

**Title: Finding a job...keeping a job. Establishing new music posts in primary schools in the UK.**

Newly qualified and experienced musicians alike are often faced with creating projects and sustaining new teaching and therapy posts in school settings. This paper presents some of the key issues that musicians need to take into consideration when establishing work in schools.

This paper will deliver data gathered from Music Therapists, Head Teachers and other school workers from a research project undertaken in 2014-2015. It considers some of the practical issues, clinical issues and interpersonal issues that music therapists need to be aware of when setting up work. The implications of much of this data goes beyond music therapy work in primary school setting and is relevant for both music therapists and non-music therapists considering how to set up work in a new environment.

**Dr. Alison Barrington  
Biography:**

Alison Barrington studied the flute at Chetham's School of Music and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama before qualifying as a music therapist in 1991 at Roehampton University. She has worked with children and adults with learning disabilities and emotional/behavioural problems and with adults with palliative care issues.

In 1998 Alison gained an MA in counselling and has worked with Relate and for bereavement counselling services. In 2005 Alison also gained a PhD from Durham University. Her thesis, 'Music Therapy: A Study in Professionalisation' focusses on the development of music therapy in the UK.

She designed and taught an undergraduate course on music therapy in Durham University and has given guest lectures at Cardiff University, Roehampton University, Northampton University and at the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre, London. She has been an examiner for the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre, London, Queen Mary University of London and Anglia Ruskin University. She is currently the external one of the editors for the British Journal of Music Therapy.

Alison has also presented papers at the World Congress (2002), and at the BSMT Annual Conference (2003, 2004) and has written the following articles:

Barrington, A. *Becoming a Profession: Pressures of status change for music therapy*. Paper given at World Congress of Music Therapy, July 2002. Published 2002

Barrington, A. *The Evolution of the Music Therapy Community in Great Britain*. Paper given at BSMT/APMT Annual Conference 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Published 2003

Barrington, A. and Woodward, A, *Are you getting enough...? Supervision for music therapists in the UK*. Paper given at One Day Conference held at Anglia Polytechnic University, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

Barrington, A. *A Change of direction: From school to hospice*. Paper given at BSMT/APMT Annual Conference 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Published 2004

Barrington, A. *Music Therapy: A Study in Professionalisation*. PhD Thesis unpublished, 2005

Barrington, A. *Challenging the Profession*, in BJMT vol. 22, (2) 2008

Barrington, A. 'Collaboration: The Bigger Picture,' in K. Twyford and T. Watson (eds.) *Integrated Team Working* 2008

Barrington, A. 'An exploration of the issues involved when establishing new music therapy posts in primary schools in the UK,' Research Project funded by Guildhall School of Music and Drama, to be completed 2015

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