhythms clapped by myself from the front of the class and being able to read and play a piece for chime bars from a musical score. The results, even after just 8 weeks were quite amazing and the kids, class teacher and I loved it!!!!*

Other work includes socialisation and emotional resilience in Early Years Musicality, Literacy and Numeracy Through Music helping Scottish-children catch up after lockdown, a pilot on Adult Modelling/Freeplay in EY to P1 transition, and use of the powerful Create With Pitch resource with virtual instruments to remotely teach Upper Primary composition classes- hear some pieces [here](#).

The highly-rated Online CPD programme for our Primary, EY and ASN/SEND resources restarts soon, with topics ranging from Covid-Advice, New Start Training for Primary or EY, to an 8-D Assessment/Intervention framework, made for ASN but applicable to everyone. And we've a new topic on ABC's theoretical framework on creativity and how it might inform your practice. You're very welcome to come along.

## **Online Music Theory Exams anywhere, anytime!**



We're delighted to say that it has never been easier to take a Music Theory exam at Grades 1 to 5!

Our new on-demand Music Theory exams give you the best opportunity to demonstrate your musical knowledge and understanding, when and where you choose.

You the exam online at any time, and complete it thereafter, within 28 days.

### **Free ABRSM Webinars!**

ABRSM Webinars continue to be a popular way to keep you updated with our latest information and informed about our exams. Please see below for a list of upcoming ABRSM webinars:

#### **Introduction to Performance Grades**

Join us for an in-depth introduction to ABRSM's Performance Grades. These webinars will provide you with helpful insights and understanding of this recent addition to

ABRSM's music exam offer. Performance Grades provide exciting new flexibility and accessibility in terms of where and how you take your exam. During these webinars, John Holmes will explain the rationale behind these assessments, how ABRSM examiners mark Performance Grades and how this different kind of exam can benefit a student as part of their musical learning journey.

Thursday 16 September 9:00 – 10:00 (BST)

<https://abrsmpgseptember.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 20 October 12:00 – 13:00 (BST)

<https://abrsmpgoctober.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thursday 18 November 17:00 – 18:00 (GMT)

<https://abrsmpgnovember.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wednesday 8 December 13:00 – 14:00 (GMT)

<https://abrsmpgdecember.eventbrite.co.uk>

### ***Introduction to Initial Grade for Piano & Bowed Strings***

Find out more about our Initial Grade exams including the new opportunity to enter an Initial Grade as a Digital Performance Grade!

Regional Development Executive, Jenna Main will be joined by musicians, examiners and educators, Jessy O'Leary and Alexis White giving you an overview of ABRSM's pre-Grade 1 assessments, providing you with all the information you need to introduce Initial Grade into your teaching.

Wednesday 15 September 4:30pm – 5:30pm (BST)

<https://abrsminitialbowedstrings.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thursday 16 September 4:30pm - 5:30pm (BST)

<https://abrsminitialpiano.eventbrite.co.uk>



**SUPPORTING AND  
CHAMPIONING  
LEISURE-TIME MUSIC**

Do you deliver out of school group music activity (children, young people or adults) and struggling to get back to in person delivery post Level 0? Making Music regularly update their COVID-19 guidance for music making

organisations working with learners out of school and leisure time music makers. Our resource '[Can my group get back to in-person activities](#)' is accessible if you are not a Making Music member and has been agreed as a correct representation of guidance by the Scottish Government. We'd really like to hear from you if you are experiencing challenges to returning to in person activity, even if you are not a member, so we can address these for our sector. Contact [alison@makingmusic.org.uk](mailto:alison@makingmusic.org.uk)

**August 2021 - For Immediate Release - Press Enquiries - Olivia Furness - [oli@oimusica.co.uk](mailto:oli@oimusica.co.uk) - +447968 491835 [www.letitgrow.scot](http://www.letitgrow.scot)**



Kinetika Bloco

## **BRING THE NOISE!**

**As the COP26 UN Climate Summit draws near, music makers from all walks of life are invited to make a noise for climate justice**

**Following the viral success of rousing climate song 'Enough is Enough' by Karine Polwart, the Soundhouse Choir and Oi Musica in November 2020, the artists involved are launching a global call out for anyone and everyone to get involved, sharing a message for world leaders ahead of the critical talks, due to be held in Glasgow 1 - 12 November.**

### **Let it Grow!**

From lockdown seeds sown in Edinburgh to carnival creations in South London, African-diaspora musical collaborations and Scottish hip hop cyphers, *Let it Grow* – launched in August 2021 – is a grassroots project. Conceived by independent artists and supported by micro-organisations working across Scotland at community level, it invites choirs, community ensembles, musicians, schools, and anyone else to add their voice, build public pressure and have some creative fun ahead of COP26.

### **What to expect**

Since the release of *Enough is Enough* at the end of 2020, its creators have been busy raising funds, building partnerships, and creating opportunities for music makers across a range of genres, ages and backgrounds to get involved. Their vision is of a crashing, tumbling tidal wave of music that gathers pace online and in person through the Autumn; there will be unique

interpretations of, or new works inspired by, *Enough is Enough* – from groups as varied as a Glasgow hip hop collective, a group of African diaspora musicians, a French-Arabic piece from Brussels and a carnival street band collaboration involving 150 young musicians from 6 UK locations including London, Greater Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## #MusicforCop26

There is also an open invite for members of the public to learn a few lyrics or write something new and share a clip on social media, contributing to the tidal wave and ramping up public pressure as the world's attention turns to Glasgow.

*"We are excited about the potential for huge variety in the pieces and messages that people share. This is as much about coming together and getting creative as it is about building awareness and political pressure. Music is one of the best ways to experience working together for a common goal – and we need that creative and collective thinking now more than ever"* – Olivia Furness, Co-Director, Oi Musica

## Notes for editors

*Enough is Enough* was composed collaboratively by multi award-winning folk musician Karine Polwart (7-times winner of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards), Oi Musica brass specialist Marcus Britton & percussionist Olivia Furness, and Heather Macleod of Edinburgh's all-welcome Soundhouse Choir. The video also features Glasgow's open access group Brass, Aye? The lyrics draw on the stories and legends surrounding Glasgow's patron Saint, Mungo, and the city's coat of arms - with its tree, bird, fish, and bell. The project is funded by Creative Scotland, with partnership support from the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

***"Wherever there's a tree that never grew – let it grow!"***

@Letitgrow.music @Letitgrow\_music @Letitgrow\_music



Karine Polwart Brass, Aye?

Oi Musica



From Scottish Brass Band Association... JustGiving opportunity to support the continuing work of NYBBS as COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed: <https://www.sbba.org.uk/news/6115/justgiving-opportunity-to-support-the-continuing-work-of-nybbs-as-covid-19-restrictions-are-relaxed>

The other event that NYBBS players will be involved in is the StAMP event in September.

From Scottish Brass Band Association... 'Spectrums and stars' concert to bring curtain down on StAMP's brass weekend: <https://www.sbba.org.uk/news/6116/spectrums-and-stars-concert-to-bring-curtain-down-on-stamp-s-brass-weekend>



Launch film: <https://youtu.be/73yVcv2y2sl>

Youth and amateur orchestras have waited a long time for this moment, and we are thrilled to confirm that in-person courses and live performances will once again return in 2022. We have been amazed by the adaptability and dedication of our young players in the face of unprecedented challenges over the past two years, and after all that has happened, we are delighted to announce, we are back!

Find out more: <https://www.nyos.co.uk/news/we-are-back>

Ensembles across our Classical and Jazz Pathways will once again meet in person to learn, collaborate, play, and perform in prestigious venues across Scotland.

Our courses offer Scotland's most promising young musicians' opportunities to learn from world-class tutors, develop specialist jazz skills from an international network of renowned jazz musicians, and play under the baton of some of the most eminent conductors in the industry. There is no cost to audition for NYOS and bursaries are available.

Classical Applications: <https://www.nyos.co.uk/classical-applicants/>

Jazz Applications: <https://www.nyos.co.uk/jazz-applicants/>





This new interactive course is suitable for all music educators and practitioners; enabling you to begin or further your work in an accessible, inclusive way.

You will take part in 3 interactive sessions with expert course leaders from Drake Music Scotland and small groups of your peers. Each session will guide you through new ways to approach the fundamentals of music-making; creating and tailoring resources that fit your working practices. To help get the most from the course, you'll be given activities to do between sessions to help you apply this training directly to your own work, with valuable feedback from course leaders and participants. You will then have the option of a follow up 1to1 session to delve deeper into areas of your choice.

If you're looking for a new tool to add to your toolbox, or want to take a deeper look at the way you work, [join us for this fun and engaging course](#). You'll receive a copy of the latest [Figurenotes software](#) as part of your attendance, allowing you to fully engage in the content and activities within the course.

You can [find more information on our training pages](#), including the booking form. If you have any questions, please get in touch at [figurenotes@drakemusicscotland.org](mailto:figurenotes@drakemusicscotland.org).

£149.99 – includes [Figurenotes software](#) and 3-week training course.

Thursday 16th, 23rd & 30th September 2021, 1-3pm GMT. Sessions are delivered via Zoom

# Events

## **Positive Childhood Experiences & the Arts** **15 September 2021, 10am**

**How can the arts contribute to Positive Childhood Experiences and build resilience?**  
**An online discussion**

**Positive Childhood Experiences & the Arts**  
**Wednesday 15 September, 10:00-12:15**

**The first of a series of three partnership events between Creative Scotland and the Arts in Education Recovery Group**

YDance and Starcatchers will introduce and reflect on research about Positive Childhood Experiences. North Ayrshire Music Service will discuss how teachers upskilled to deliver music activities to young people during lockdown, and their ideas for carrying forward music making, and the Edinburgh Hospitals Charity will share innovative arts projects connected to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, including how re-imagining a hospital as a spaceship gives children a new outlook.

Booking Link: [https://rsvp.theworldsbest.events/\\_m1g51](https://rsvp.theworldsbest.events/_m1g51)

## **Children and Young People as Collaborators and Co-researchers** **7 October 2021, 10am**

**How can you create arts activities *with not for* young people?**  
**An online discussion**

## Children and young people as collaborators & co-researchers

The second in a series of three events Creative Scotland and Arts in Education Recovery partnership events

Virtual event: 10am-12:15,  
7 October 2021

The Articulate Trust and the care experienced young people who play a key role in the organisation will discuss the importance of young people as active research partners. We will hear from Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, Stage IT, a programme run for and by its Young Promoters. Lyra will discuss why they always collaborate with children and young people and Starcatchers will share ideas about collaborating with younger and preschool children.

Booking Link: [https://rsvp.theworldsbest.events/\\_11zjn](https://rsvp.theworldsbest.events/_11zjn)



Scottish Young Musicians

Save the Date

National Performer of the Year  
final in the Royal Conservatoire  
on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May