



Music Generation

ANNUAL REPORT

MUSIC GENERATION DAC



2020



**Music
Generation**

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme. A Music Network Initiative, co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, The Department of Education and Local Music Education Partnerships



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON FOREWORD	01
NATIONAL DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION	02
MUSIC GENERATION	03
VISION	
MISSION	
THE YEAR IN PHOTOS	04
STRATEGIC GOALS	05
KEY EVENTS & STORIES	13
2020 ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS	20
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE & BOARD	24
BOARD	
STAFF	
GOVERNANCE	25
STATEMENT OF HOW THE BOARD OPERATES	
FREQUENCY OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
STATEMENT ON RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES	
FINANCIALS	26
SUMMARY OF 2020 FIGURES	
<hr/>	
APPENDICES	27
APPENDIX A - MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS	
APPENDIX B - DIRECTORS FEES & EXPENSES PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS	

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this Annual Report for 2020, an extraordinary year in which Music Generation has continued to grow the breadth and depth of its provision for children and young people in Ireland.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a pivot to online education and music making, requiring herculean efforts by Music Generation staff and partners to navigate this new context. The work of the Music Generation team nationwide was determined, creative and inspiring. Despite the turbulence, existing programmes were reimagined, new activities were designed and resources made available to ensure that children and young people were able to continue making music. Music Generation continued to grow, with programming in five new areas commencing in 2020.

Everyone is facing an uncertain post-pandemic world, and yet, Music Generation enters its second decade with ambition, energy, and commitment to its mission: to transform the lives of children and young people through access to high quality performance music education. Throughout 2020 and as we go forth, Music Generation is both fortunate and thankful to have the support of our valued partners. In particular I would like to acknowledge U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education, Music Network, the Arts Council and the network of Local Music Education Partnerships in which Education and Training Boards and Local Authorities play a key role, and with whom we work closely in pursuit of our shared goal.

Leo Blennerhassett, Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

On February 11th 2020, I was privileged to accompany five Music Generation Young Ambassadors into the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations in New York to perform with the UN Choir and the Pihcintu Multicultural Chorus. I do not think that any of us would have imagined that just over a month from then, Ireland would be in lockdown, children and young people would be moving to online education, and the live performance music sector would effectively be put on pause.

2020 was an unprecedented year for us all and for Music Generation the challenge was to maintain opportunities for children and young people across the country to engage with performance music education. The immediate effects of the pandemic led to approximately a 30% drop in participant numbers. The centres that children and young people often engage with turned to online education and extraordinary efforts were made to try and provide access and participation through digital means. Families grappled with learning online, working from home, and issues with broadband connections nationwide.

We embarked on a steep learning curve and over the course of the year, Music Generation supported Local Music Education Partnerships in the pivot online and coping with Covid – from guidance and advice to training on how to clean and disinfect instruments.

Our partners and local Music Generation offices responded with tremendous commitment and enthusiasm and a lot of hard work. Over 4,000 pieces of digital content were created to support children and young people to make music, while music tuition, performances, composition and ensembles moved to the online sphere. Children and young people continued to participate and participation across the country continues to recover towards pre-pandemic levels. It is testament to the resilience of children and young people, and the positive force of music, that so many continued their musical activities throughout the crisis.

Music Generation recognised the need to ‘come together, apart’ and worked hard to develop and support our Networks of Music Development Officers, Administrators and Resource Workers, and Musician Educators, through our Communities of Practice and a suite of training opportunities. Music Generation continued its commitment to providing high-quality performance music education through mechanisms like the Quality Framework, and providing strategic and operational support to Music Generation teams developing workplans.

Music Generation also continued to strive towards meeting our strategic goals – as well as quality, the organisation focussed on growth and sustainability. We expanded into five new areas - Kerry, Kildare, Longford, Meath and Tipperary during 2020. These Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) provided almost 4,000 opportunities for children and young people to engage with musical activities across 46 new programmes. We will continue to grow in 2021 with new areas of the country commencing programming and will reach our goal of national expansion by 2022.

Music Generation continued to develop the organisation’s sustainability through key partnerships and the support of the Department of Education, Education and Training Boards, Local Authorities, the Arts Council, Creative Ireland, Bank of America, the Ireland Funds, and U2 – for which we are immensely grateful.

As we look back on 2020, despite the unprecedented obstacles we faced, through partnership much was achieved and so much more was learned which we will take into the future.

Rosaleen Molloy, National Director

MUSIC GENERATION

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme, which transforms the lives of children and young people by giving them access to high-quality performance music education in their local areas. Initiated by Music Network, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Local Music Education Partnerships in which Education and Training Boards and Local Authorities play a key role.

VISION

“

What we want to do is really simple. We just want to make sure that everyone, whatever their background, gets access to music tuition. That's the idea.

- Bono, U2

”

MISSION

Through access to the breadth of high-quality performance music education, transform the lives of children and young people, enabling them to develop their creativity, reach their full potential, achieve self-growth and contribute to their personal development, within a vibrant music community.

[Music Generation Strategic Plan, 2016 - 2021](#)



THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



MUSIC GENERATION'S STRATEGIC GOALS

GROWTH

- Expand into more areas of the country
- Nourish growth in terms of depth of provision with the Local Music Education Partnerships



SUSTAINABILITY

- Through partnership, continue to develop, strengthen and sustain the infrastructure for performance music education
- Advocate for the value of performance music education in the lives of children/young people by engaging effectively with key stakeholders and target audiences



QUALITY

- Work with all partners within Music Generation Music Education Partnerships to achieve the highest quality of experience for children/young people in performance music education



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE STRATEGIC WORK IN 2020

GROWTH

New Music Generation Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) commenced programming in Kerry, Kildare, Longford, Meath and Tipperary during 2020, providing almost 4,000 opportunities for children and young people to engage with musical activities across 46 new programmes. These programmes were delivered in a mix of settings including school environments, community hubs and youth services. The speed of implementation was affected by Covid-19, for example in terms of recruitment, but all panels of Musician Educators and administrative staff were in place by the end of 2020. In addition, all Music Generation LMEP Areas now have instrument banks in place to provide children and young people with the equipment to take part in musical activities.

The process of preparing for four new Music Generation LMEPs (Dublin City, Fingal, Limerick County and Cork County) was also progressed in 2020.

As well as these gains, existing programmes did face challenges due to Covid-19 and restrictions. Significant efforts were made in LMEPs across the country to progress and achieve programming during the pandemic by adopting new models of online/blended learning. The National Development Office (NDO) offered ad-hoc and day-to-day support to assist these efforts and this included input on Covid-19 protocols and online instructional videos – from pedagogical/technical advice to health and safety best practice. The NDO also provided strategic, timely and meaningful support to Music Development Officers in restructuring workplans and reimagining programme delivery, particularly following the first lockdown in March 2020.

The pandemic did affect the levels of participation in Music Generation programmes. Where possible, Music Generation and partner organisations tried to retain existing programmes, design new programmes that would work in a remote context, and reimagine others. Even so, some programmes had to be paused and, in some cases, the move online prompted a reduction in the overall number of participants.

MOVING ONLINE: THE IRISH CONCERTINA ORCHESTRA

One example which illustrates the effects of Covid-19 on programming during 2020 was Music Generation Clare’s project to commence an Irish Concertina Orchestra (ICO), funded through the Creativity and Collaboration Fund. Originally planned for October 2020, the ICO aimed:

- to strategically build upon the concertina tradition in Co. Clare and beyond, partnering with Dr Tim Collins and the Consairtin festival
- to strategically build upon the concertina programming in MG Clare
- to extend the musical experience of young concertina learners and progress their music making through an intensive two-term weekly, one-hour long workshop led by Tim Collins and Pádraig Rynne
- to enhance concertina programming in the national network
- to work with leading professional musicians by commissioning the well-known composer, musician, and educator, Dr. Tim Collins, to write and arrange a suite of music that can be performed by all ICO members
- to produce a documentary portraying the journey of the group as they prepare for the performance at Consairtin, with a view to the documentary being shown on Irish television.



Although the project could not progress as planned, activities were re-designed. All concertina classes were delivered online to children and young people and the celebratory performance will be taking place in partnership with the Consairtin Festival, although it will now be in an online format. The documentary was prepared with filming working around Government guidelines and though delayed, the documentary will be released before the summer of 2021.

The Creativity and Collaboration Fund supports national, regional and local projects which provide children, young people and musicians with opportunities to come together musically. These programmes also provide an illustration of the effects of Covid-19 on programming. Originally, twelve projects were envisaged to take place in 2020, many over the summer months and towards the end of the year. However, as a result of the pandemic, only four were able to go ahead as planned. The remaining eight projects were fully or partially postponed until in-person activities can resume while others moved activities online and proceeded, albeit sometimes in a reduced format.

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2020, Music Generation continued to focus on ensuring the organisation’s sustainability by pursuing financial sustainability, nourishing relationships with key stakeholders, and communicating the work of Music Generation to the public.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Due to Covid-19, the priority in 2020 was to secure necessary flexibility within the matched funding model to sustain the delivery of optimum level of tuition for children and young people. This was made possible through support from the Department of Education.

Five Phase 2 LMEP Areas transitioned from philanthropic to public funding in 2020: Galway County, Leitrim, Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown, Waterford, and Wexford. Remaining Phase 2 LMEPs are due to transition to Exchequer funding in Quarter 4, 2021.



PHASE 1 LMEPS

- Carlow
- Clare
- Cork City
- Laois
- Limerick City
- Louth
- Mayo
- Offaly - Westmeath
- Sligo
- South Dublin
- Wicklow



PHASE 2 LMEPS

- Cavan - Monaghan
- Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown
- Galway City
- Galway County
- Kilkenny
- Leitrim
- Roscommon
- Waterford
- Wexford



NATIONAL EXPANSION AREAS

- Cork County
- Dublin City
- Fingal
- Kerry
- Kildare
- Limerick County
- Longford
- Meath
- Tipperary

NOURISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

As well as the financial support of the Department of Education, Music Generation also progressed the organisation's goal of achieving national expansion by 2022, enabled as part of Creative Ireland's Creative Youth Pillar.

Due to Covid-19, Music Generation's 2017 – 2020 partnership with the Arts Council was extended to 2021, with some initiatives deferred to 2021 until Government restrictions ease.

Through the ETB Chief Executive's Forum, a Music Generation ETB Directorate Steering Group was established in 2020. This group focused on implementing various recommendations aimed at embedding Music Generation programmes within ETBs and strengthening sustainability.

As part of our ongoing partnership with Bank of America the NDO took part in Bank of America's Skills Exchange Programme. This programme connects charities to skills and experience that Bank of America employees have which may be of benefit to charities in achieving their objectives. Music Generation are grateful to Bank of America for inclusion on this programme in 2020 and for their expertise and knowledge which was hugely beneficial to the organisation.

COMMUNICATING OUR WORK



2010 - 2020



**Music
Generation**

2020

At the beginning of 2020, Music Generation commissioned a re-refresh of its visual identity. The intention of the project was to bring national and local logos in line with accessibility standards, to improve usability for local partners. The new logo suite was launched in July and was adopted across the country.

During this time of brand development, the National Development Office launched a new look website. In addition to updating the site from a technical and accessibility perspective, the website re-design foregrounds Music Generation's growth 10 years on and creates a platform to showcase the impact of the programme for children and young people.

We continued to communicate Music Generation's positive impact on the lives of children and young people despite Covid-19. Through various channels of communications, the key objective for the communications and marketing functions of the organisation was to continue to keep our targeted audiences (current and prospective donors; the Department of Education and our statutory agency partners; teachers and school principals; parents, guardians and the general public; and the communities in the outstanding four areas; children and young people) informed on how Music Generation has kept music alive for children and young people all over Ireland during such a difficult period. In addition to this, providing ongoing communications support and guidance to our local partners on the development on their communications plans and activities continued throughout the year as each Music Generation programme responded to COVID-19.



QUALITY

Building on Music Generation’s strategic commitment to quality, the Quality, Support and Development (QSD) Function was formed in 2019. QSD’s role is to develop, articulate and enable the rollout of Music Generation’s Quality Framework while providing ongoing support to Music Development Officers in all stages of programme development.

In 2020, QSD continued to progress this role through training and continuous professional development opportunities (CPD), and the development of opportunities for shared learning.

LMEP NETWORK MANAGEMENT & SUPPORTS

The QSD Function aimed to set up support programmes for new LMEP Areas commencing in 2020. As part of this process, QSD implemented:

- an improved induction and support process for MDOs in national expansion areas
- induction supports for new MDOs through sessions with Finance, Operations and Communications
- monthly support meetings, which included additional staff members from key areas at relevant times
- training for new MDOs in the Quality Framework
- support on the development of Workplans throughout the year.

Many individual LMEPs were forced to postpone or delay local strategic planning processes and instead, resourcing and readiness was prioritised. The development of some strategic plans were postponed until 2022.

Through the Quality, Support & Development Unit of the National Development Office, devise and deliver:

- LMEP Network Management & Supports
- Creativity & Collaboration Programmes
- National Flagship Performance Projects
- Progression Pathway Programmes
- Training
- Research & Evaluation
- Quality Framework (QF) Implementation Programmes

TRAINING, CPD & NETWORKS FOR MUSIC GENERATION LMEP STAFF

In 2020, QSD aimed to continue Music Generation's investment in professional development and learning networks for musicians to support their engagement with innovative approaches and new ways of thinking about performance music education practice. The NDO also aimed, in partnership with Music Development Officers, to establish a panel of Lead Musicians and develop a suite of upskilling initiatives to empower this cohort. However, preliminary work on this action revealed an unanticipated variation across NDO/LMEPs in understanding of Lead Musician role, leading to a redirection of focus.

What began as specific pedagogical training days in vocal, classical strings and early childhood pedagogy developed into Communities of Practice (CoP) meeting on a monthly basis (15 sessions were held in 2020).

Communities of Practice fit into Music Generation's objective of giving agency to musician-led initiatives, in order to achieve positive musical outcomes for children/young people and recognise musicians' need to enrich their own creative practice. Specific CoPs were convened in early childhood, vocal, classical strings, brass and wind, modern music, ukulele, inclusion, and traditional Irish music, and these groups cater for 8-20 attendees at each meeting. The attendees are Musician Educators who come together to discuss their craft, share learning and resources, and reflect on their practice as educators of children and young people.

Interestingly, the move to remote working presented major opportunities for online meetings and rethinking engagement. Previously, Musician Educators might have all come together on National Musicians' Day (which had to be postponed for 2020 due to Covid-19). However, being able to meet in virtual spaces allowed teams to come together from across the country more often and more easily.

Music Generation also aimed to co-ordinate a variety of forums to enable shared learning/knowledge exchange within and between the existing and new LMEPs. Steps to progress this were taken through a number of channels – for instance, through Music Development Officers, Musician Educators, Lead Partners and LMEPs.

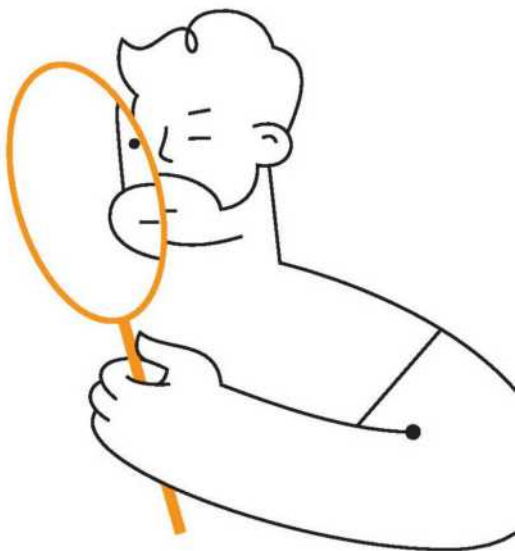
- QSD facilitated nine MDO Network Meetings in 2020 while Administrators and Resource Workers commenced meeting with two held in 2020.
- Performance Music Education Management Training was devised and commenced in October 2020 by QSD for ten MDOs. The training will run monthly until June 2021.
- Seven training workshops were held for Administrators and Resource Workers, especially in the areas of social media, marketing and content creation.

QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The impact of Covid-19 delayed the completion of Quality Reviews in 2020. Out of 26 reviews planned, 24 were initiated in 2020 and three were completed. Many planned reviews were planned for in-person programmes, some of which had to be paused for a time as a result of the pandemic. In other instances, the restrictions limited the ability to gather evidence to conduct the reviews.

The initiation of evaluative reviews of Year 1 of the Quality Framework and approaches to whole-class performance music education programmes within school environments was originally planned for 2020, prior to the pandemic. A decision was made to focus first on the internal evaluation of Quality Framework-generated data, with bi-annual evaluative reviews of the Quality Framework. The resulting delays in Reviews being completed impacted the generation of data and so the internal evaluations will commence in 2021 once a sufficient level of information is available for analysis.

Training on the Quality Framework continued in 2020. As well as training being factored into new induction processes, training material was adapted for online use with Music Development Officers in the second quarter and training was delivered for all MDOs as well as Administrators during 2020. Four groups took part in 8-week Quality Framework training programmes with a further eight individual trainings being run for local Music Generation teams.



WHAT IS THE QUALITY FRAMEWORK?

The Quality Framework was developed from April 2018 to June 2019 in collaboration between the National Development Office and Music Development Officers (MDO) with support from the Department of Education. The process was underpinned by reference to current best practice in the field of arts and music education quality thinking.

Music Generation's vision for performance music education is rooted in respect for, and celebration of, the widest possible range of musical genres. Our commitment to inclusivity and access leads us to work with CYP from the multiplicity of backgrounds and circumstances that make up Irish society. Our approach to quality must account for a plurality of musical practices and a wide range of goals and expectations from learners, parents, schools, and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the Music Generation Quality Framework is that children and young people (CYP) involved in LMEPs should experience the best possible quality of opportunity and delivery across genres, contexts, and geographic areas.

The Music Generation Quality Framework process is led by the MDO. Each year, the MDO selects between 1 and 3 areas of the programme to review. A review can last anything from a couple of weeks to a whole academic year, depending on the complexity of the area under review. The process itself involves an examination of programme quality through evidence gathering and learning, and finally the development of action plans to enhance programme quality into the future.

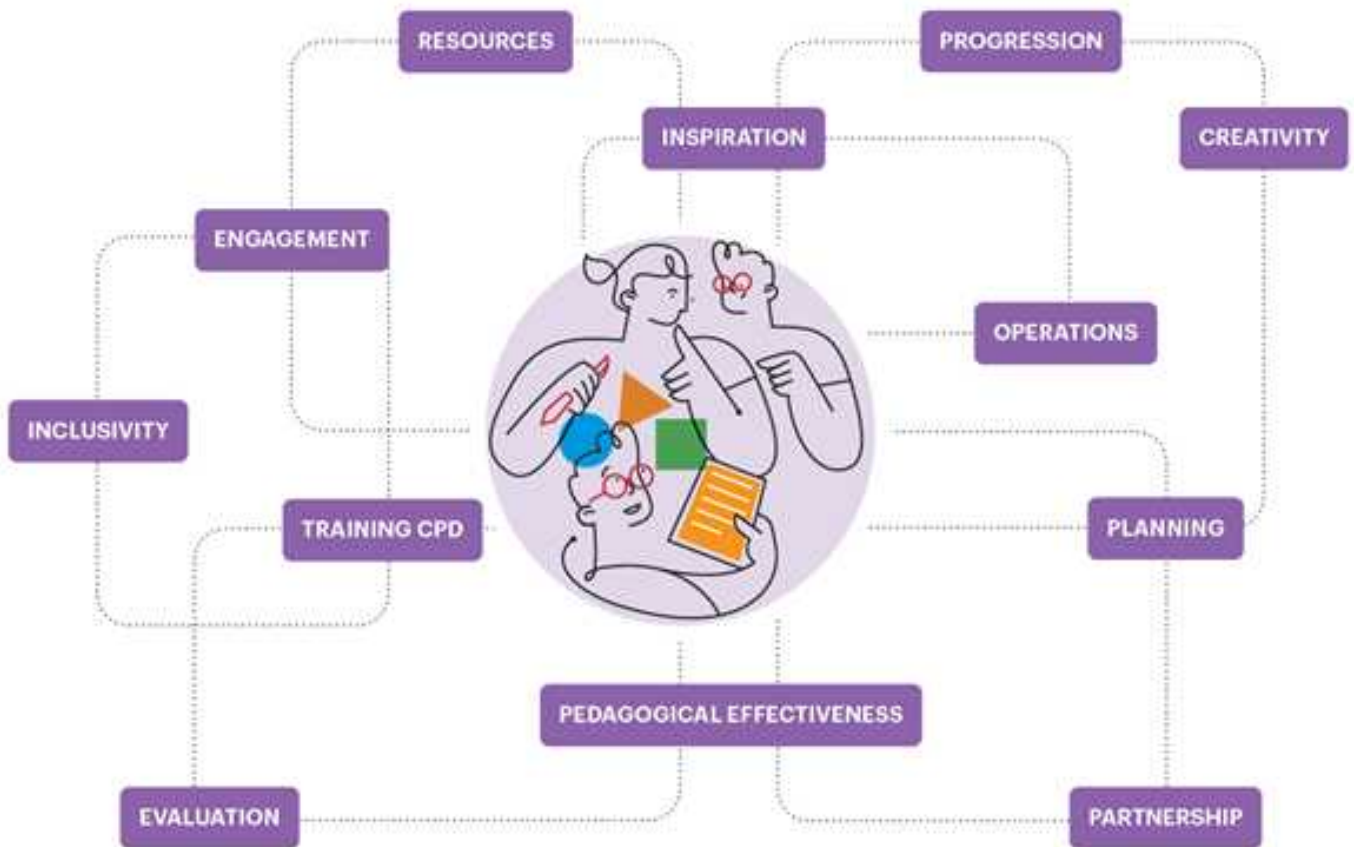


FIGURE1 MUSIC GENERATION'S QUALITY FRAMEWORK PARAMETERS

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL STORIES & EVENTS

CARLOW

The sixth annual Music @ Mount Leinster Festival of traditional Irish music, hosted by Music Generation Carlow, took place over five inspiring days in the village of Borris, County Carlow. [Watch the concert.](#)

CAVAN / MONAGHAN

Despite being one of the most recent partnerships to join the national network, Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan is already feeling the enormously positive impact of local access to performance music education for its children and young people. Some six months into programming, this short documentary video shines a light on the value of collaboration, inclusion, and creativity in local communities. [Watch video.](#)

CLARE

Music Generation Clare announced the launch of a new youth Irish Concertina Orchestra, the first of its kind in Ireland. [Read more.](#)

CORK CITY

Amy O'Callaghan and Caoimhe Barry are two remarkable young women and skilled brass musicians who grew up as participants of Music Generation Cork City. Today, they are studying music at higher level in University College Cork and are among the first ever 'Apprentice Tutors' to work on the programme, guiding and mentoring the next generation of young musicians. [Watch documentary.](#)

DUBLIN CITY

As the planned roll-out of Music Generation Dublin City got underway, City of Dublin Education and Training Board and the National Development Office issued a recruitment drive at the end of the year to appoint a new Music Generation Development Officer.





DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN

Two years ago, Music Generation Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown forged a partnership with Carmona Special School in Glenageary. Together, they have discovered how innovative, inclusive approaches to music-making can have a truly transformative impact on the lives of children and young people. [Watch documentary.](#)

GALWAY CITY

Following on from three Drop Your Hip-Hop workshops, the original track 'Galway Toast', which was written, performed, and filmed by a group of young people was premiered as part of 'Galway Sound Harvest', a project by Atmos Collective, with support from Galway 2020 and Music Generation Galway City. [Watch online.](#)

GALWAY COUNTY

Presented by Galway 2020 and Music Generation Galway County, Symphonic Waves, the west of Ireland youth orchestra recorded a new performance of U2's 'With or Without You' just before lockdown restrictions came into place. Arranged by Glen Austin and conducted by Jimmy Cavanagh, the performance premiered online. [Watch online.](#)

KERRY

Music Generation Kerry launched a suite of online learning for young musicians in the county, including instrumental and vocal tuition and music production and song-writing, while also making low-cost instrument rental available to children and young people in the county.

KILDARE

For young people interested in learning about song-writing, recording, editing, producing, and sound engineering, Music Generation Kildare ran an online music course introducing young musicians to the world of music production.

KILKENNY

Music Generation Kilkenny marked the launch of 'Feel the Victory', a brand new song written by and for young people. This debut single is an inspiring musical response to the young musicians' own experience of Covid-19, and a message of hope and resilience to other children and young people during challenging times. [Read more.](#)

LAOIS

Music Generation Laois re-imagined its fifth annual Tionól festival for harps and pipes through a blend of in-person and online masterclasses, workshops, and performances, with the aim of bringing people together through music.

[Read more.](#)

"All the tutors were brilliant (especially our local tutor Joe Byrne) and I learned a lot of new tunes and new techniques."

– Tom (12), Young Uilleann Piper

LEITRIM

The Folk Singing Club was an exciting new project for young folk singers in the region. This initiative with Music Generation Leitrim saw renowned singer, Cathy Jordan, from the traditional group Dervish guide children and young people through traditional music and song, learning a repertoire of folk and traditional songs from both the local area and further afield.

LIMERICK CITY

Music Generation Limerick City developed a unique, vibrant, and interactive approach for performance music education in the school classroom. Featuring some of Ireland's most exciting musicians, this programme allowed children to explore different musical styles, discover and learn folk songs, and develop the skills to create their own music. [Watch trailer.](#)

LONGFORD

Music Generation Longford worked with a young Roma group in Direct Provision, through the Longford Youth Service, in order to bring performance music education into their lives.





LOUTH

Nuacht TG4 paid a visit to Gaelscoil Dundalk to learn more about the Harp Programme led by Music Generation Louth in the school, supported by Louth and Meath ETB's PEACE IV funded Project Creative Interventions. [Watch video.](#)

MAYO

The Core, run under the auspices of Music Generation Mayo, brought its music making space online. Along with open mic events, The Core Lockdown Sessions, gave young people aged 12 to 18 a platform to perform regularly throughout the year.

MEATH

Music Generation Meath launched its first project during the summer which was open to young singers from all over Ireland. West End superstar, Killian Donnelly, offered online small group tutorials as well as a Q&A for aspiring performers.

OFFALY / WEATMEATH

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath partnered with Youth Work Ireland (Midlands) to create inclusive music experiences for the children and young people of Mullingar and Edenderry. By working together, they have found ways to work across communities, championing young people's creativity and providing spaces where they can meet, make, and share music freely. [Watch video.](#)

ROSCOMMON

Roscommon County Youth Orchestra with Music Generation Roscommon moved into the virtual world in 2020, with families from around the county taking part. In addition, music hubs commenced and grew in size and number in Ballinadreen, Boyle, and Roscommon town, which enabled children and young people aged 6 to 18 years to continue their performance music education across rock, pop, and classical programmes.

SLIGO

Sligo Youth Voices returned virtually in 2020 for some singing fun for children and young people aged between 6 and 13 years. At the end of term, Music Generation Sligo in partnership with Hawk's Well Theatre Sligo proudly presented 'Half the World Away' sung by Sligo Youth Voices. [Watch online.](#)

SOUTH DUBLIN

17-year-old Megan McGarry is a member of the SubSounds Music Collective, funded by Music Generation South Dublin. She is also one of the young musicians involved in DECLARE & PROTEST – an exploration of the role and history of protest songs and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. In conversation with Music Generation, Megan shared her experiences of this project, her view on the role of music in society and the part it plays in her life. [Read more.](#)

TIPPERARY

Irish fiddle player and composer, Zoë Conway, joined up with Music Generation Tipperary to present a very special online masterclass to mark World Fiddle Day 2020. As well as imparting advice, tips and tricks to young fiddlers across Ireland, Zoë also shared three new tunes for participants to learn and enjoy. This online masterclass was made available for children and young people to enjoy over the summer months.

WATERFORD

Music Generation Waterford premiered the first performance by the new Waterford Harp Orchestra online during the summer, following just a few months rehearsal with local musician educator Jill Devlin and guest director Siobhán Buckley (of Music Generation Laois). [Watch video.](#)

WEXFORD

Music Generation Wexford continued its High Street Opera series with Elizabeth Drwal through Zoom. The programme encourages children aged 8+ to develop their voices and musicianship while exploring creative responses to opera.

WICKLOW

With support from Music Network, members of Music Generation Wicklow's Rithim Orchestra had the opportunity to workshop with fiddle player, Donal O'Connor, and concertina player, Jack Talty, early in the year.



YOUNG AMBASSADORS: NATIONAL EVENTS

Each year Music Generation's Young Ambassadors Programme provides valuable opportunities for young musicians from areas across Ireland to perform at national and international events. This year was no different and, with the support of our funders and donors, Young Ambassadors continued to enjoy the opportunity to perform both on and offline:

FEBRUARY

An ensemble of five young traditional Irish musicians from the north-east region of Ireland had the honour of representing Music Generation at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City as Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, UN Secretary General António Guterres, and U2's Bono took part in the Irish Government's launch of 'The Drive For Five', a global call to action for the education of adolescent girls. [Read more.](#)

MAY

11 different counties, from Kerry to Cavan, developed brand new events, projects and masterclasses to give young musicians a platform on which to get musical on and offline during this year's annual day of creativity for children and young people, Cruinniú na nÓg. [Read more.](#)



JUNE

Music Generation was delighted to platform the creative music making of young people at The Ireland Funds' Conference – A Virtual Celebration 2020. Members of Music Generation Waterford's Senior Trad Ensemble recorded a collaborative and socially distanced rendition of Marcos Llope, composed by Brian Finnegan. [Watch the performance.](#)

JUNE

On Sunday 21 June, young musicians from across the Music Generation network joined a nationwide musical tribute to the country's essential workers. Among them was 12-year-old Jonny Wang, a Music Generation South Dublin strings player, who performed for President and Sabina Higgins on the steps of Áras na Uachtaráin. Jonny also represented Music Generation on stage at the National Concert Hall, where he joined musicians and singers from the country's leading music ensembles and organisations in a rendition of Beethoven's Ode to Joy, conducted by Professor James Cavanagh. [Read more.](#)





JULY

Music Generation premiered its first virtual concert, the Music Generation National Summer Celebration 2020 on YouTube on Monday, 13 July. This summer celebration created a moment to recognise the commitment of all of our young musicians and their passion for making music, whatever the odds. [Read more.](#)

SEPTEMBER

Despite navigating one of their busiest and most complex back-to-school seasons in a decade, local Music Generation teams continued to create opportunities for children and young people to access and experience music as part of the 2020 edition of Culture Night in September. [Read more.](#)

NOVEMBER

Young ambassadors from Music Generation Laois' singing programme presented their joyful rendition of 'I Wan'na Be Like You' at the Ombudsman for Children's Office's flagship event, 'Child Talks', which marked World Children's Day 2020. [Read more.](#)

DECEMBER

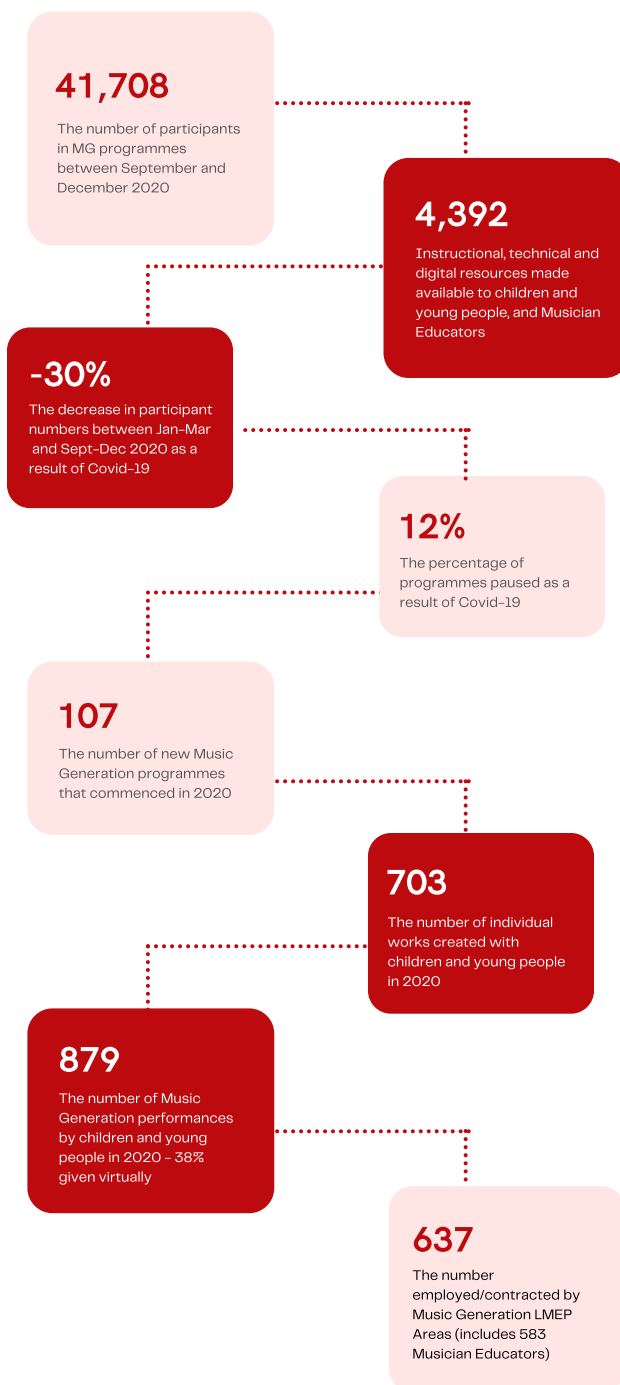
Young musicians across Music Generation took centre stage as part of The Ireland Funds' series of Virtual Winter Celebration events, curated for its chapters in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and New York.

"it's remarkable... and in that performance you see that sense of community and creativity that continued right through the shut down."

– Caitriona Fottrell, The Ireland Funds.

2020 ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

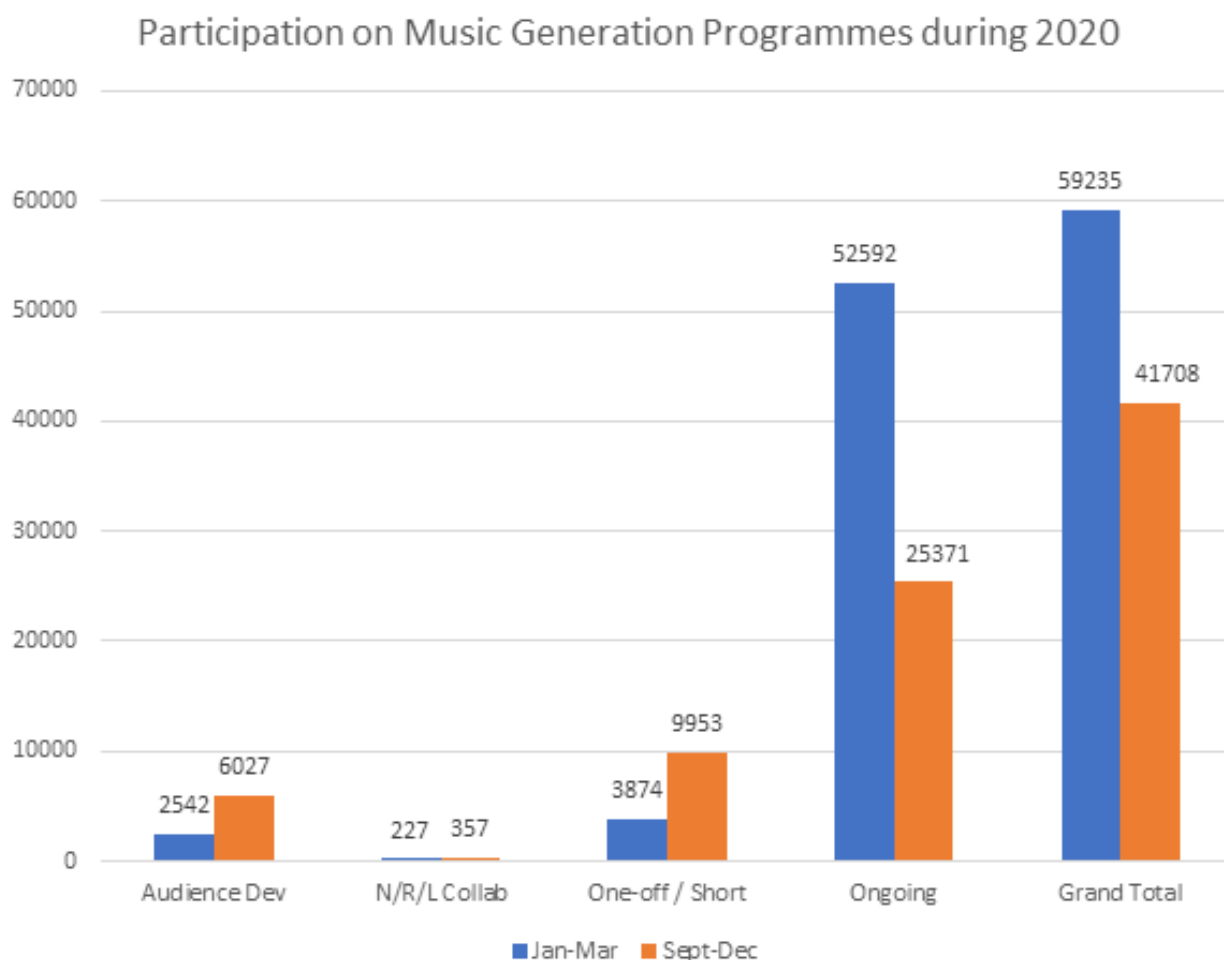
THE YEAR IN REVIEW



PARTICIPATION

Like every other sector of society, children and young people's engagement with musical activities was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The restrictions required Music Generation to think about programming in fresh and innovative ways. Programmes were reimagined or designed specifically to work in the Covid-19 context, in order to continue to provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in musical activities. Even so, the effects of the pandemic were felt and some programmes were paused or reduced as a result of restrictions. The levels of participation fell 30% over the course of the year as almost all in-person programming was moved online.

To fully capture the activities and outputs, information on participation and programmes was gathered at various time points in 2020. Prior to the pandemic, children and young people engaged 59,235 times on Music Generation programmes (during the period January to mid-March 2020). This decreased to 41,708 in the last quarter of the year, when in-person activities began again, albeit with some limitations.

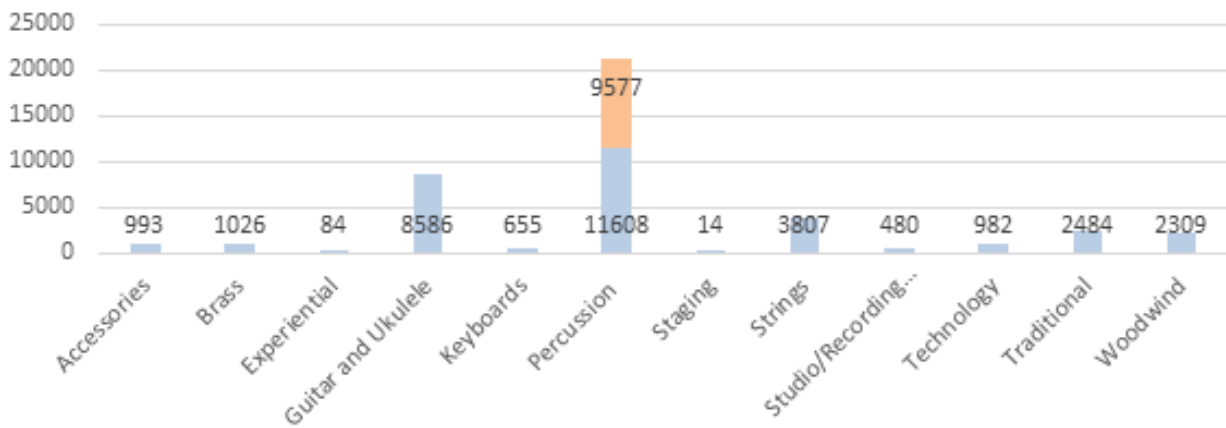


To maximise opportunities for children and young people during 2020, Music Generation created 107 new programmes. Many of these programmes offered opportunities for children and young people to engage despite the Covid-19 restrictions. For example, participation on One-Off and Shorter Programmes (like masterclasses, summer camps, etc.) increased by 157% while opportunities to engage in Audience Development Initiatives increased by 137%. Music Generation also grew programming in five new areas – Kerry, Kildare, Meath, Longford and Tipperary.

Music Generation was running 299 programmes in 717 centres across the country at the end of 2020. These programmes were delivered in a range of media, pedagogical style and focus.

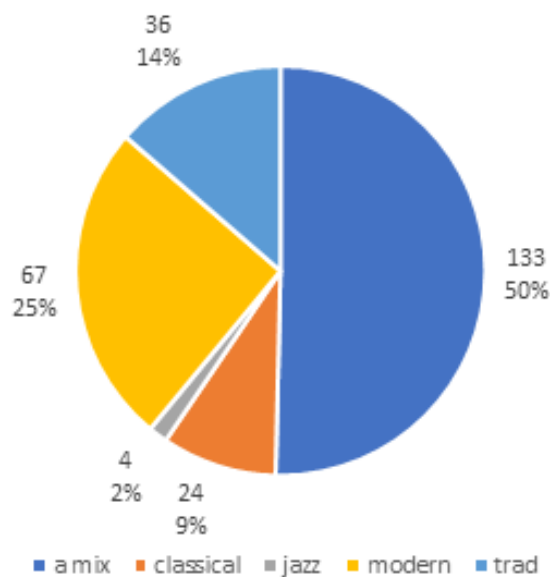
There were 879 musical performances by children and young people. Just 2% of these performances were in-person, reflecting the Covid-19 restrictions, and to enable performances to take place the majority were delivered online as virtual performances (38%) or pre-recorded (51%).

Make up of MG Instrument Banks



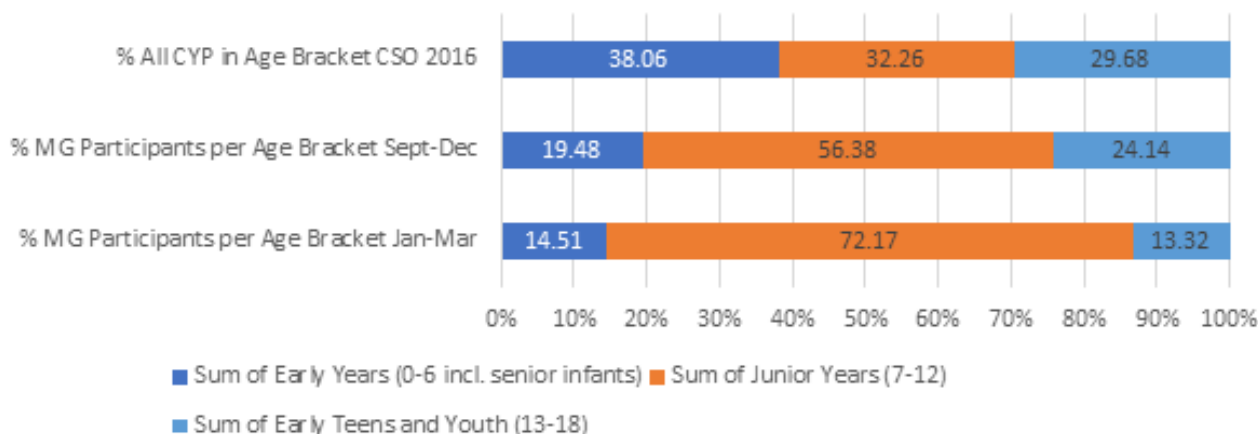
Music Generation LMEP Areas ran 25 Instrument Banks comprising over 33,000 instruments and items of musical equipment. In fact, as small percussion items are often counted in batches, if every egg shaker, tambourine and wood block were included, this figure would likely be much higher. The bar chart of equipment type shows the ‘small percussion’ in orange to distinguish it from other, larger pieces of percussion equipment like drum kits, timpani, hand drums, gamelan, etc.

All MG Areas



Music Generation reflects on the profile of participants where possible although with online working, it is not always possible to know the age of the participant. Music Generation programmes tend to work most with children in the 7-12year-old age group.

Proportion of Participants in Each Age Group



DIGITAL RESOURCES

To facilitate the switch to remotely engaging children and young people, online content was designed, delivered and/or made available to Music Generation participants as well as wider networks of children and young people. This type of content included:

- video music tuition
- technical videos (e.g. ‘How to tune a ukulele’ or ‘How to record a song’)
- resources developed for PME (e.g. backing tracks, click tracks, pass the riff)
- organisational digital resources (e.g. adoption of platforms like Padlet, My Music Staff, Soundtrap and other online Digital Audio Workstations [DAWs], etc.)

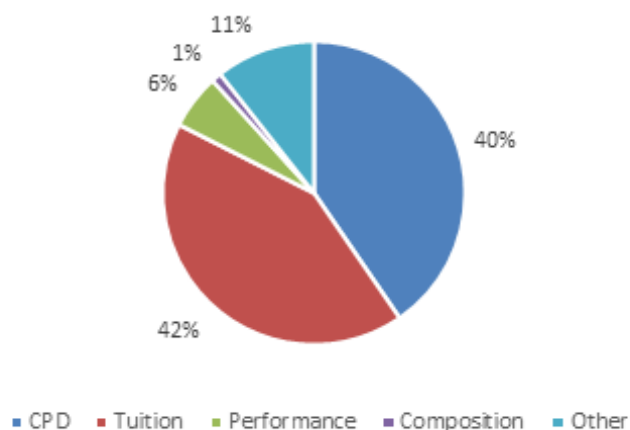
Music Generation created 4,392 pieces of digital content for children and young people in 2020.

WORKING WITH MUSICIANS

Music Generation LMEP Areas employed 583 Musician Educators and just over half the Music Generation Areas recruited Musician Educators in 2020.

Music Generation LMEP Areas also arranged visits for professional musicians - 169 professional musicians made 191 visits to Music Generation LMEPs over the course of 2020.

Nature of Visits from Professional Musicians



MUSIC GENERATION BOARD & NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

BOARD

Established as a subsidiary company of Music Network CLG, Music Generation DAC is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors.

MUSIC GENERATION BOARD MEMBERS IN 2020

- **Leo Blennerhassett (Chairperson)**
Management Consultant and former Managing Director of Accenture Ireland
- **Pat Burke**
Former Assistant Secretary General at the Department of Education and, more recently, Chair of the State Examinations Commission
- **Anna Marie Delaney**
Chief Executive of Offaly County Council
- **Martin Drury**
Independent Curator and Adviser
- **John Kelly**
Writer, Broadcaster and SONY, EMA and PPI award-winner
- **David Leahy**
Chief Executive of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
- **Deirdre McCrea**
Independent Arts Consultant and former CEO of Music Network
- **Professor Mel Mercier**
Chair of Performing Arts, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick
- **James Morris**
Founder of Windmill Lane Studios, Windmill Lane Pictures and The Mill (London), currently working with Windmill Lane to establish a Visual Effects Studio in Dublin
- **Chantal O'Sullivan**
Antique dealer, member of the New York board of the Irish Georgian Society, board member of The Ireland Funds and New York's Glucksman Ireland House

STAFF

MUSIC GENERATION NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE STAFF IN 2020

- **Rosaleen Molloy**
National Director
- **Anita Butler**
Finance & Administration Officer (from Feb 2020)
- **Amy Byrne**
Communications & Administration Officer (up to Feb 2020)
- **Cathriona Grange**
Operations Manager
- **Helen Grant**
Finance Manager
- **Aoife Lucey**
Communications & Marketing Manager
- **Cecelia Molumby**
Communications & Marketing Officer (from Oct 2020)
- **Jenny O'Connor Madsen**
LMEP Support Manager
- **Paula Phelan**
Head of Quality, Support & Development
- **Liz Powell**
LMEP Support Manager

GOVERNANCE

HOW THE BOARD OPERATES

The Board of Directors of Music Generation DAC is non-executive and independent. Members are drawn from diverse backgrounds and bring to the Board a broad range of experience and skills, including significant artistic, education, business and cultural expertise. There are currently ten Board members. Together, they are responsible for providing leadership, developing strategy, identifying and mitigating risk, and monitoring the budgets and outcomes of the organisation.

Music Generation Designated Activity Company (DAC) has operational and governance processes in place to ensure that it operates in an open and transparent manner, that it complies with its statutory/legal responsibilities and with the governance obligations of all of its funders and donors.

Music Generation pays regard to relevant national strategies, Government policies and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Music Generation also adheres to the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities - "SORP".

Music Generation DAC is governed by a Constitution and its Board of Directors is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance, including adhering to the Charities Regulator Charities Code of Governance.

FREQUENCY OF BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held 6 to 8 times per year. In addition, smaller committees of the Board meet on particular matters such as HR, Audit & Risk, and Creativity & Collaboration.

STATEMENT ON RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES

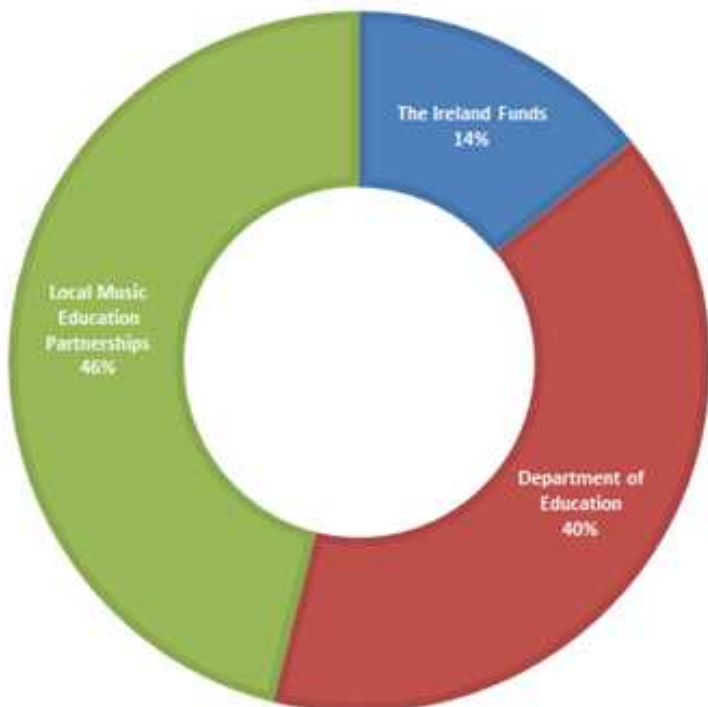
The Board of Music Generation has in place an Audit and Risk Committee who oversee the Company's Risk Register and who monitor all potential risks to the organisation.

FINANCIALS

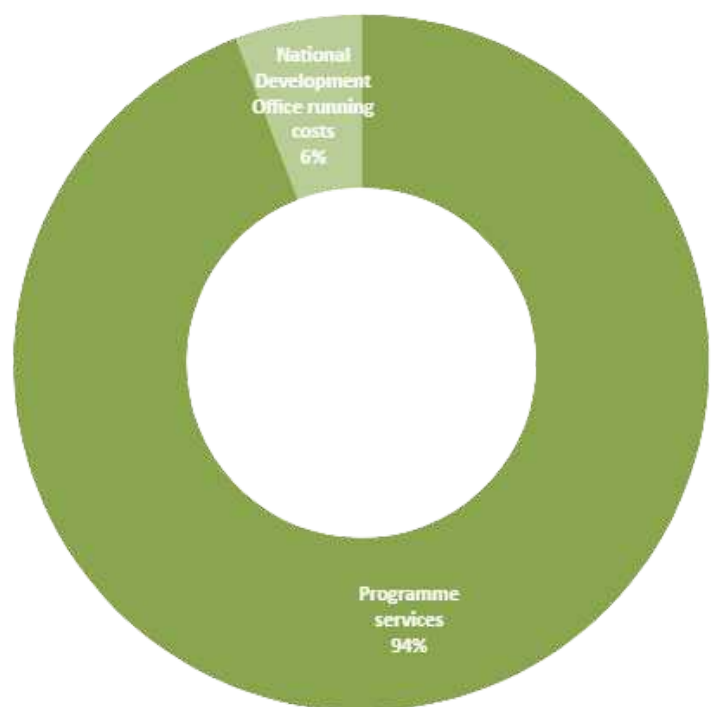
SUMMARY OF 2020 FIGURES

- Music Generation DAC's total income for 2020 was €5,955,626.
- Core funding of €1,562,964 was received from The Ireland Funds and €4,385,000 was received from the Exchequer through the Department of Education.
- Other income received (€7,662) included deposit income and funding to support performance opportunities for young musicians.
- The funds allocated to Music Generation cover programme outlay costs to Local Music Education Partnerships and National Development Office running costs.
- Funding is provided by Music Generation DAC to Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) once an equivalent amount is raised through locally generated matched funding. Of the €5m raised by LMEPs in 2020, €1m was provided as Support-in-Kind. This recognises the significant contribution by each LMEP area to the office accommodation, overheads and administration staff required to support the Music Generation programmes.

**TOTAL INCOME
FOR MUSIC GENERATION PROGRAMMES**



**TOTAL EXPENDITURE
FOR MUSIC GENERATION PROGRAMMES**



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS 2020

	13 Feb	02 Apr	20 May	26 Jun	24 Sep	13 Nov	15 Dec
Leo Blennerhassett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Martin Drury	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pat Burke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
James Morris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deirdre McCrea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chantal O'Sullivan		✓	✓			✓	✓
David Leahy		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Anna Marie Delaney	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
John Kelly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mel Mercier	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX B

EXPENSES PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS IN 2020

- No Directors' fees were paid to Board Members in 2020.
- No Board Member expenses were expended in 2020.
- The Board contracted an independent contractor to undertake an external Board review.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Music Generation is proud to have the support of:

PRINCIPAL PHILANTHROPIC DONORS



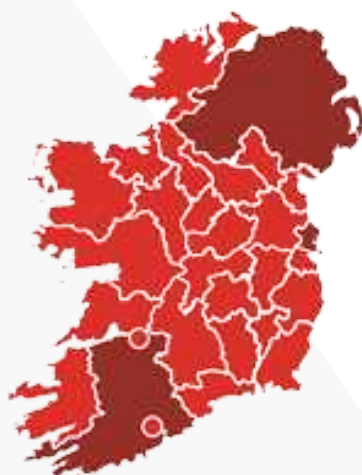
U2



FUNDERS



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



LOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION PARTERSHIPS

PROGRAMME PARTNER





**Music
Generation**

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme. A Music Network Initiative, co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, The Department of Education and Local Music Education Partnerships



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education