



SUPPORTING  
CONNECTING  
INFLUENCING

## **DRAFT** NOTES OF ZOOM MEETING

FRIDAY 17 JULY 2020

Chaired by **Bridget Whyte**, CEO, Music Mark

---

The meeting had been convened by ABO and Music Mark for its youth ensemble membership including national and local youth music organisations.

Bridget Whyte introduced the background to the meeting, checked and confirmed that this was a single topic meeting.

### **AGREED AIM OF MEETING**

To agree the inconsistencies in the Government guidance and any joint actions

Mark Pemberton, Director, Association of British Orchestras, provided background on progress to date, culminating with the announcement of the £1.57bn package for the cultural and heritage sectors, along with the publication of guidance for professionals in the performing arts from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).

He also noted that Public Health England had commissioned COVID-19 related research into singing, wind and brass instruments. He was seeking confirmation of when the research was due to be published.

Bridget Whyte introduced Gary Griffiths to speak about 'Music Unlocked', containing resources and guidance for schools and music providers, a publication he had written for Music Mark. Links to resources mentioned in the meeting are provided at the end of this document.

Mark Pemberton asked how soon organisations needed to have more clarity from the Government. Most participants agreed that they need to know as soon as possible, for September. It was agreed:

- We need clarity on:
  - Performance
  - Rehearsals
  - Residential work
  - Out of school hours work
  - The use of churches/other venues
  - Why recording is allowed, but streaming is not
  - Numbers – 15 in the DfE guidance is specifically for woodwind, brass and singing. Strings/percussion can be in larger groups if suitable control measures are in place.
  - What about the numbers of adults/chaperones who are needed to support groups of 100+ children/young people

- We want parity between professionals and non-professionals
- We must include the Conservatoires in further discussions
- We need to emphasise that we are talking about young professionals
- We must include the voices of young people

## **AGREED ACTIONS FOR ABO & MUSIC MARK**

1. To check whether the guidance for residential schools is applicable to this youth ensembles, and to include this in any further briefings for this group
2. To create a template letter for youth ensembles to use in lobbying their local MPs (Music Mark's template letter to be adapted)
3. Music Mark to pursue DfE about the publication of 'further guidance' on music, noted in the DfE guidance
4. Contact Rebecca Driver re: offer of continued help in the campaign.
5. To write a letter from both organisations to Caroline Dinenage, Culture Minister and Nick Gibb, Schools Minister?
6. To do the same as no. 5 for Creative Scotland and the Department for Education in Scotland, and potentially Northern Ireland and Wales
7. ABO to invite Linda Merrick, Principal, Royal Northern College of Music, Chair, Conservatoires UK and ABO Board member to join the discussion
8. To keep this issue focused on music and not to broaden it to dance and theatre at this point
9. ABO to review Manifesto on ABO website to check if the messaging needs to be changed to cover non-professionals

## **OTHER ACTIONS**

1. Issie Barratt to source the football league research
2. Mark Armstrong to contact UK Theatre for their guidance/position

## **RESOURCES MENTIONED IN THE MEETING**

Music Unlocked: Guidance for Schools and Music Providers

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/resources/music-unlocked-guidance-for-schools-and-music-providers/>

ISM Global Literature Review: Music Performance, Education and COVID-19

[https://www.ism.org/images/files/ISM-Literature-Review\\_July-2020\\_online-FINAL.pdf](https://www.ism.org/images/files/ISM-Literature-Review_July-2020_online-FINAL.pdf)

National Federation of High Schools preliminary results of performing arts aerosol study

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/preliminary-results-of-performing-arts-aerosol-study-depict-hopeful-outlook-for-future-music-activities/>

The science for restarting live performance: Declan Costello

<https://bachtrack.com/interview-the-science-of-restarting-live-performance-declan-costello-july-2020>

Sing into the funnel please: inside the Covid-19 lab hoping to declare singing safe

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/jul/22/sing-funnel-covid-19-lab-hoping-declare-singing-safe>

Boarding Schools Association Urgent update – DfE Guidance for full opening of schools (2 July 2020)

<https://www.boarding.org.uk/media/news/%20article/14738/Urgent-update-DfE-Guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Twitter group of university music dept people @MusicHigherEd