

December 2018

### **Ofqual consultation on GCSE and GCE music and dance**

1. UK Music is the umbrella body representing the collective interests of the UK's commercial music industry, from songwriters and composers to artists and musicians, studio producers, music managers, music publishers, major and independent record labels, music licensing companies and the live music sector.

UK Music exists to represent the UK's commercial music sector, to drive economic growth and promote the benefits of music to British society. A full list of UK Music members can be found in annex.

2. The music industry contributes £4.5 billion Gross Value Added and generates export revenues of £2.6 billion and employs 145,815 people.<sup>1</sup>
3. UK Music welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Ofqual's consultation on GCSE and GCE music and dance. In responding to this consultation we support the response from our member the Music Publishers Association (MPA).
4. In their response the MPA set out that they are worried about the general status of musical education within the United Kingdom, be it primary or secondary education and asked for further more wide-ranging discussions on how to improve the status quo.
5. These concerns are shared across the music industry. UK Music's report, *Securing our Talent Pipeline* recently revealed that 17 per cent of music creators were educated at fee paying schools, compared with 7 per cent across the population as a whole. This matters because 50 per cent of children at independent schools receive sustained music tuition, while the figure for state schools is a mere 15 per cent.<sup>2</sup>
6. The report also revealed that 46 per cent of musicians, composers, songwriters and lyricists needing financial, help from family and friends at some point in the development of their professional music career. If pursuing a career in music becomes the preserve of those who can rely on the 'Bank of Mum and Dad', when it comes to finding future talent we will be drawing water from an increasingly small well.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/UK\\_Music\\_Measuring\\_Music\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/UK_Music_Measuring_Music_2018.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/Talent\\_Pipeline\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ukmusic.org/assets/general/Talent_Pipeline_2018.pdf)

7. As the MPA acknowledge the current consultation on changes to the rules for Performance Assessments in GCSE, AS and A level music addresses one specific aspect of music education. We welcome the proposals concerning the minimum duration of a performance during assessment; in particular removing the limitation to “the only evidence which will be admissible”. The proposed changes to the performance assessment will take into account the different ways how students access and perform music; e.g. by improvisation in jazz and rap. The proposed changes reflect this reality; and we hope it will render musical education more accessible for, and more popular with students.
8. As the MPA note, this change to the Performance Assessments in GCSE, AS and A level music only addresses one specific aspect of making music more accessible. Every child needs to have meaningful access to musical education, both in primary and secondary education. This relates to the qualification of the teaching workforce as well as to the availability of musical instruments. This is particularly relevant for non-fee paying schools which often do not have the necessary resources to offer any musical education.

## **Annex**

UK Music’s membership comprises of:-

- AIM – The Association of Independent Music – the trade body for the independent music community, representing over 850 small and medium sized independent record labels and associated music businesses.
- BASCA exists to celebrate, support and protect the professional interests of all writers of music.
- BPI - the trade body of the recorded music industry representing 3 major record labels and over 300 independent record labels.
- FAC – The Featured Artists Coalition represents and promotes the interests of featured recording artists in the music industry.
- MMF – Music Managers Forum - representing over 500 UK managers of artists, songwriters and producers across the music industry with global businesses.
- MPG - Music Producers Guild - representing and promoting the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music – including producers, engineers, mixers, remixers, programmers and mastering engineers.
- MPA - Music Publishers Association - with 260 major and independent music publishers in membership, representing close to 4,000 catalogues across all genres of music.
- Musicians’ Union representing 30,000 musicians.
- PPL is the music licensing company which works on behalf of over 90,000 record companies and performers to license recorded music played in public (at pubs, nightclubs, restaurants, shops, offices and many other business types) and broadcast (TV and radio) in the UK.

- *PRS for Music* is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 114,000 composers, songwriters and publishers and an international repertoire of 10 million songs.
- UK Live Music Group, representing the main trade associations and representative bodies of the live music sector

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