



Teaching Notes - The MTA Podcast with Patrick Johns

Episode archive (1-120)

Episode 120 - 2025 MTA Conference Special

ABRSM Chief Examiner and Jazz trumpeter, **Mark Armstrong**, talks about his CPD session, 'Jazz in the Classroom', and Founder and President of MusicFirst, **Dr Jim Frankel**, chats about his Keynote speech, 'The Impact of AI on Music Making and Learning'. Plus, various Trade Fair exhibitors describe their products, including representatives from **Aspire Organs, Sing Up!, Coach House Pianos, Trinity College London, and Viscount Organs.**

Episode 119 - 2025 MTA Conference Preview

Liz Dunbar and Asha Bishop chat about the crucial balancing of creativity and academic rigour at Key Stage 3; and composer, arranger, singer, conductor and jazz musician Alexander L'Estrange discusses ways to get your choir to swing!

Episode 118

Rilla Paterson discusses her resources to support singing and music-reading in primary schools; Julian Whittaker chats about the MTA mock interview service; and Jack Laidlaw, James Tuck and Dustin Ragland give us the lowdown on Ableton.

Episode 117

Dr Jonathan Savage chats about significant changes in the world of Music Education, the relationship of Music Hubs with schools, and new BBC Bitesize resources; and the MTA's Head of Growth and Operations, **Caroline Robinson**, introduces the 2025 MTA conference, including the CPD sessions, the mentoring and training, the keynote speakers, and details of tickets.

Episode 116

Maria Thomas from The Music Workshop Company introduces their incredible range of schools workshops, including historical music, and a very interesting workshop using cutlery. Editor of Gramophone Magazine, **Martin Cullingford**, tells Patrick all about the Survey 'Growing Musicians, Shaping Lives', aiming to find out about music teachers' day-to-day lives in the profession; and **Mark Aitchison** chats about the European Day of Music in Schools, which enables teachers to watch videos of music-making from schools all over Europe.

Episode 115 - 2025 Music and Drama Education Expo Special

Ifeanyichukwu Ezinmadu introduces **SymphoMe**, which uses AI to help give students detailed feedback on their performances in between lessons; award-winning Jazz pianist, composer and educator **Nikki Yeoh** shares some of her steps to teaching improvisation, and to help students (and teachers!) overcome the fear; **Dr June Fileti**, MD of the **International School of Musicians**, chats about their new approach to performance assessment, allowing students to choose their own repertoire; **Rachel Hawker**, Director of Education at **Rocksteady Music School**, chats about her CPD session, 'The Power of Games to Supercharge Children's Musicality'. And, Heart FM presenter **Simon Beale** chats about the **Music & Drama Education Awards**, which he hosted, and about his love for 80s music.

Episode 114

Dylan McCaig chats about being a recent ECT, and about Early Music both within the curriculum, and as part of co-curricular activities. MTA Operations Manager, **Laura Bendy**, shares details of her new role at the MTA, as well as an important announcement. And looking towards the **Music and Drama Education Expo**, **Thomas Gregory** tells us why we all need more chaos in our classrooms!

Episode 113

Mike Wright, also known as 'that music improv teacher', shares the output of some of his recent research into improvisation, **Professor Derek Avis** discusses the psychology of music performance, and **MTA President, Catherine Barker**, shares the ongoing work of the MTA, including some of the lesser-known benefits of being part of the Association.

Episode 112

Singer, teacher, and vocal health expert, **Dr Jenevora Williams**, discusses ways to recognise, manage, and prevent any issues with students' - or teachers' - vocal health. Plus, conductor **Nic Chalmers** introduces ways of engaging young people with opera, including some of his work with the Royal Opera House, and he chats about his marathon Christmas Carolling, at the Royal Albert Hall, with the National Youth Choir.

Episode 111

Alex Aitken chats about GCSE and A Level composition and set works, including ways to teach them, their place within a course, and the barriers faced by teachers and students. Editor of Music Teacher magazine, **Phil Croydon** introduces the forthcoming Music & Drama Education Expo and Awards, to be held in January 2025. And singer, song-writer and New England fiddler **Lissa Schneckenburger** discusses the importance of aural awareness, ways to teach it, and her online course 'Learning By Ear'.

Episode 110

Aileen Douthwaite from the Music Publishers' Association, chats about Every Copy Counts, highlighting the legality of photocopying music in copyright, and logging it to help publishers, authors and composers. **Alex Parsons** and **Liz Dunbar** offer some Composition Hacks in extracts from their recent MTA webinar. And choral conductor and singer **Edward Caswell** chats about rounds and canons, and SingCircle, a new book containing 111 of these perfect miniatures, which he has co-authored. He explains the book's origins, how to teach rounds and canons effectively, and just why they are perfect for students of all ages and experience.

Episode 109

BBC Radio 3 presenter **Linton Stephens** chats about the BBC's new Ten Pieces, each of which has been written by a female composer; **Alex Parsons** introduces a new series of webinars from the MTA, providing crucial CPD for teachers; and **Si Tew** from Digit Learning explains the range of products they offer, including their joystick-driven instrument, CMPSR, their notation system Arrow Notes, plus Global Sound Culture.

Episode 108

Michelle Robinson (Loughborough University) discusses the special relationship between student and teacher in instrumental and vocal lessons, looking at ways to develop it; and **Gary Spruce** chats about the challenges in instrumental music teaching, as featured in his new book, the uniqueness of whole class instrumental tuition, and teacher retention.

Episode 107

Winner of Visiting Music Teacher 2024 (Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year Awards 2024) **Helen Minshall** chats about her work, teaching brass instruments across Lancashire, and **Dr Anthony Anderson** discusses curriculum design, looking at differences in how curricula are perceived by music teachers and SLTs.

Episode 106

Rali Walker introduces 'Play Recorder', Sing Up's new scheme of learning for KS1 and KS2 recorder; and **Dr George Waddell**, from the Royal College of Music, discusses assessment in music, focusing on performance science, preparation for a performance assessment, and external factors that can affect assessors' opinions.

Episode 105

Rob Reich-Storer introduces the AI-driven assessment app, **Assessify**, **Rachel Topham** from **Faber Music** chats about the new Faber Music Teachers' Community, and **Maddy Barnes** and **Peter Tamblyn** talk about the great education work done by **English Touring Opera**.

Episode 104

Music Education Consultant (and former National Lead for Music for Ofsted), **Mark Phillips** chats about the start of Year 7, and the value (or lack of value) of baseline tests, questionnaires, and tests of aural perception, such as the Bentley Test. Plus, MTA's President, **Catherine Barker**, reflects on the 2023-24 academic year, and looks to the future of Music Education.

Episode 103

Jane Mitchell introduces the Aurora Orchestra's latest resource, Discover Beethoven; **Hattie Fisk**, co-chair of the Music and Drama Education Awards judging panel, gives an overview of the 2025 Awards; and **Dr Bushra El-Turk** and **Dr Joel Bell** introduce The Alternative Conservatoire, a new course for young musicians, post-18.

Episode 102

Professor Martin Fautley discusses music education over the last 40+ years. What was it like in the late 1970s? What have been the most significant changes? Which trends might make a comeback? And what are the biggest challenges in music education in 2024?

Episode 101

Liz Dunbar's incredible new online subscription resource, Music Department Resources, packed with complete schemes of work, cover lessons, and much, much more. **Nate Holder** introduces the 2024 Why Music Festival, to be held on 25th and 27th June 2024. And jazz pianist, teacher and university lecturer **Sam Leak** discusses perfect pitch, absolute pitch and melody triggers: whether these can be taught or are just natural gifts, and different approaches to teaching aural awareness to students.

Episode 100

Former MTA President, **Simon Toyne**, reflects on what has changed in Music Education since his first interview in Episode 1, in 2020; and composer **Errollyn Wallen OBE** discusses her approach to composition, in a Fireside chat recorded live at the conference. Plus, from the Trade Fair, **Music Leaders UK**, the **London College of Music Examinations**, and **The Ear Academy** explain their services, and teachers **Sully Ososanya** and **Joanna King** chat about their first MTA conference.

Episode 99

Mark Llewelyn Evans, from the ABC of Opera, on his workshops with Primary Schools; **Pauline Black** gives a preview of her and Simon Purcell's MTA Conference session, The Jazz Mindset; and **Nate Holder** discusses his new book, If I Were a Racist, expanding on his 2020 poem of the same name.

Episode 98

Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee, **Caroline Nokes MP**, discusses their recent report, Misogyny in Music; **Oli Rose**, from the Lang Lang Foundation, introduces their Keys of Inspiration scheme, providing whole suites of free pianos to disadvantaged schools; and composer **Dr James Olsen**, from the Society for Music Analysis, discusses music analysis, notation, what 'musical literacy' means, and introduces the Society's forthcoming summit in July.

Episode 97

Mike Simpson from Inspire Works, talks about the Drumbeatable programme, using group drumming to help young people overcome mental health challenges; **Kay Charlton** chats about improvisation in lessons, whole class instrumental tuition, and her new resource, Dinosaur Stomp; and **Nathaniel Dye** chats about remaining in the classroom despite significant health challenges, how to keep young musicians in ensembles, and the crucial transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

Episode 96

Composer **David A Stowell** with reflects on his Expo talk, 'Music Composition: Tips and Tricks for those Extra Marks'; **Abi Marrison** (Music Mark) and **Colin Stuart** (ISM) talk about the campaign Can Do Music; and **David Mason** from Viscount Organs introduces the ranges of organs available for schools.

Episode 95 - 2024 Music and Drama Expo Special

Interviews with exhibitors **Take It Away**, and **Darbar Academy**; seminar presenters **Deirdre Waller-Box** (Brass Bands England) and **Tim Bennett-Hart** (RSL Awards); winner of the Music Education Lifetime Achievement Award **Sally Daunt**; and Awards presenter, **Cerrie Burnell**.

Episode 94

Liz Stafford chats about some of the big issues in Music Education today, and gives an overview the Music Education Solutions Conference; **Gill Davies** announces the MTA's Annual Conference to be held in May, including details of Key Note speakers and how to get tickets; and **Lesley Tyler** previews her Music and Drama Education Expo seminar "A thematic enquiry curriculum for KS3", discussing innovative ways to link all Key Stage 3 subjects in schools with a common theme.

Episode 93

Sarah McWatt from Amp (formerly NYMAZ), and **Vic Holmes** from Note Weavers discuss the work they do for primary music in the North of England, and introduce their joint Early Years Music Conference; and **Vanessa Wilson-Best** explores "exclusivity at GCSE", and technology as the great leveller.

Episode 92

Francesca Christmas and **Toby Davies** from Trinity College London chat about their Awards and Certificates in Musical Development, Digital Theory Exams, AI, and more; **David Gray** talks about his primary curriculum, his online resources, training for primary music specialists, and makes the case for ukuleles; and **Dr Robin Harrison**, director of The Maestro Online, introduces their masterclasses, practicing resources, and the new Pop Piano grades.

Episode 91

Janet Fischer gives an overview of the excellent work done by Live Music Now; **Dr Anna Mariguddi** discusses her recent research into informal music learning in primary schools; and **Keith Sykes** from Lewisham Music chats about their award-winning project connecting music and young people's mental health, Front Line Young Minds.

Episode 90

Zac Moxon, Winner of the 2023 Outstanding New Teacher of the Year at the Pearson National Teaching Awards, chats about his curriculum and department, including how they manage to put on over 50 concerts per year. **Sarah MacDonald**, Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, discusses Christmas carols: composing, arranging, and writing descants, plus barriers faced by female composers, choral directors and organists.

Episode 89

Dr Kirsty Devaney discusses her research into barriers faced by female composers, and young people's perception of what it means to be a composer; and **Jimmy Rotheram** chats about primary music education, with guidance for non-specialist teachers, including dos and don'ts.

Episode 88

Jason Poulton introduces his resource, Music Homework, **Sophia Allen** from Britten-Pears Arts introduces their newly-commissioned songs as part of Friday Afternoons; and **Randy Jones** discusses Spirituals: their origins, difficult terminology, dialect, and their place in the Music Classroom.

Episode 87

Paul McCreesh chats about the next Gabrieli Roar project, and about singing and repertoire for young people; **James Manwaring** previews the next Music Teacher Monday webinar; and composer **Paul Clark** introduces the composition resource, Ear Opener, discussing how to start a composition, and the power of arranging in the compositional process.

Episode 86

MTA president **Catherine Barker** previews the new edition of the MTA's Ensemble magazine; **Joe Hastings** talks about the 24/7 counselling service for musicians and music teachers, Music Minds Matter; and **Ali Bowen-Davies** and **Lincoln Abbotts** from the ABRSM discuss the development and creation of new syllabuses for instrumental and vocal exams.

Episode 85

Teacher and blogger **Dice Wood** explores how to say No to excess workload, how to reduce time spent marking homework, and the message that homework sends to students; **Laura Hailstone** from Music Mark introduces their annual conference; and **Paul Blaylock** discusses his highly successful approach to the KS3 curriculum, offering tips and insights.

Episode 84

Alex Aitken introduces his enormous new resource, Mastering A Level Music, focussing on the Edexcel course; **Lauren Elliott** from Music Monsters chats about the wonderful work they do with very young pianists; and film and TV composer **George Fenton** looks at this year's GCSE Film Music Composition Briefs and offers insights into the art of film composition, giving tips for aspiring film composers.

Episode 83

Rachel Shapey introduces her new book, co-authored with Nate Holder, Listen and Celebrate, written to help teachers to enrich and diversify music at Key Stage 3; **Leanne Sedin** and **Adam Saunders** introduce The Music Teachers' Choir, set up to get music teachers to sing together; and **Dan Francis** chats about the relationship between what's learnt in the music classroom, and what's learnt in instrumental/vocal lessons, and how the two can overlap more.

Episode 82

Rob Reich-Storer introduces his music resource website, Rhythmstix, and **Katy Thomson** explains the background to Ground:Ed, which offers workshops to help harness creativity, and self-confidence. MTA President **Catherine Barker**, reflects on the 2022-23 academic year, addresses some current issues in music education, and looks ahead to what's in store from the MTA for 2023-24.

Episode 81

Niels Bastrup and **Hans Jakobsen** introduce a new feature from Ear Master, designed to help students with the aural tests in ABRSM exams; **Mark Aitchison** shares his planning for the next academic year; and **Dr Rebecca Berkley** discusses music training for primary teachers, looking at specific problems and possible solutions.

Episode 80

Prof Nate Holder introduces the forthcoming "Why Music Festival", a one-day online festival; **Olivia Sparkhall** presents her new book, "A Young Person's Guide to Vocal Health", and **Christopher Stevens HMI**, subject lead for Music at Ofsted, answers questions about assessment within music education.

Episode 79

Pianist and composer **Melanie Spanswick** introduces her graded anthology of piano books, Women Composers, exclusively featuring music by female composers. From the 2023 RiME conference, **Cynthia Stephens-Himonides** (Kingston University) and **Meggie Young** (Ohio State University) discuss their research into music teachers' self-identity when it comes to the use of technology in the classroom, both in the UK and the USA. And Jazz pianist and educator **Darius Brubeck** offers some insights into teaching Jazz, improvisation, and Jazz composition.

Episode 78 - MTA Conference Special

Greg Coughlin discusses non-traditional routes to GCSE Music, **Lisa Coley** introduces the range of microphones available from Sontronics, **Rebecca Arnold** chats about her experiences at her first MTA Conference, and **Charles Price** explains how to demystify the composition process, especially at Key Stage 4. Finally, outgoing president **Don Gillthorpe** reflects on the last two years, and incoming president **Catherine Barker** looks ahead to the future.

Episode 77

Cynthia Stephens-Himonides and **Maria Mendonça** talk about incorporating Gamelan into curricula, particularly as a way of including disengaged young people; sneak previews of two of the 2023 MTA Conference sessions, with **Mark Wilderspin** ('How to take student compositions from good to great') and **Lucinda Geoghegan** ('The Kodály Approach'); and **Naomi McCarthy** from the ISM, discusses their new campaign Save Our Subjects.

Episode 76

Vanessa Wilson-Best discusses current matters in music education, and gives an overview of the forthcoming Great Escape Festival's Music Education Conference; composer-in-association with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, **Gavin Higgins**, introduces the BBC's Young Composer Competition; and **Dr Anthony Anderson** explores his recent RiME presentation, looking at the 'telescoping' of KS3 curricula down from three years to two.

Episode 75

Amelia Parker, co-producer of BBC Radio 4's "Rethinking Music" series on music education, chats about the making of the series; **Simon Toyne**, **Sophie Taylor-Denton** and **Caius Lee** talk about the Rodolfus Foundation's Choral Courses for young singers; and **Dr Anna Mariguddi** gives a preview of her RiME presentation, looking at Dr Lucy Green's model of informal learning in the current music education landscape.

Episode 74

Kwame Bakoji-Hume on West African Drumming, and misconceptions about the music; **Judith Weir** with compositional tips (from Music Teacher Mondays); and **Mark Aitchison** looking at long-term changes to classroom practice following the pandemic.

Episode 73 - 2023 Music and Drama Expo and Awards Special

Two of the speakers from this year's Expo: **Jessica Yuen** on 'Exploring the Pentatonic', and Jazz pianist **Richard Michael** on 'Ingenious improvisation and arrangement techniques'. Plus, **Nathaniel Dye**, Music Leader at Nelson Primary School in East Ham, winners of the 2023 Music Department of the Year at the Awards, talks about the school's music provision.

Episode 72

Music Expo Preview: "No Practice? No Problem!" Violinist and teacher **Georgina Leach** discusses the initial (un)importance of practising an instrument, questioning whether it is a form of exclusion, and looks at basic introduction to improvisation for non-specialists. And pianist **Stephen Marquiss** talks about The Anti-Racist Music Studio, and unconscious prejudice within our teaching.

Episode 71

Matt Beale and **Tom Rayner** from the ORA Singers, introduce the annual Young Composers' Scheme; **Michelle Buckman** from the Musiq Group talks about the One Great Piano project, to get high-quality pianos into every school; and, **Dr Steven Berryman** explains the benefits of joining the Chartered College of Teaching, how to become a Chartered Teacher, and talks about music education today.

Episode 70

Letty Stott and **Rebecca Celebuski** from Gender And the Large and Shiny Instruments (GALSI) talk about the imbalance of female and non-binary musicians performing brass and percussion; **Chris Hoban** introduces a potential new national song, A Song of England; and **Ross Garrod** discusses the 'Missing Myelination Link', and the effect of regular musical practice on the brain's development.

Episode 69

Learning Director of Aurora Orchestra **Rebecca Barnett** introduces their new online resource for Early Years and KS1, The Magical Toy Box; and composer **Bob Chilcott** chats about Christmas Carols, including composition tips about melody and structure.

Episode 68

Ollie Tunmer introduces Beat Goes On's Body Percussion Scheme of Work for key stages 1–4; **Suzzie Vango** and **Lucy Hollins** chat about their new book, "How to Make Your Choir Sound Awesome", focusing on warm-ups; and co-chair of @JazzInEdUK, **Simon Purcell** discusses the role of improvisation within the classroom, and the role that Jazz pedagogy can play.

Episode 67

Alex Parsons discusses approaches to melodic dictation at KS3 and KS4, as well as ways to develop greater aural awareness; and Ofsted's National Lead for Music, and Senior HMI, **Christopher Stevens**, answers questions about curriculum design, and assessment in KS3 Music.

Episode 66

Rebecca Ledgard and **Sarah Batten** from Ex Cathedra, introduce their various educational resources, including Choir Maker, designed to embed a love of singing with Year 7s; and **Paul McCreesh** gives some tips for running choir rehearsals, Early Music in schools, and current and future Gabrieli Roar projects.

Episode 65

OCR's Lead Subject Advisor for music, **Marie Bessant**, describes the processes an exam board goes through to create GCSE Music exams; from a recent Hibbins Series webinar, **Rachel Leach** offers some ways to kick-start classroom compositions, and relate them to orchestral music; and Chief Executive of Music Mark, **Bridget Whyte**, gives details of their annual conference in cities across the UK and online.

Episode 64

Shivani Rattan chats about her new Indian Celebration Songs, designed to help young singers incorporate Indian celebrations into their choral experience; and **Haim Kairy** introduces the Arcana Strum, an instrument especially designed for musicians with limited mobility and disability.

Episode 63

Nate Holder chats about the music of West Africa, and Why Music's new book, "Where Are All the Instruments? West Africa"; **Dr Matt Lawson**, Senior Lecturer in Music, Oxford Brookes University, share his passion for Film Music, and talks about his schools' workshops on Film Music; and **Emma Wild**, Associate Director, Standards for Design, Development and Evaluation of General Qualifications for Ofqual, answers questions about the creation of GCSE exams, and Ofqual's role in these.

Episode 62

Chris Hoban chats about Folk Music; **Don Gillthorpe** on ways to prepare KS3 students for KS4; And **Dr Jennie Henley** discussing recurrent barriers to music education.

Episode 61

Patrick reports on the recent MTA Connect day, with **Lewis Edney** and **Alicia Johnson**, and **Alex Parsons** introduces a great homework activity for KS3 students. Plus, **Don Gillthorpe** reflects on the academic year.

Episode 60

In Episode 60, Patrick talks to two of the panel of experts, who helped to shape the new National Plan for Music Education, "The Power of Music to Change Lives": **Jamie Njoku-Goodwin** and **Catherine Barker**.

Episode 59

Stephen O'Regan from the Ukraine Music Hub explains the great work they're doing to provide free music tuition to Ukrainians, recently arrived in the UK; an extract from Music Teacher Mondays, led by **James Manwaring** and **Liz Dunbar**; and **Bridget Whyte** introduces Music Mark's 'Talk into Action' movement, to support organisations in their EDI journey.

Episode 58

In this episode, Executive Director of the ABRSM, **Lincoln Abbotts**, introduces their latest resource, Classroom 200; **Dr Kirsty Devaney** discusses her research into the teaching of composition in schools, including surprising perceptions amongst students, and some myths; And Ofsted's National Lead for Music, **Christopher Stevens**, answers teachers' questions.

Episode 57 - MTA Conference Special

Andy Stott, Head of Popular Music at the RNCM, introduces the RNCM's new Young Artists' programme; **Michael Hamilton** introduces the Real Music Video Company, and what they can do for music departments; And saxophonist **YolanDa Brown** chats about her keynote speech, and her approach to music education.

Episode 56

David Ryan from Furlong Solutions, introduces their new app; **Emily Crowhurst** explains what 'tuning' a curriculum is, and the simple steps we can all take to help develop new Schemes of Work; **Michelle James** from Sing Up talks about their work, and introduces a new programme for primary schools; And professional drummer, **Felix Higginbottom**, on how to support students who want to go into the music industry.

Episode 55

In Episode 55, author, educator and musician **Andrew Gant** tells Patrick about his new book, Five Straight Lines, covering the entire history of Western music; **Liz Dunbar** offers some excellent, detailed advice about job applications, interviews and interview lessons; and MTA committee member **Mark Aitchison** introduces a new mock-interview service provided by the MTA.

Episode 54

Patrick interviews two of the winners at the recent Music & Drama Education Awards: **Nick Thorne** from Orchestras for All, and **Mary-Alice Stack** from the Inclusive Music Consortium. Plus, **Prof. Nate Holder** gives an overview of the forthcoming free 'Why Music' CPD, looking at topics such as Rap, Music & Islam, Electronic Music & Hip Hop, Trinbagonian Culture & the Steel Pan, and the Roots of Blues.

Episode 53

Harriet Clifford gives a preview of the Music & Drama Education Awards; **Dr Steven Berryman** introduces the new MTA Composing Club, in collaboration with NMC Recordings, using contemporary classical music to stimulate students' compositions; and **Anna Gower** and **Steve Jackman** chat about their use of Musical Futures in their lessons in Thailand, and beyond.

Episode 52

In Episode 52, **Natalie Wild** tells Patrick all about her new book, 'The Symphony from Mannheim to Mahler'; and Ofsted's new National Lead for Music, **Christopher Stevens** chats about inspections, demonstrations of progress, challenges facing music education, and the place of staff notation in the classroom.

Episode 51

Dr Phil Mullen talks about the new series of webinars provided by MAC Makes Music, promoting inclusivity; **Stephanie Bissell** and **Natalie Wild** chat about wonderful work done by the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST); and **Dr Liz Stafford** chats about curricula past, present, and future, with details of a forthcoming curriculum conference.

Episode 50

Paul McCreech and **Simon Toyne** announce the latest Gabrieli Roar project, featuring the music of Michael Praetorius; **Abigail D'Amore** introduces Every Copy Counts, a campaign to help schools with the copying of music; and former Charlie Parker sideman, Jazz legend **Dick Hyman** chats about all things Jazz.

Episode 49

In Episode 49, **Elliott Smith** introduces The Teaching Gadget; **Gill Davies** talks about her role at the MTA, including forthcoming events; and X-Factor and Britain's Got Talent vocal coach, **Annabel Williams**, chats about singing: repertoire, technique, and her favourite singers.

Episode 48

In Episode 48, composer, arranger, conductor and teacher **Ralph Allwood** chats about Christmas carols, getting started with composition, and creativity; and MTA President, **Don Gillthorpe** looks back at 2021, and forward to 2022.

Episode 47

Gemma Scotcher from Education Support on the mental health support they provide for teachers; from a recent MTA webinar, Senior HMI and Music Lead for Ofsted, **Mark Phillips** talks about interpreting the National Curriculum; and **Kelly-Jo Foster-Peters** talks about students with additional needs.

Episode 46

Chris Fish, introducing composition CPD provider, Passing Notes; **Sally Beamish** on her routes into composition, and non-classical music; And Senior HMI and Music Lead for Ofsted, **Mark Phillips** discussing Deep Dives.

Episode 45

In this episode, lead teacher **Bhamika Bhudia** discusses four teaching trends that she thinks should be abandoned in the classroom, including demonstrating progress, and frequent marking. And Senior HMI and Music Lead for Ofsted, **Mark Phillips** returns to the podcast to discuss assessment in music education: what's valuable, what's not; the dangers of over-assessing; and a new approach to Assessment for Learning.

Episode 44

Lewis Edney gives an update as to the MTA's Partnerships programme; an extract from the most recent Hibbins Series webinar with Master of the Queens Music, **Judith Weir**; and composer **Shirley J Thompson** on fusions, and her influences.

Episode 43 - Music and Drama Education Expo Special!

Ben Turner, reflecting on his CPD session, The Music Teacher Bias; **Hans Lavdal Jakobsen**, on Ear Master, an app to help with students' aural awareness; **Tasmin Little** on her perception of Music Education; and **Emily Penn**, Lead of Online Music Education Initiative Connect (NYMAZ), on using online technologies to support instrumental learning.

Episode 42

Harriet Clifford gives a preview of the Music and Drama Education Expo; **Mark Aitchison** chats about his role as Lecturer in Music Education at the University of Reading, looking at the challenges trainee music teachers are currently facing, as well as introducing the MTA's new trainee teacher support service; and **Marion Friend** explains her role as coach, mentor, facilitator and consultant, and how she can help music teachers.

Episode 41

Mike Simpson introduces Inspire Works Studios, the new interactive video resource to teach music from around the world; **Chrissy Kinsella** reflects on the digital ensembles that were such a feature of 2020 and 2021, looking at their legacy and wider benefits; And **Cyrella Rowsell** from the Phoenix Collective discusses the teachings of Zoltán Kodály, and how they can fit into Schemes of Work.

Episode 40

In the last episode of the academic year, Ofsted's National Lead for Music, and Senior HMI, **Mark Phillips** discusses the recent music research review. And MTA President **Don Gillthorpe** reflects on a challenging academic year, and looks at what can be taken into next year's teaching.

Episode 39

Director of Music Education at Arts Council England, **Hannah Fouracre**, introduces the important work that Arts Council England, including their new project, Let's Create; Award-winning saxophone star, TV and Radio Presenter **Jess Gillam** discusses the importance of live music for children, and the perceived viability of music as a career; And **Dr Rebecca Berkley**, Associate Professor in Music Education, at the University of Reading, looks at the Model Music Curriculum's use for teaching music at Key Stage 1 and 2.

Episode 38

Manvinder Rattan from Sing for Pleasure and the Voices Foundation introduces the excellent work they do for young conductors, including training for conductors from ethnic minority backgrounds; **Fran Hannan** from Musical Futures gives an overview of MuFuTV, the online week of CPD, for music teachers everywhere; And music teacher, author and rapper **Francis Winston** discusses Rap's place in the classroom, addresses some misunderstandings and concerns, and presents his outstanding new resource, Rappin' the Classroom.

Episode 37

Ross Garrod introduces Practice Pal, a new resource designed to support every aspect of students' instrumental and vocal tuition; Chief Executive of Music Mark, **Bridget Whyte**, shares details of the new campaign Get Playing!, designed to promote and support the take up of instruments; And the Children's Musical Director of the West End show Mary Poppins, **Alex Aitken**, in conversation about the place of Musical Theatre in the curriculum.

Episode 36

Blues historian, author and harmonica virtuoso, **Adam Gussow** chats about Blues Rock, dispels some myths, and offers some tips on getting students started with the Blues (part 2); And teacher, composer and author **Patrick Gazard** offers some advice on how to incorporate some of the extraordinary teaching and learning that's taken place in the last 14 months, in future lessons – and has a quick chat about the Model Music Curriculum.

Episode 35

Editor of Music Teacher magazine, **Harriet Clifford**, on contributing to the magazine, and this year's Expo; Plus, from the MTA Conference, **Rachel Shapey** discusses composing in the classroom; One of the exhibitors,

Sonia Yardley, from tour operator One Stage, talks about how 2021 is looking for school ensembles' tours; And the incoming MTA President **Don Gillthorpe** on music education today.

Episode 34

Chief Executive of Music for Youth, **Judith Webster**, gives an update of the 2021 festival; **Charlotte Penton-Smith**, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Musicians, explains what the RSM can do to help all musicians and music teachers in need of assistance; And, Professor at the University of Mississippi (and top harmonica player), **Adam Gussow** chats about the Blues: its origins, WC Handy, and Rock 'n' Roll (part 1).

Episode 33

Chris Fower from Warwick Music talks about their range of P-instruments, and a new way of teaching brass instruments, using informal learning: Brass Tabs; Olivier Award-winning Musical Theatre star **Ruthie Henshall** talks about ways into Musical Theatre, looking after your voice, and the value of the long game; And composers/performers **Sarah Dacey** and **Dr Aaron Holloway-Nahum** from contemporary music group the Riot Ensemble discuss new music, graphic scores, and ways into this music.

Episode 32

We meet two of the winners from the 2021 Music and Drama Education Awards: **Greg Coughlin** from The Isaac Newton Academy, and **Shaheen Chino Khan** from The Bollywood Academy; Plus a look at the new Model Music Curriculum, with Expert Panel members **Julian Lloyd Webber** and **Carolyn Baxendale**, and MTA Curriculum Lead, **Catherine Barker**.

Episode 31

Tim Garrard gives an overview of the MTA's Partnerships programmes, linking schools with each other and with other musical providers; Extracts from the recent Hibbins Series webinar on Jazz, with author, historian, bassist, and BBC Radio 3 presenter **Alyn Shipton**, along with Patrick Johns; And **Howard Goodall** returns to give insights into his method of composition, and advice to young composers everywhere.

Episode 30

In Episode 30, Head of Education at Sound and Music, **Judith Robinson**, gives an overview of the composing CPD, resources and courses they provide for teachers and students; We hear an extract of **John Butt and Robert Quinney's** excellent recent MTA webinar on JS Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no.4, and Purcell's Music for a While, both on the Edexcel GCSE syllabus; And one of the world's finest Jazz musicians, multi-instrumentalist and academy leader **James Morrison** discusses his approach to teaching Jazz improvisation, with some profound insights, hints and tips.

Episode 29

In Episode 29 of Teaching Notes, **Simon Toyne** tackles an enormous question: "What should we be teaching in the Music classroom?"; **Sarah Lambie** brings an update about the Music and Drama Education Awards, to be held in March; And former Genesis guitarist **Steve Hackett** chats about Prog Rock, riffs, alternative tunings, and song-writing, including some tips for students, to help with writers' block.

Episode 28

In Episode 28, we hear an extract of **Paul McCreech and Richard Wigmore's** excellent recent MTA webinar on Haydn's Symphonies nos.101 and 104, as part of AQA and Eduqas A Level syllabi; Film composer **Sacha Puttnam** give advice to students and teachers about the process of Film Composition; And **Dr Alexis Kallio** discusses questions raised in her new book, 'Difference and Division in Music Education', with the conversation taking in identity, inclusivity, and... death metal!

Episode 27

Episode 27 of Teaching Notes looks at **Steven Berryman's** new blogging project, which encourages reflection and debate about a whole host of important articles written about music education; The UK's best-selling female singer-songwriter, **Katie Melua**, discusses the art and craft of song-writing, with some tips to overcoming writers' block; And Vice-Chair of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors, **Dr Mick Walker**, is on-hand to discuss the huge topic of assessment within education: its purpose, its problems and its future.

Episode 26

Catherine Barker gives a sneak preview of the new MTA Webinars due to start in 2021; And in a special interview for the festive season, **John Rutter** and Patrick discuss the power of choral singing, compositional approaches to carol-writing, text-setting, and we find out what John's favourite carols are. #CanDoMusic

Episode 25

The pros and cons of teaching in an international school are discussed by **Erika Cramp**, currently teaching in Phuket, who also introduces The Music Teachers' Kit, designed to help all those teaching iGCSE; **Julian Edwards** from Naxos tells Patrick all about the new online resource for Key Stages 1–3, Naxos MusicBox; and MTA President **Simon Toyne** challenges common perceptions and possible pitfalls regarding the teaching of Classical Music, suggesting new ways to approach it, whilst offering valuable insights.

Episode 24

MTA member **Michael Wright** discusses the ethics and authenticity of teachers' choice of music in the classroom; **Natalie Witts** from the MU returns to talk about the copyright restrictions applicable to teachers' own resources; And **Professor Martin Fautley** confronts some big questions in music education, such as the perceived value (or not) of certain genres of music, what "musical quality" means in real terms, and much, much more. #CanDoMusic

Episode 23

In this episode, the artistic director of the Gabrieli Consort and Players, **Paul McCreesh**, introduces their new "Bach to School" singing resource, exploring the wonderful world of JS Bach's chorales; **Natalie Witts**, from the Musicians' Union, answers questions about music copyright within schools, including crucial information that teachers need to know before embarking on virtual Christmas Concerts; And composer, multi-instrumentalist, producer and pioneer of Bhangra, **Kuljit Bhamra** drops in to explain the music, set the record straight about certain matters, and he suggests some excellent resources.

Episode 22

Episode 22 of Teaching Notes begins with Part 2 of an extended interview with composer, writer and TV presenter **Howard Goodall**, in which he discusses flaws in current assessment of composition, as well as tackling a big question: what is creativity? Plus, **Sarah Lambie** gives an overview of the Music & Drama Education Awards, the nominations for which are currently open. And, legendary British song-writer **Guy Chambers** chats to Patrick about the craft of song-writing, including how to get started and potential pitfalls.

Episode 21

Head of Performing Arts at School 21, **Emily Crowhurst** tells Patrick about the wonderful music-rich curriculum at her school, which takes students from the age of 4 to 18; Plus, Part 1 of an extended interview with composer, writer and TV presenter **Howard Goodall**, in which he tackles some big issues in music education today, such as what the core subjects on a curriculum should be, and the wider-benefits and long-term gains of a strong music provision in schools.

Episode 20

This episode focusses on KS4 and KS5 composition, with music teacher and coursework moderator **Jane Werry** offering some dos and don'ts, amongst other great advice. Plus, one invaluable of the UK's top composers, **Bob Chilcott** offers invaluable advice to music teachers, about the compositional process. And speech and language therapist **Brian Saccente-Kennedy** discusses teachers' vocal health, flagging up the long-term consequences of poor technique, and he gives some important advice for all teachers.

Episode 19

Kicking off the new term with a new series of Teaching Notes, Patrick talks to MTA President **Simon Toyne** about changes this term in the Music Classroom, and about the new campaign #CanDoMusic; and we hear from several music teachers about their plans for the lessons. Also, legendary comedian, impressionist, writer and opera translator **Rory Bremner** tells Patrick about a terrific new audio book he's been involved in, to help get Years 3–7 into Classical Music. And the UK's first Professor of Mental Health in Education, **Professor Barry Carpenter** discusses The Recovery Curriculum, and some crucial aspects of children's post-lockdown mental health, that all teachers should consider when planning lessons.

Episode 18

Catherine Barker on recent MTA webinars about returning to school; Executive Director of London Music Masters, **Rob Adediran**, introduces the diversity and inclusion strategy tool, "I'm In". **James Manwaring** gives some excellent advice to teachers already thinking about the Autumn Term; and MTA President **Simon Toyne** signs the academic year off by reflecting on how far we've all come this year, and how we can prepare for next year.

Episode 17

James McKelvey introduces Patrick to an alternative qualification for Key Stage 5, the International Baccalaureate Diploma; **Gareth Davies** from the London Symphony Orchestra and film maker **Vic Craven** talk about the creation of the hugely successful "Where's Simon?" online project, involving students playing along with the LSO and Sir Simon Rattle. Jazz legend, and former Miles Davis sideman, **Ron Carter** chats about introducing Jazz to beginners, and recommends some recordings for beginners to listen to.

Episode 16

Andrew Moxon discusses the large part that his students' external music-making plays within his school's life; Musical Futures' **Fran Hannan** introduces their online TV channel #mufutv. Patrick discusses various approaches to teaching Jazz to beginners, with Grammy Award-winning Jazz musician **Loren Schoenberg**, from the Juilliard School of Music.

Episode 15

Julian Whittaker looks back on his Key Stage 4 students' work during lockdown; Patrick meets opera singer **Mark Llewelyn Evans**, author of The ABC of Opera, designed to introduce opera to young children. World-famous cellist **Julian Lloyd-Webber** and Patrick discuss the life-changing experiences that Classical music can give to students, and some of the challenges associated with teaching it.

Episode 14

Dave Lowe gives Patrick an overview of the subjects his Year 7s study, including a terrific iPad project; **Hayley Clements**, the Head of Learning and Participation for RCM Sparks at the Royal College of Music explains how their partnerships with schools work, and how schools can get involved. Patrick talks to musician and author **Nate Holder** about decolonising our own music curricula, providing food for thought for teachers everywhere to re-examine their own lessons.

Episode 13

Head of Music **Mark Aitchison** tells Patrick how he's managed to turn round two struggling music departments, and explains his different approach to Key Stage 3 learning; **Austen Smart** from Future DJs gives some insider information as to the services they provide to schools. Patrick finds out about a charity that transforms lives through music, Brass for Africa, talking to superstar trumpeter **Alison Balsom**, charity founder **Jim Trott** and Director of Music Education **Lizzie Burrowes** about their work in Uganda, and the life-changing opportunities they can provide for students in UK schools.

Episode 12

Naomi Cook from Collins Learning tells Patrick about Music Express; **James Manwaring** offers some thought-provoking ideas about the importance of focussed listening; **Mike Simpson** from Inspire Works UK tells Patrick just what "World Music" means

Episode 11

Chi-Chi Nwanoku talks about the Chineke! Junior Orchestra's recent success in Britain's Got Talent; Dan Clark from Rock School talks about their increasingly popular qualifications; **Tim Garrard** gives an overview of what to expect in this year's online conference, "MTA at Home". Harry the Piano – talks Jazz, improvisation workshops, and rises to the challenge of Patrick's classical-Rockney fusion!

Episode 10

Lincoln Abbotts from the ABRSM about Classical 100; **James Manwaring** reports on a discussion about composing at home; **Peter Craik**, from the English Folk Dance and Song Society on why we all need folk music in our schools; **Patrick Gazard** and **Jane Werry**, co-authors of "Being a Head of Music – A Survival Guide" explain the book's genesis

Episode 9

An introduction to Dorico – **Daniel Spreadbury** (Steinberg); One-to-one learning, and music departments' wider role – **Simon Toyne**; The ISM, and "Indian Takeaway – Rag and Tal Basics" – **Vinota Karunasaagarar** and **Yogeth Dattani**

Episode 8

How Try Booking can help future school concerts – **Joan Lind** (Try Booking); Transition from Key Stage 3 to 4, and 4 to 5 – **James Manwaring**; Psychology of remote learning – **Emma Kenny**

Episode 7

Setting Up the New Term Online in Primary Schools – **Caitlin Sherring** and **Kate Davis**; Setting Up the New Term Online in Secondary Schools – **Gareth Hemmings**; Curriculum Conversations – **Steven Berryman**

Episode 6

Teaching KS3 music online - **Emily Crowhurst**; Teaching KS4/5 music online - **Mark Wilderspin**; KS3 update from The Crypt School, Gloucester - **Julian Whitaker**; KS3 update from United Learning Schools - **Catherine Barker**

Episode 5

Ensembles: keeping going when schools are closed - **Simon Toyne**; Vocal & Instrumental teaching - **Simon Williamson**; Composition and teaching using video (YouTube) - **David Lowe**; Ofqual update - **Patrick Johns**

Episode 4

Remote learning resources plus latest announcements on exams and coursework; Online learning - **Richard Payne**, Music First; Help for students working at home - **James Manwaring**

Episode 3

Composition coursework - **Dr Steven Berryman**; Pencil case music - **Angus Meryon**; London Music Fund - CEO **Chrissy Kinsella**

Episode 2

Meet the teacher - **Celia Carter**; **Nicola Benedetti** - Music education and the Benedetti Foundation; KS4 and KS5 - **James Manwaring**

Episode 1

Meet the teacher - **Helena McKillop**; Looping with a scheme of work - **Michael Wright**; Introduction to the MTA and music education landscape - **Simon Toyne** (President)