

Cross-Party Group on Music

20 June, 2023, 18.00

Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament

Minute

Present

MSPs

Michelle Thomson, Claire Baker, Clare Adamson, Sharon Dowey

Invited guests

Anne Gallacher (Luminate), Alan Midwinter, Paul Barfoot (Forget Me Notes), Siannie Moodie (Live Music Now Scotland)

Non-MSP Group Members

Adam Behr (Univ of Newcastle), Jen O'Brien (Music Broth), Sam Dunkley (MU), Morag Macdonald (Creative Scotland), Oliver Melling (Music Venue Trust), Lori Anderson (Culture Counts), Andrew Cruickshank (MU), Mae Murray (MEPG), James Cunningham (HITS), Ronnie Gurr (SMIA), Robert Kilpatrick (SMIA), Alan Morrison (Creative Scotland), Ailsa Macintosh (BBC), Kennety Taylor (St Mary's Music School), Matthew Whiteside (The Night With), Jenna Main (ABRSM), Judy Okely, Caroline Farren (EIS), Paul MacAlinden (Glasgow Barons), David Francis (Traditional Music Forum)

Apologies

Lisa Whytock (Active), Stuart Fleming (PRS for Music), Gill Maxwell (Scottish Music Centre), Allan Dumbreck (Univ of West of Scotland), Donald Macleod (Holdfast), Yvonne Maclellan (Lost Art), Lois Fitch (RCS), Carol Main (Live Music Now Scotland)

Agenda item 1: Music and Dementia

Anne Gallacher: Luminate, which deals with creative ageing, adopts a rights-based approach to its work, specifically the right to cultural participation. They have found that engagement drops in later years, and part of Luminate's work is to reverse that trend. There is much evidence of the positive effects of music on people's well-being, but as important is the social aspect of the connection that participation in music activities brings. Luminate's Dementia Inclusive Singing Network promotes peer learning, dementia awareness among practitioners.

Alan Midwinter and Paul Barfoot: Picking up on AG's point about drop off in engagement, Forget-Me-Notes takes the view that 'once a music lover always a music lover'. Again, touching on the social aspect, the choir's watchwords are Community, Communication, and Continuity (the last being particularly important). The choir's activities challenge isolation, with members having their own personal music health plan. Forget-Me-Notes methods imply a paradigm shift – not just doing music but *using* music in all aspects of daily life.

Ailsa Macintosh: How do you engage with people who don't think of themselves as musical?

AW: Music is a vital way of working through emotions. It is important to challenge the idea that some people are not musical.

Siannie Moodie: described the processes and procedures for early career musicians when working in care homes. Live Music Now's key message is bringing high quality music to people who might not otherwise be able to access it.

Agenda item: Music Education

Mae Murray: reported on the recent work of the Music Education Partnership Group. John Wallace who had chaired the group for the previous five years has stood down from the post, but has agreed to join MEPG's board of trustees. MEPG's We Make Music initiative continues to support classroom teachers, make instruments available through public libraries (with more local authorities signed up). There is an aim that some libraries might become local music hubs. Criteria are being developed for what gold and bronze standard We Make Music Schools might look like, with Inverclyde and South Ayrshire due to join Renfrewshire next year in piloting this approach. The We Make Music Companion will be a digital guide to music activities across Scotland, and finally recent events included the Scottish Young Musician competition, which in only its second year has 30 of 32 local authorities taking part, the Gie's a Sang day in Dundee, and a training day led by Australian educationist Anita Collins on the neurological benefits of music

Agenda item 3: Music Economy

- a) Ronnie Gurr: The UK Government recently announced a Creative Industries Sector Vision which will make available £5m for grassroots live music, and £2m for music for export among other things. The SMIA and the Music Venues Trust are clear that this must be matched in Scotland, which will be severely disadvantaged if touring in England is subsidised.

Claire Baker MSP: The first stage will be to check that there will be consequential and when. Scottish Government can then decide what to do with that money.

Michelle Thomson: will write to determine answers to these questions. **[Action: MT]**

Alan Morrison: The fact that we have grassroots music at all is because Scottish Government made money available to Creative Scotland that is detached from project

funding. Schemes like this are the only way that Scotland can have parity as a touring destination.

b) Donald Macleod: tabled remarks on the potential negative effects of Low Emission Zones on the night-time economy.

Sam Dunkley: The MU has serious concerns about this. Musicians have to get home from gigs and transport equipment. Because the time frame is 24 hours from midnight to midnight musicians may end up paying twice if their gigs finish after midnight. Parents have to collect children late at night. Experience in other parts of the UK is already showing an impact on the night time economy. The scheme is effectively penalising musicians for going to work. There have to be exemptions.

MT: The scheme is Scotland-wide but there are local variations in its implementation.

Oliver Melling: The Music Venues Trust also has concerns.

Agenda item 4: Scotland Makes Music

Morag Macdonald: It's intended to produce a document to celebrate the unique successes of music in Scotland along the lines of the document produced in Sweden to highlight that country's success in pop music. MMacD welcomes ideas on what people would like to see in the Scottish document.

Agenda item 5: Other Business

- Scotland is hosting Nordic Music Day
- Scottish Young Jazz Musician:
Developed in association with the Glasgow Jazz Festival, the competition is currently open for entry through to 3rd September, for musicians living in Scotland aged between 16-27 years old.

The six shortlisted entries will perform at a final which will be held at BBC Scotland's Pacific Quay centre in front of a live audience and broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland. The winner will be awarded the title of BBC Radio Scotland Young Jazz Musician 2023, receive a recording session at BBC Scotland and their own performance slot at the Glasgow Jazz Festival in 2024. There are more details [here](#).

- Festival of Politics: MT is hosting a panel on Scotland's music venues <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/scotlands-music-venues>
- MT: The Scottish Parliament is open to and welcomes events but available slots fill up very quickly.

Date of Next Meeting

September 19 (tbc)

