

# WE ARE MUSIC GENERATION



Annual Report

# 2024

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# Glossary

**Donegal Music Education Partnership**  
*Music Generation National Conference*  
*Dublin Castle*  
Photo by Brian Farrell

## Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF)

The Music Generation Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF) supports national, regional, and local projects which provide children, young people, and professional musicians opportunities to come together musically. The Creativity and Collaboration Fund is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Youth in partnership with the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon. In 2024 additional funding was made available through an adaptation of CCF to CCCF, the Create, Collaborate, Celebrate Fund, to support LMEPs to deliver additional events and initiatives for *We are Music Generation 2024*.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development is the term used to describe the learning activities staff engage in to develop their skills and abilities.

## Directorate Steering Group (DSG)

The Music Generation–Education and Training Boards (ETB) Directorate Steering Group provides a forum for communications, collaboration and consultation between Music Generation National Development Office and ETB Directors who have responsibility for Music Generation programmes within their Directorate. The membership comprises of ETB Directors of Further Education and Training, Schools and Organisational Support and Development along with the Music Generation National Development Office Executive.

## Education and Training Boards (ETB)

Education and Training Boards are statutory education authorities. They are the driving force of education and training in the local community, with pathways for every learner across Early Education, Community National Schools, Post-primary Education, Further Education and Training, Apprenticeships and Traineeships, Youth Services, Outdoor Education Services, and Community Education Services. Education and Training Boards nationwide play a lead role in the local management of Music Generation Local Music Education Partnerships.







## Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEP)

Local Music Education Partnerships are groups of local experts, individuals, and organisations that champion and guide the development of the Music Generation programme in their area. Each LMEP is led by a Local Authority or an Education and Training Board.

## Music Development Officer (MDO)

Music Development Officers are appointed in each Music Generation LMEP Area. They lead and oversee the development of performance music education programmes for Local Music Education Partnerships.

## National Development Office (NDO)

The National Development Office aims to achieve Music Generation's mission by supporting the national system of local performance music education provision, through strategic partnership between philanthropy, Government, and Local Music Education Partnerships.

## Performance music education

Music Generation provides performance music education—that is, the breadth of vocal and instrumental learning in all genres and styles of music. This includes all pedagogical approaches and practices appropriate to musical cultures and traditions and is delivered by professional Musician Educators. Performance music education is recognised by the Department of Education and Youth as non-mainstream music education. Performance music education complements and enriches, but does not replace, the mainstream music curriculum provision of the formal education system.

## Planning for Quality (PfQ)

Planning for Quality is a collaborative reflexive process facilitated by the Quality Development and Learning function of Music Generation's National Development Office. The process is led in partnership with LMEPs to engage with local teams in cultivating a shared understanding of quality.

## Quality Development and Learning (QDL)

This team leads, develops, and delivers the Quality Development and Learning functions of Music Generation's National Development Office. The Quality Development and Learning function supports Music Generation's national network of Local Music Education Partnerships cultivating a culture of continuous improvement, so that children and young people have the best quality of experiences and outcomes.



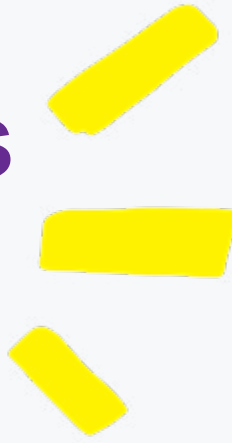
**Music Generation Dublin City**

*Ombudsman for Children's Office Child Talks 2024*

Photo by Maxell Photography



# Chairperson's Foreword



I am pleased to introduce Music Generation's Annual Report for 2024.

Music Generation continues to be recognised as a highly successful mission-driven organisation, with the right of every child and young person to access music education at the heart of everything we do. We take pride in another incredibly successful year in which **10.9% of all children and young people** under the age of 18 in Ireland **accessed Music Generation programmes and activities**.

2024 stands out as an inspirational year in our fourteen-year journey, marked by the launch of *We are Music Generation* — a year dedicated to celebrating the transformative impact of performance music education on the lives of children and young people. Musical events, festivals, performances, conferences and gatherings were held around Ireland to celebrate of the collective achievements of everyone involved in Music Generation.

It was a year in which we continued to deliver on our mission-empowering children and young people to realise their full potential through access to, and participation in, high quality performance music education. At Music Generation, we believe in an Ireland where every child and young person is given the opportunity to transform their lives through the power of music making and learning. Our partners are central to Music Generation's

success. The work of Music Generation simply would not be possible without their support. I would especially like to thank U2, The Ireland Funds, Bank of America, the Department of Education and Youth, Music Network, and the Arts Council for their continued commitment. I would also like to recognise the important role of Local Music Education Partnerships, in which Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Authorities play a lead role, in helping us reach shared goals. With special gratitude we thank the local teams of Music Development Officers, Administrators, Resource Workers, and Musician Educators, whose dedication drives this mission forward every day.

Finally, I also extend my thanks to the very committed voluntary Board and staff of Music Generation National Development Office (NDO). There have been some amazing achievements in 2024, and I look forward to what the future brings for Music Generation.

**Leo Blennerhassett**  
Chairperson

# National Director's Introduction

Much of our energies in 2023 were focused on planning and preparation to make 2024 a truly special year. This preparation laid the groundwork for a successful and inspiring year. We began 2024 with the exciting launch of '*We are Music Generation*' to celebrate the achievements of all partners involved in Music Generation.

A vibrant year-long programme of local and national events were both imagined and delivered. Some highlights led by the NDO included:

- ***We Are Music Generation Day***  
A joyful celebration for children and young people held at the Convention Centre Dublin.
- ***Access, Artistry and Advocacy***  
A thought-provoking one-day conference at Dublin Castle that brought together a wide range of voices from across the network.
- ***National Musician Educator Gathering***  
A dynamic event filled with musician-led presentations and hands-on sessions designed to share practice and spark inspiration.

An expanded Create, Collaborate and Celebrate Fund (CCCF) enabled over 30 regional and local events. Projects included:

- **Woodstown Songwriters Weekend**  
A songwriting retreat, creating space for young creatives to explore song and lyric writing.
- **Harmony in Diversity**  
An 8-week collaboration between Music Generation Longford's Rock and Pop, Roma and Africa music programmes to celebrate diverse musical cultures.
- **Ceiliúradh Mór! Touring Festival**  
A series of performances from young musicians in both primary and secondary schools across Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore including a dedicated *We are Music Generation* Anthem! to share practice and spark inspiration.

Alongside all of this, programmes continued to be developed and rolled out in local communities throughout the country. Participation continued to increase with 10.9% of all children and young people under the age of 18 in Ireland accessing Music Generation activities. **132,500 Programme Participants were involved in Music Generation activities in 2024.** A total of 531 Musician Educators actively delivered Music Generation programmes. In total 125,513 Music Education tuition hours were delivered, presenting the breadth and impact of programmes across our country.



Among the many musical moments throughout the year, some highlights include:

- **SHIFT**

Young musicians from Music Generation Roscommon collaborated with over 60 dancers from across Ireland to create and perform a powerful music and dance piece on climate change at BBC Studios in Belfast.

- **Ombudsman for Children's Office Child Talks**

Young DJs from Music Generation Dublin City opened the 2025 event with an energetic set, alongside performances from the Lisdoonvarna Crew, who partnered with Music Generation Cork City's The Kabin.

- **SINGOUT**

Music Generation Kilkenny wrapped up its year with the SINGOUT concert at St. Canice's Cathedral. The winter-themed event featured performances from three Kilkenny primary schools, alongside string players, drummers, and instrumentalists from across their programmes.

Within the context of our 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, we continued to focus on implementation of our three strategic priorities: quality, sustainability and advocacy.

Key developments in quality this year included significant progress on five priorities outlined in our quality strategy: Planning for Quality (PfQ), National Celebration 2024, Performance Music Education Research and Learning, Network Strengthening, and the Creativity and Collaboration Fund.

Regarding sustainability, we continued to nurture and strengthen our valued partnerships with philanthropic, government and local partners. Our communications strategy supported our advocacy goals, ensuring we raised awareness of our mission through listening and engaging with children and young people in our storytelling. We increased our digital engagement and continued to craft content to find new and compelling ways to communicate our impact. 2024 was a year of real progress in our child participation practices which reached new heights. By listening closely to the voices of children and young people through our consultative and participative processes, we were able to shape a vision that reflected their perspectives for our 2024 national events.

As we look back on the achievements of 2024 with pride, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in Music Generation for advancing our shared mission with remarkable commitment and enthusiasm.

**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 area.

Initiated by Music Network, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Youth, and Local Music Education Partnerships.

## Vision

We believe in an Ireland where every child and young person is given the opportunity to transform their lives through the power of music making and learning.

## Mission

Our mission is to empower children and young people to realise their full potential through access to, and participation in, high quality performance music education.



Music Generation Waterford  
and Music Generation Carlow  
SoundCrowd '24  
Photo by DGM Photographic





## Values

### Quality

Placing quality of experience for children and young people at the heart of our work.

### Diversity

Practising and promoting diversity, equality and inclusion: social, cultural and pedagogic in all settings where we work and have influence.

### Partnership

Working collaboratively with many partners using influence and engagement to build trusted relationships to achieve our goals.

### Curiosity

Listening and learning; continuously curious about how to do better, thinking big, embracing research and innovation, and planning strategically.

### Accountability

Holding ourselves to high standards of transparency, accountability and effectiveness, committing to sustainable growth, and being active in relation to our responsibilities to the environment. Read more about Music Generation's 2022–2026 Strategic Plan.

➔ [2022–2026 Strategic Plan](#)



Music Generation Westmeath  
and Music Generation Offaly

*SingFest*

Photo by Paul Moore



# The Year in Photos



**Music Generation South Dublin**  
*SubSounds Youth Music Festival*  
Photo by Dylan Scully



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan



**Music Generation Waterford  
and Music Generation Carlow**  
*SoundCrowd '24*  
Photo by DGM Photographic



**Music Generation Roscommon**  
*SHIFT*  
Photo by Jim Corr Photography





**Music Generation Galway County Galway**  
*TradFest*  
Photo by Sean Lydon



**Music Generation Westmeath**  
**and Music Generation Offaly**  
*SingFest*  
Photo by Paul Moore

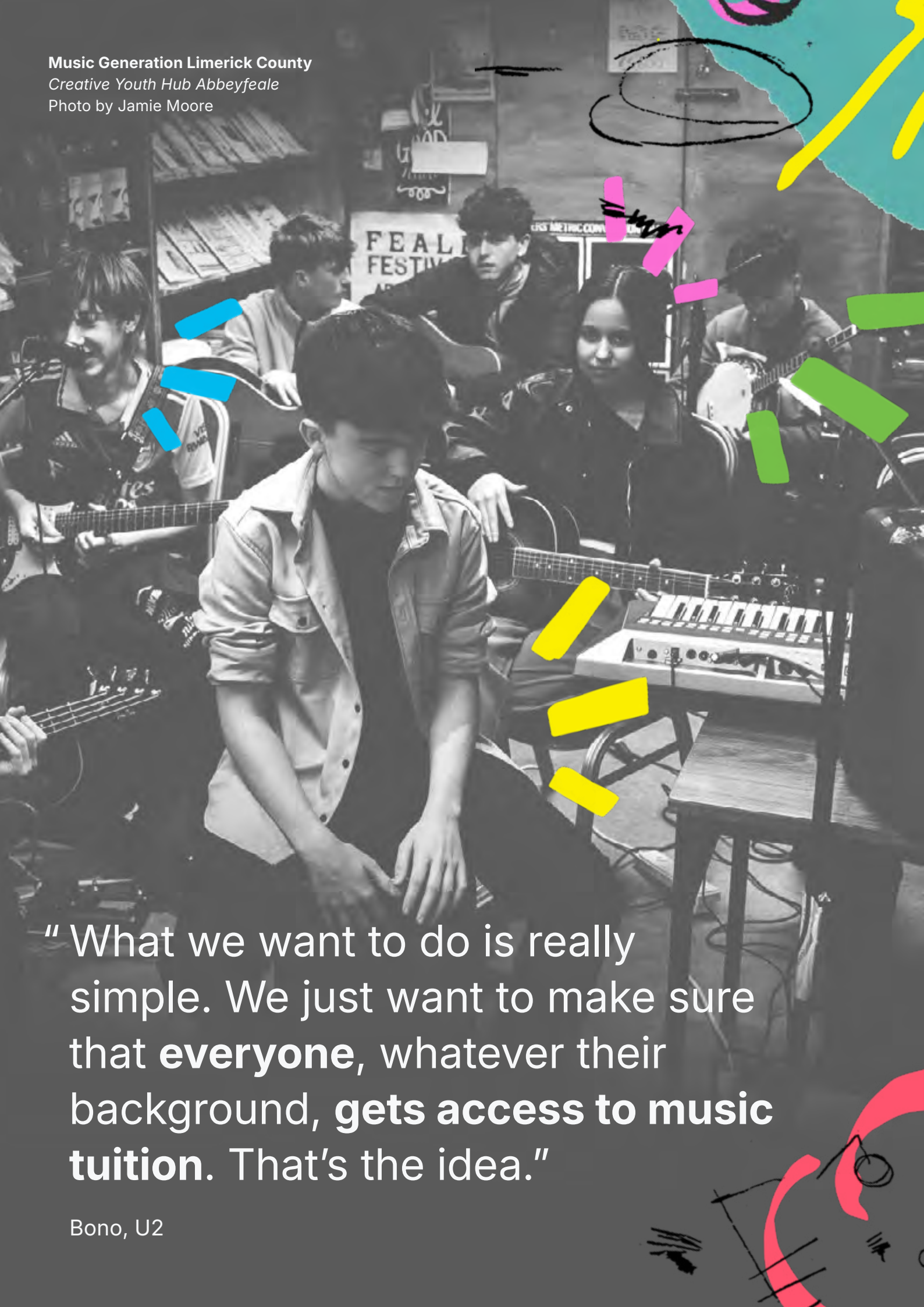


**Music Generation Kilkenny**  
*Song Collective*  
Photo by DGM Photographic





Music Generation Limerick County  
Creative Youth Hub Abbeyfeale  
Photo by Jamie Moore



"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



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan

# Activities and Outputs

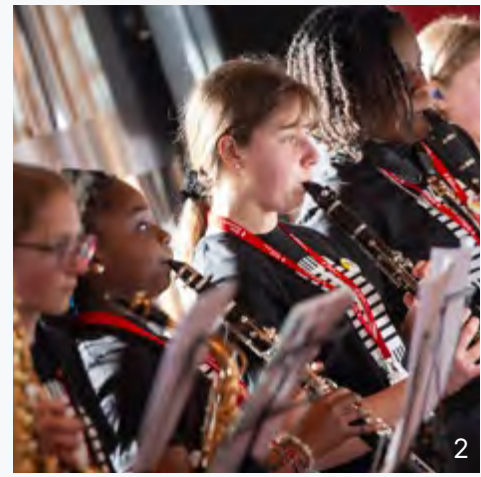






# 132,500

Programme Participants



# 125,513

Performance Music  
Education **tuition hours**  
were delivered in 2024

## 2024 Year in Review

# 10.9%

of all **children and young  
people** in Ireland accessed  
Music Generation activities



# 531

**Musician Educators** actively  
delivered Music Generation  
programmes in 2024



# Over 40

**varieties of music** taught  
on Music Generation  
programmes



# 1,224

Music Generation  
**performances** by children  
and young people were  
held in 2024

1. **Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
*Music Generation National Conference Dublin  
Castle, Photo by Brian Farrell*
2. **We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre, Photo by Dave Keegan*

3. **Music Generation National Musician Educator  
Gathering**  
*Photo by Brian Farrell*
4. **Music Generation Waterford**  
*Midnight Collective, Photo by DGM Photographic*

5. **We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre,  
Photo by Dave Keegan*

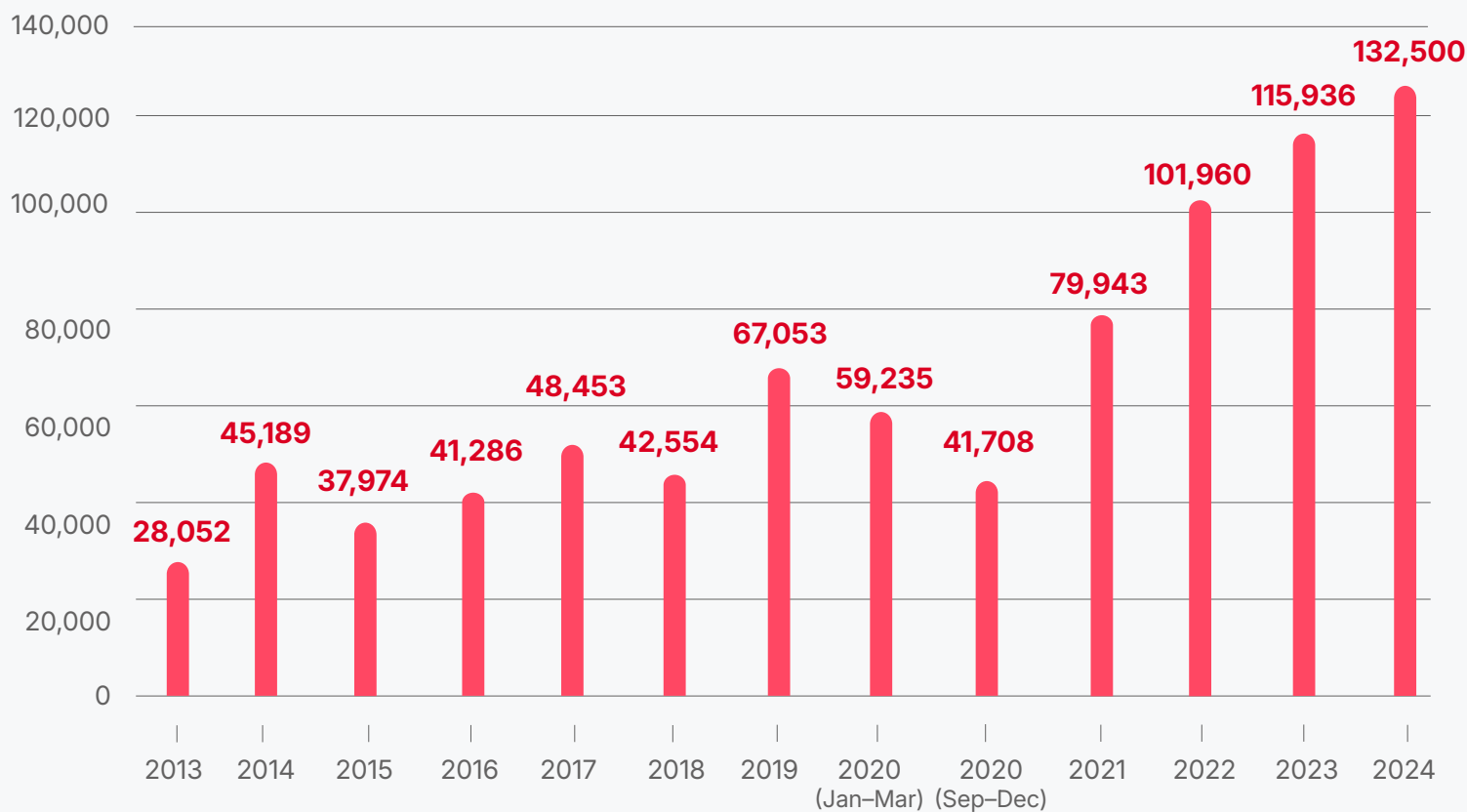


# Participation

Music Generation worked with **132,500** programme participants in 2024, across 29 Local Music Education Partnership (LMEP) Areas. This number reflects the continued growth of Music Generation and further expansion amongst newer LMEPs. Music Generation works with 10.9% of all children and young people in Ireland.\*

\* If we compare 124,607 to the total population of children and young people (18 and under, Census 2022) in the 29 geographic areas that returned headcount data, more than 1 in every 10 children and young people take part in a Music Generation programme (10.9%).

## Total Annual Programme Participants

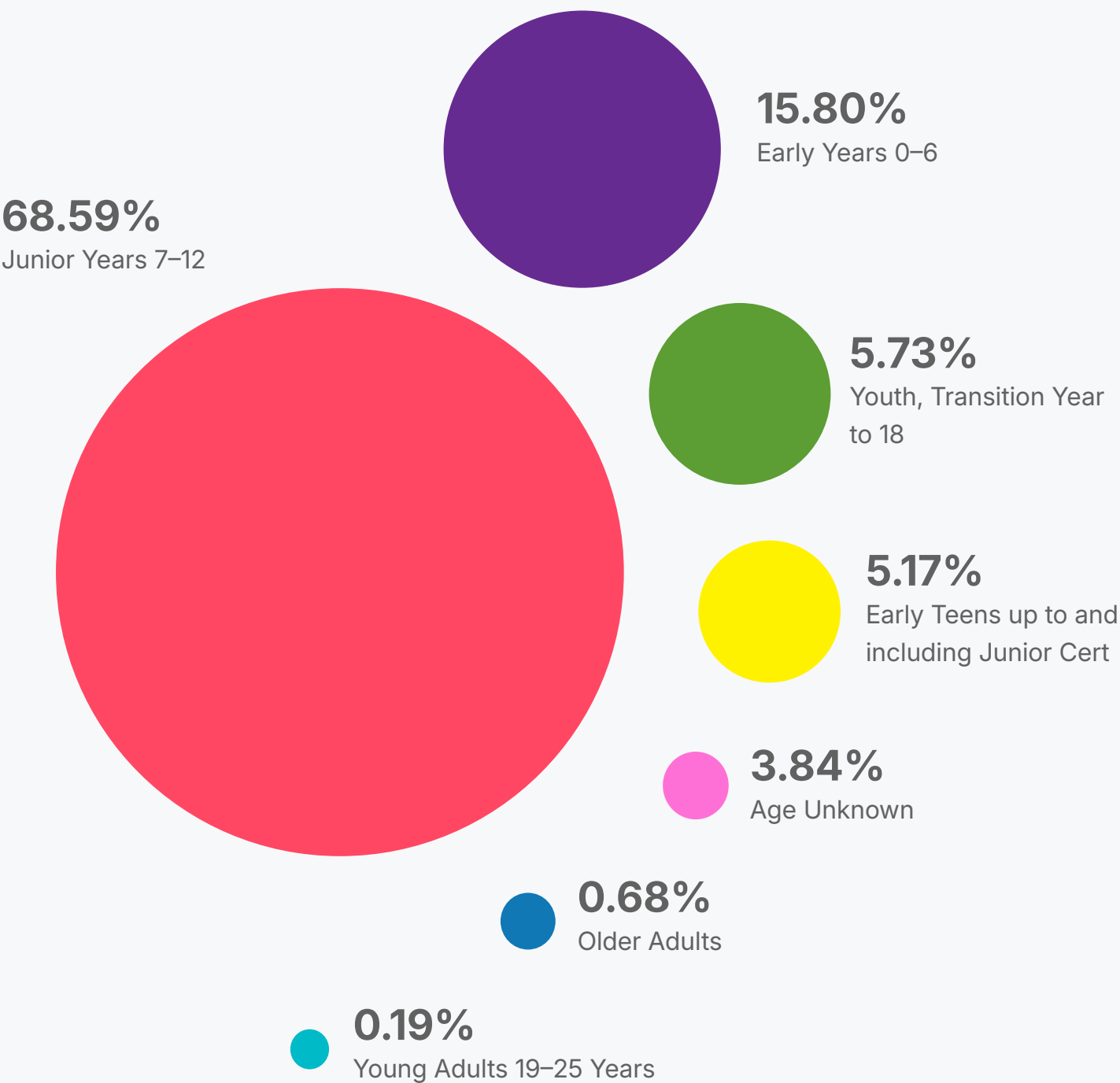


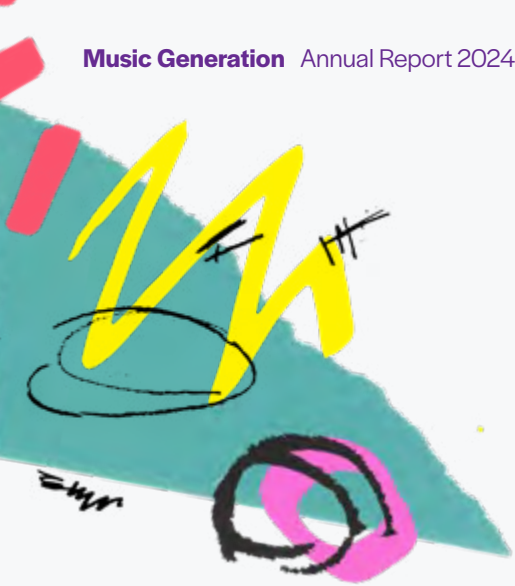
We are Music Generation Day  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan



## Ages of Programme Participants

The highest proportion of programme participants are among the Junior Years (7–12 years old) age group.



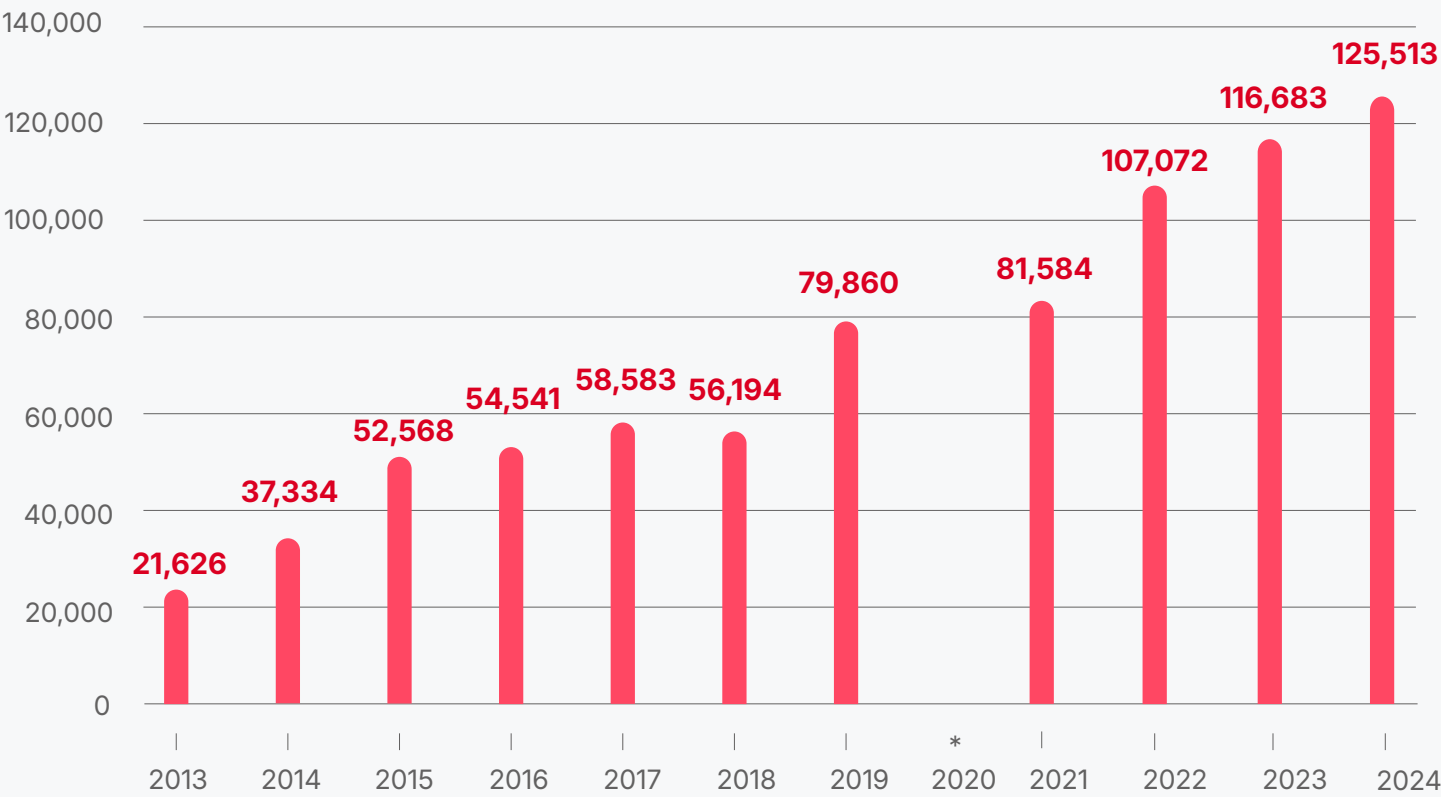


# Tuition Hours

There was a 7.57% increase in tuition hours delivered in 2024.

Music Generation Wicklow  
*Beyond the Trees*  
Photo by Mick Behan

## Total Tuition Hours



\* During the pandemic in 2020, information on tuition hours was collected differently. Rather than totalling tuition hours for that year, the average weekly tuition was monitored at three time points. Because of this difference, the total tuition hours for 2020 is not included in this graph.



# Programme Focus, Formats and Delivery

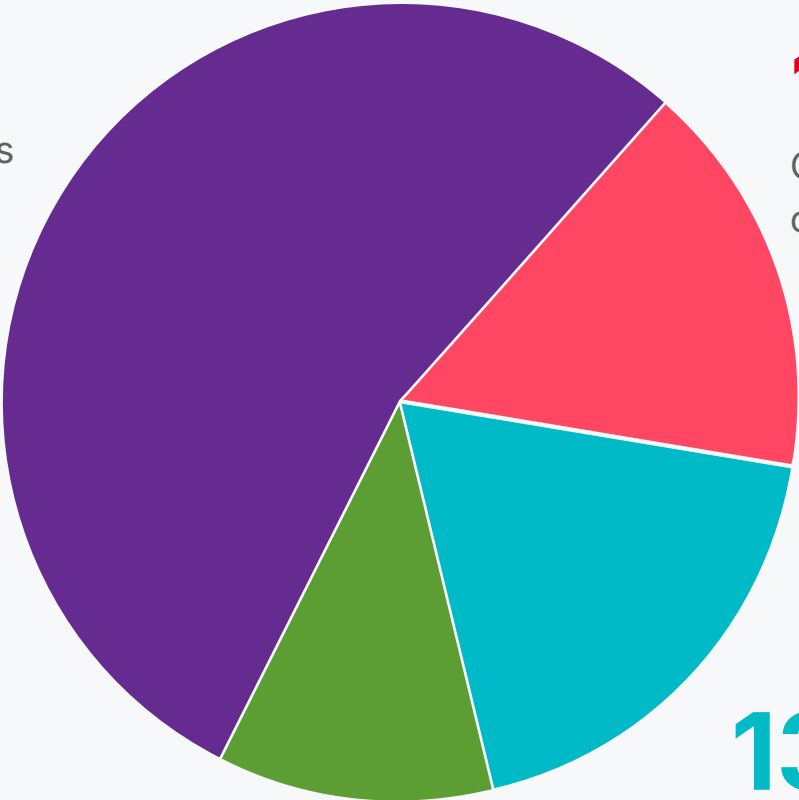
## Duration of Programmes

The largest proportion of Music Generation programmes are of 20–30 weeks duration, or full-year tuition programmes.



568

20–30 weeks  
long term  
or full time



182

One-off event  
or week long event

139

10–19 weeks  
medium term

80

2–9 weeks  
short term

# Genre

LMEP areas reported that programmes had over 40 varieties of music.

## Snapshot of Programming

Foundational or Pre-Instrumental

We are Music Generation Day  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan

Music Technology

Podcasting

Spoken Word

Recording and Production

Rap

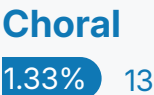
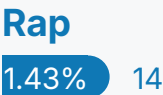
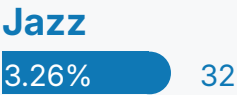
Composition

Creative Music Making

Singer-Songwriter

Approximately 250 programmes reported having a single genre focus while 750 had a mix of genres in their activities. The table below shows the most common genres by the number and percentage of programmes they were found on.

Genre	% of Programmes (approx.)	Number of Programmes (approx.)
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# Unique Venues

Music Generation LMEP areas reported using 1,430 unique venues in 2024.

This is an increase of 8.5% since 2024 (1,138 unique venues used in 2023).

## Primary school



## Post-primary school



## Civic space



## ETB Facility



## Youth centre



## Community centre



## Arts venue



## Private venue



## Childcare facility



## Higher Education Institutes / Further Education Colleges



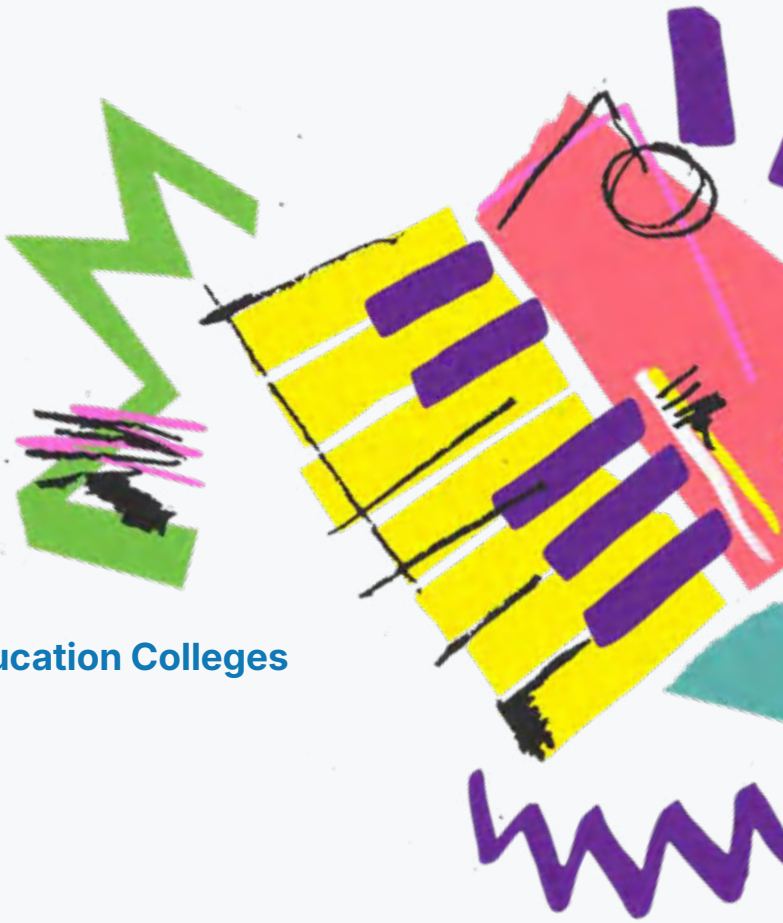
## Special needs school



## Direct Provision



## Church hall





The proportion of venue types in use is comparable with previous years.

Primary school settings account for the highest proportion of venues used, at 9.5%. These are followed by Education and Training Board (ETB) facilities, and Civic Spaces, both at 4.8%.

**We are Music Generation Day**  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan

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Music Generation LMEP areas reported working in  
**781 unique primary schools**

This represents 25.28% of all primary schools in the State, an increase of 2.3% from 2023.

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Music Generation LMEP areas reported working in  
**136 unique secondary schools**

This represents 18.7% of all secondary schools in the State, a 1% decrease from 2023.

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Music Generation LMEP areas reported working in  
**28 unique special education schools**

This represents 20% of all special schools in the State, an increase of 2.6% from 2023.

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Music Generation also worked in  
**29.2% of all DEIS primary schools and 31.5% of all DEIS secondary schools**

in the state. 39.6% of all Music Generation school involvement was based in DEIS primary and secondary schools.



# Workforce and Continuous Professional Development

## Workforce

531 Musician Educators actively delivered programmes in 2024. This is an increase of 3.5% compared to 2023.

Twenty-five LMEP Areas organised visits from 302 Guest Artists/Ensembles, who made a total of 712 visits. This represents an increase of 38.5% on 2023.



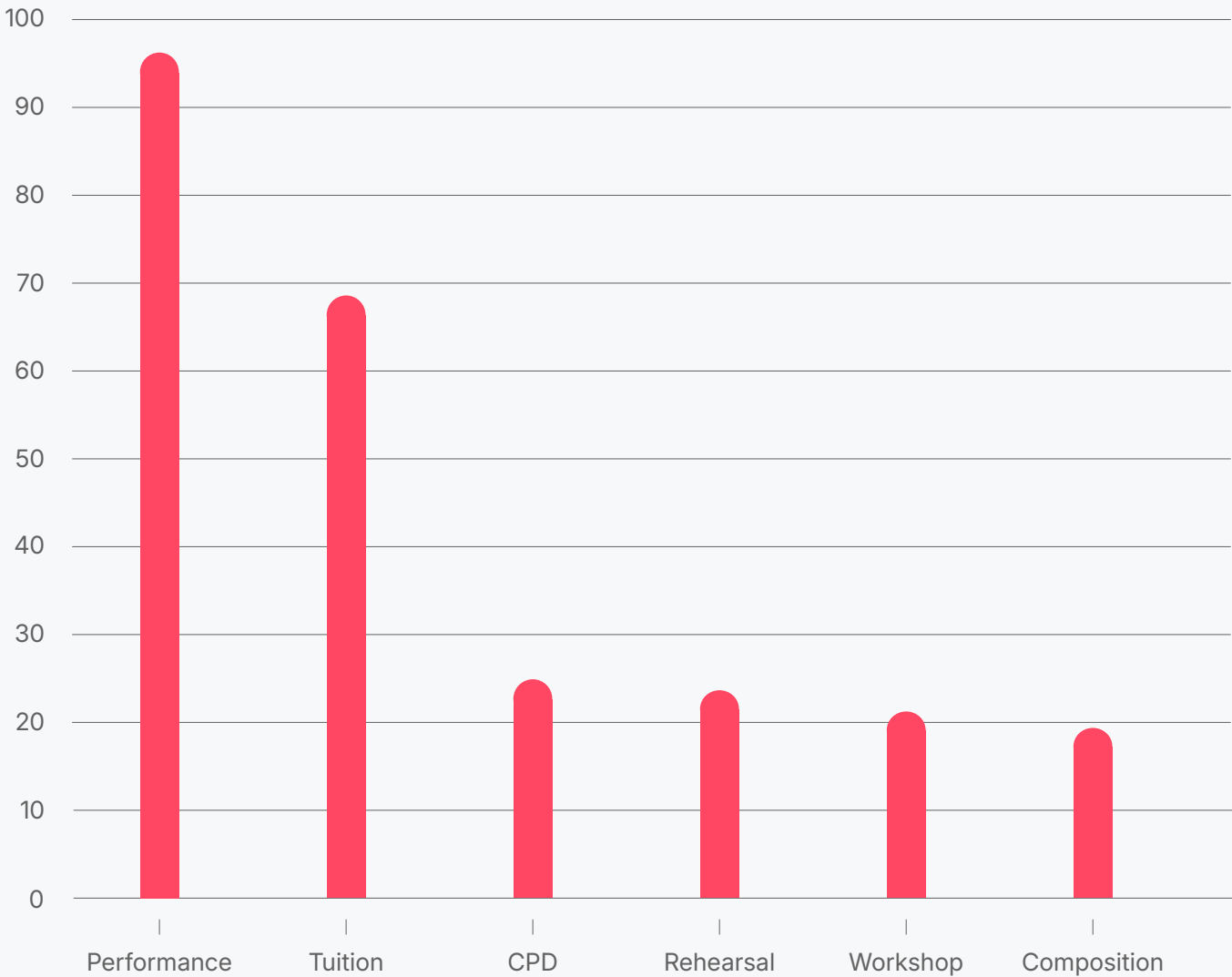
**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan





Purpose of Visiting  
Musician Visits

Music Generation Kerry  
Summer Bands Project  
Photo by Deirdre Johnson



## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

4,635 hours of CPD were delivered to Musician Educators within the LMEP Areas. This represents an increase of 22% in 2024.

Most common CPD training types:

Planning for Quality

Early Years

Community music

Leadership and Management Training

Autism Awareness

Child Protection Training

Charanga Training Session

First Aid and Cardiac First Responder

ADHD Awareness



Music Generation Galway County  
Galway TradFest  
Photo by Sean Lydon



Music Generation Kildare  
Jazz Programme



"Young people can **express themselves** through the lyrics and the music. They don't have to talk to anyone. They can just express it that way. When Music Generation came to Cork about 12 years ago, I was one of their first students and now I'm being trained to be a **Musician Educator.**"

Aoife, Alumnus and Musician Educator,  
Music Generation Cork City



**Music Generation Clare**  
*Irish Concertina Orchestra*  
Photo by Paul Corey



# We are Music Generation 2024

2024 marked a significant moment in the evolution of Music Generation.

We launched *We are Music Generation 2024* — a year dedicated to celebrating the transformative impact of performance music education on the lives of children and young people.

In 2024, children and young people from communities all around Ireland took part in musical events and experiences, where they participated, performed, and shared their love for music.

## *We are Music Generation Day - The Launch*

To launch this special year, we held a national *We are Music Generation Day* for children and young people. In March 2024, 822 young musicians took over the Convention Centre in Dublin for a day-long festival filled with performances and creative experiences.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan

Over 41 acts performed across four stages throughout the day, showcasing a diverse mix of musical genres and styles. The festival featured everything from classical strings to rap (as Gaeilge), jazz bands to choral performances, and even thrash metal, thanks to "Praelium" from Music Generation Limerick City. It also showcased several up-and-coming bands, including "Botanics" from Music Generation Roscommon and "Our Hearts" from Music Generation Meath. The Trad Hub programme, led by Music Generation Tipperary, offered a variety of sessions, workshops, and interviews.

Young musicians had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops led by professional musicians and artists. Songwriting enthusiasts developed their craft under the guidance of [Síomha](#) and [Steve Ryan](#),

while others explored the rhythmic world of Djembe drumming with [David Day](#). Those interested in lyric writing delved into word painting with YouTuber, composer, and pianist [David Bennett](#).

[The Kabin Studio](#) hosted rap workshops, while [NOISE Music](#) offered DJ sessions. Music Generation Galway City provided an immersive experience with their Virtual Reality room and [Padraic Joyce](#) facilitated a space for creative music exploration and open mic performances.

The day concluded with a special performance of *Hiccup*, a piece created by the "Hiccup Collective". It featured rappers from The Kabin Studio (Music Generation Cork City), brass players from Music Generation Waterford, and The Yellow Bellows vocal group from Music Generation Wexford.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan





## Youth Voice throughout *We are Music Generation*

Young musicians played an important role in shaping many aspects of *We are Music Generation*. Throughout 2023, in preparation for the 2024 Music Generation National Events, we held consultations with children and young people from Music Generation programmes to ensure their voices were included. Their input influenced key elements of the celebration such as title, brand identity, and programming.

The *We Are Music Generation* campaign brand identity was developed with the help of three young musicians and artists. In 2023, we launched a public competition for young artists to design the event logo.

Three shortlisted artists — Klara Flanagan (Music Generation Louth), Abi Conroy O'Neill, and Maebh Dimond (Music Generation Waterford), were chosen to collaborate with designers to create a collective brief for the new brand.

Youth consultations also took place with Music Generation Galway City and Music Generation South Dublin to shape the event's programming and roles. At the event, young musicians took on key communications roles, including social media, videography, MC'ing, and interviewing.

**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan







"The importance of **music for children**, and how it can transform young lives, cannot be overstated. If I were allowed one wish for Ireland's children, it would be that they would **all have access** to reading and access to a musical instrument..."

President Michael D. Higgins, 2nd March 2024

We are Music Generation Day  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan

## Access, Artistry and Advocacy – Music Generation National Conference

*Access, Artistry and Advocacy*, Music Generation's National Conference brought together national partners from music, arts, and education to reflect on Music Generation's achievements and discuss the future of music access in Ireland.

The conference celebrated the journey and impact of Music Generation, highlighting the important role played by our dedicated partners, stakeholders, and friends in helping us achieve our mission. Partners from across the music, arts, education, and youth sectors gathered for the event at Dublin Castle.

The National Conference was opened by Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD. It included discussions on national developments, the impact of music access through the voices of children and young people, and the role of artistry in performance music education.

**"I am really delighted to have been invited to open the Music Generation National Conference 2024, and to be part of celebrating the collective achievements of all the partners involved in Music Generation in bringing music and music making to our children and young people since its beginnings in 2010."**

Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD



**Music Generation National Conference**  
Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD  
Photo by Brian Farrell







Notable moments of the day included keynote addresses from **Martin Drury** and **Dr Patricia Flynn**, and a video message from **U2** reaffirming the key vision to the conference — access to music tuition for every child and young person in Ireland. The first panel session of the day included representatives from the **Department of Education and Youth, The Ireland Funds, Music Network, The Arts Council, Education and Training Boards** and **Local Authorities**.

Advocates from across the youth, music and arts sectors on the right to access music and arts for all. Panelists included [The Ombudsman for Children's Office](#), [Children's Rights Alliance](#), Local Music Education Partnerships, Alumni, Musician Educators and Music Development Officers. Music Generation Cork City alumni **Cillian McSweeney** and **Caoimhe Barry** shared their insights and experiences of inclusive music education.



**Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
*Music Generation National  
 Conference Dublin Castle*  
 Photo by Brian Farrell

Audiences listened to inspiring words from **Youth Panellists, Tony** (Music Generation Laois), **Eva** (Music Generation Mayo), **Heidi** (Music Generation Cork City), **Nelvin** (Music Generation Dublin City) and **Fern Hope** (Music Generation Waterford). They told their story about the incredible impact of music in their lives.

Closing the Conference were very special performances from **The SunFlowers** (a group of young Ukrainian guitarists from Donegal Music Education Partnership) and **The Hiccup Collective** (Music Generation Cork City, Music Generation Waterford, Music Generation Wexford).

**Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
*Music Generation National Conference  
 Dublin Castle*  
 Photo by Brian Farrell



## National Musician Educator Gathering

**Music Generation National Gathering Celebrates the Role of Musician Educators in Transforming Young Lives Through Music**

In October 2024, 209 Musician Educators gathered at the Galmont Hotel in Galway, for an event dedicated to celebrating the incredible impact of their work with children and young people across the country.

Participants enjoyed hands-on activities exploring teaching techniques, including demos of VR music-making and an introduction to DJ skills and culture. These sessions gave Musician Educators a chance to try out new ideas, share best practices, and work together to improve their teaching methods.

Musician Educators presented on themes that included **Breaking Social Barriers Through Music, Fostering Creativity and Inclusion in the Classroom, Singing for Every Child: A Journey of Voice, Wellbeing and Joy** and more.

The event, opened by **Dr. Kathleen Turner**, featured a line-up of guest artist facilitators including **Martin Hayes, Alison Thomas, Chi-chi Nwanoku CBE, Kristina Arakelyan, Aga Serugo Lugo, Eimear McCarthy Luddy, Mandy Miller, Steve Ryan, Orla Dwyer (Little O), and Abigail Mann-Daraz**. These accomplished artists, known for their significant contributions to music and education, shared valuable insights that inspired attendees throughout the gathering.



**Music Generation National Musician Educator Gathering**  
Photo by Brian Farrell



# We are Music Generation

In 2024, thousands of children and young people from communities all over Ireland joined in *We Are Music Generation* celebrations. Below, you'll find highlights of the events, festivals, and experiences hosted by LMEPs across the Music Generation network.

[Watch some of the country wide events here.](#)

## Music @ Mount Leinster 2024

Music Generation Carlow

A week-long residential experience for young traditional Irish musicians from across Ireland. Over 100 participants took part in workshops and performances led by a team of professional musicians. [Watch the final performance here.](#)

## Lámh Choir Collaboration

Music Generation Cork City

A collaborative project featuring young musicians from Scoil Éanna Special School and Gaelscoil an Ghort Álainn. They collaborated to arrange and record Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World', combining music and Lámh sign language to celebrate creativity and inclusion.

[Watch their music video here.](#)

## Recording and Mentorship Programme

Music Generation Wicklow

A music development initiative where young musicians write, record, and produce their own original music. With guidance from experienced musicians and producers, 45 participants took part in hands-on studio production. They received practical advice on performing, arranging, promotion and marketing.

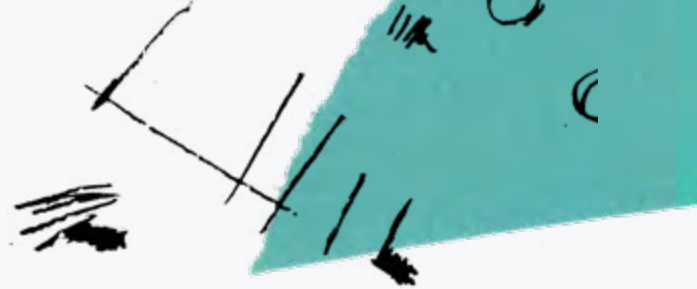
[Hear Ritalin's track "That's all Right" here.](#)

## MGGC Presents

Music Generation Galway City

A series of live performances throughout 2024, which featured young musicians across the city. Performances included Livefeed, Music Explorers Orchestra, Music in Nature, Misléor Youth Open Mic for Nomadic Cultures, Oscailte Irish Language Music Club and Bailigí (Gather) Youth Jam Sessions. [View photos here.](#)





## Music Generation Harp Collective Development

45 young harpers from Music Generations Laois, Louth, Mayo, and Waterford worked together to compose new music, with guidance from composer Gráinne Meyer.

[Discover more about the ensemble here.](#)

## Music Generation Galway City and Foróige Go Present: Music Generation Virtual

This innovative programme supported young people experiencing social isolation through Virtual Reality in an inclusive digital space. They were led by a team of Musician Educators and Youth Workers from Foróige.

## Woodstown Songwriters Weekend

Music Generation Waterford

This songwriting retreat created a space for young creatives to explore songwriting, lyric writing and the creative process. They were guided by a team of Musician Educators and guest artists.

## Féile Mhaigh Eó – A Youth Music Festival

Music Generation Mayo

A Youth Music Festival co-designed by a council of twelve children and young people from across the county. The programme included a busking competition, early years workshops and youth music events. [Hear from the youth council members here](#) and [here](#).

## Sounds of Semple

Music Generation Tipperary

This project brought together 200 primary school children to form a 'hurley orchestra,' turning the hurley stick into a musical instrument. The children worked with Peter O'Toole of The Hot House Flowers to create an anthem they called the 'Tipperary Hurling Haka'.

[Watch their music video here.](#)

## Jam@TheSquare

Music Generation Sligo

To celebrate their 10-year anniversary, Music Generation Sligo launched the Jam@TheSquare competition in partnership with Sligo County Council. Young musicians competed for €1,000 worth of music equipment and the chance to perform on the Gig Rig at the Queen Maeve Festival.

## Music at the Malthouse

Music Generation Laois

This concert series celebrated over ten years of original music created by young musicians with well-known guest artists. These past compositions were revisited and performed by 195 young trad musicians alongside guest artists.

[See one of the performances here.](#)







## Irish Concertina Orchestra

Music Generation Clare

This performance at Glór in Ennis featured the Irish Concertina Orchestra, NOTIFY, Cormac McCarthy, and the Music Generation Clare Concertina Orchestra. Over seven months, the group worked on new original music, including a piece by renowned composer Bill Whelan.

[Discover more in the short documentary here.](#)

## SingFest

Music Generation Westmeath

SingFest was a two-day choral singing event led by Patrick Barrett from Sing Ireland in partnership with Music Generation Offaly. Over 1,800 primary school children took part, supported by a team of Musician Educators at Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone.

[See more about SingFest here.](#)

## Everyone

Music Generation Wexford

This large performance event at Chadwicks Wexford Park celebrated the Music Generation Wexford primary school programmes. It brought everyone together for a unique music-making experience, led by a team of Musician Educators. They were joined by a live band, young singers from Yellow Bellows, and the high-energy Celtic percussion group, Extreme Rhythm.

[Read more about Everyone here.](#)

## One Day in May

Music Generation Limerick City

A day-long music event at Dolans Live Music Venue featuring solo musicians, bands, singers and rappers from across Ireland. Over 35 acts performed across three stages showcasing a variety of genres including Rock, Punk, Heavy Metal, Blues, Folk and Electronic.

## SingUP

Music Generation Leitrim

The 'Sing Up' event brought together secondary schools from Co. Leitrim to perform songs learned in the classroom. It was led by Patrick Barrett from Sing Ireland. As part of the programme two singers successfully auditioned for the Irish Youth Choir Training Summer Camp, supported by Music Generation Leitrim and Sing Ireland.

[See more about SingUP here.](#)

## The Magical Musical Box – A Musical Puppet Show

Music Generation Leitrim

The Magical Musical Box was a musical puppet show written by Musician Educators Niko and Christina Ginter. It was designed for young children and presented as part of the primary school programme in Leitrim. [Watch a snippet from The Magical Musical Box here.](#)

## Féile Fearann Rí 2024

Music Generation Cork City

A traditional Irish and Folk music festival that featured a gala concert, a day-long celebration of Traveller culture, and youth music-making opportunities. Guest Artists in Residence included Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, Dónal O'Connor, Thomas McCarthy, and Niamh Dunne.

[Watch the final performance here.](#)

## Music Generation Carlow collaboration with Carlow Arts Festival

Over 100 young musicians and bands performed on the O'Hara's Music Stage at the Carlow Arts Festival. The line up included four bands from the Music Generation Carlow Band Development Programme, who performed their original songs.

## Harmony in Diversity

Music Generation Longford

This initiative brought together groups from Music Generation Longford's Rock and Pop, Trad, Roma, and African music programme to celebrate different musical cultures. The 8-week programme ended with a collaborative concert at St John's Church in Longford, promoting diversity and inclusion in a rural setting.

## Corda Connections 2024

A four-day summer residential for young string players from Music Generation Kerry, Music Generation Louth and the Irish Chamber Youth Orchestra. The programme focused on classical string ensemble playing and concluded in a live performance streamed online.

[Meet the young musicians here.](#)

## SoundCrowd '24

A group of 58 young wind, brass, and percussion players from Music Generation Waterford and Music Generation Carlow took part in a four-day residential music-making programme. The programme focused on blues, jazz, and funk, concluding with a final performance at the Theatre Royal in Waterford City.

[Learn more about SoundCrowd '24 here.](#)

## SubSounds Youth Music Festival 2024

This outdoor day-long festival included young musicians, bands and DJs from Music Generations Dublin City, Fingal, Kildare, Meath, South Dublin and Wicklow. In addition to performing, participants took on key roles like stage management, photography, and MC'ing. [Hear about the young musician's experience here.](#)

## Summer Band Project

Music Generation Kerry

This five-day programme gave young musicians and bands the opportunity to improve their performance skills. They also learned about songwriting and recording through workshops and studio sessions.

[Watch more about this project here.](#)

## Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024

Over 300 young musicians performed at the Wexford Credit Union Dome across two concerts *Ceiliúradh Music Generation Lá* and *Ceiliúradh Music Generation Oíche*. The performing trad groups and ensembles were from Music Generation areas including Carlow, Cavan/Monaghan, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow.

[View the full programme here.](#)



## NASC '24

In 2024, Music Generation Louth, Cavan/Monaghan, and Meath developed a regional folk collaboration with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. An 80-member traditional fusion collective worked with guest composer and artist Lisa Canny to create original music. Their new work was performed at Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and showcased during Culture Night. [See more about NASC here.](#)

## Ceiliúradh Mór! Touring Festival

Musician educators and young musicians from a range of primary and secondary schools came together for a series of Big Gigs led by Music Generation Offaly in Birr, Edenderry, and Tullamore. A reworking of the T-Rex classic Children of the Revolution became *We Are Music Generation* and featured as the anthem for Ceiliúradh Mór events.

[View photos of the final performance here.](#)

## The Big Busk

Music Generation Limerick County "The Big Busk" was a youth-led live music event at the historic Desmond Castle in Newcastle West. It brought together young participants from Music Generation Limerick County, Foróige and local Youth Services.

[Watch highlights from the event here.](#)

## Tionól Harp + Pipes 2024

"Tionól" is the world's only festival dedicated to Harps & Pipes led by Music Generation Laois. Over 170 musicians premiered a new piece of music called *Hook Head*, composed by Chris Stout and Catriona McKay. The performance featured young harpers and pipers from Music Generations Louth, Mayo, Waterford, Cavan/Monaghan, Laois, and visiting musicians from Glasgow.

[Watch the full concert here.](#)

## Galway TradFest and Le Chéile

Music Generation Galway County hosted this week long festival which included collaborative high-level Irish traditional music performances with young musicians and guest artists.

The festival featured a celebratory concert "Le Chéile" which brought together over 200 young performers at University of Galway. The concert showcased the "We Are Music Generation Youth Trad Orchestra" made up of young musicians from Music Generation areas including Galway County, Kerry, Laois, Wicklow and Waterford. They performed with guest artists including Sharon Shannon, Niall McCabe, Beoga, Nathan Pilatzke, Bláithín & Nell Ní Mhainín, Augustina Taborda and Musician Educators Niall Teague, Martina Flaherty and Fionnuala Hannigan. The concert was broadcasted on TG4 in 2025. [Watch some highlights here.](#)

## Skool Brass and Wind Power

Donegal Music Education Partnership This project introduced brass instruments to four primary schools in Glenties. The children received structured lessons, hands-on instruction, and ensemble experience. It was led and facilitated by David Whaley, Vincent Kennedy and Dr Shaun Ryan. [View photos here.](#)







# Programme Highlights from Across the Country

Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan  
*Music on Wheels*  
Photo by Sandra McIntyre

## Carlow

Music Generation Carlow launched its “Band Development Programme”, offering young musicians the opportunity to form bands, create original music, and perform live, under the guidance of experienced Musician Educators. Initially launched as a pilot, the programme quickly became a central part of Carlow’s vision for accessible music pathways. Building on the success of the “Encore Primary School Programme”, which introduced Pop/Rock instruments, the “Band Development Programme” provided a clear path from classroom lessons to community band opportunities. By the end of 2024, four bands had formed, performing at major local events such as the Carlow Arts and Old Fort Festivals. The programme empowered young musicians, boosting their confidence, creativity, and teamwork through real-world live performance experiences.

## Cavan/Monaghan

Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan led a festive collaboration with Irish band *The Whistlin’ Donkeys*, bringing together 142 young musicians from the region. The young musicians performed in a special video production that celebrated community and teamwork across the Cavan/Monaghan programmes. The project aimed to provide valuable learning experiences, allowing the young musicians to see the full process of creating a music video from rehearsals to recording. The project aimed to deepen their love for music and show how music can unite and inspire. For many, it was their first glimpse into the behind-the-scenes world of music production, giving them a broader understanding of performance artistry.

[Watch their music video here.](#)

## Clare

[Music Generation Clare](#) ran its "After-School Music Hubs" in towns and villages across the county. These Hubs gave children and young people the chance to try music in a fun, friendly place during the school year. At each hub, participants explored different instruments and styles of music, from traditional Irish to modern songs. They were supported by a team of skilled and encouraging musician educators. Whether they were strumming a guitar, playing the fiddle, keeping a beat on drums, or singing, young people were given space to build confidence and enjoy learning.

The year ended with performances where young musicians shared their music with family, friends, and the wider community. The programme helped make music more accessible to young people across County Clare by setting up hubs in Shannon, Kilrush, Ennis, Ennistymon, and Killaloe.

## Cork City

[Music Generation Cork City](#) premiered "Music is Our Home" at the Department of An Taoiseach's Child Poverty and Well-being Summit. This original piece was created by eight young musicians from Music Generation Cork City's programmes in Mahon, Mayfield and Knocknaheeny, run in partnership with Foróige. The piece was created for the event and developed during weekly rehearsals and songwriting sessions before the summit. Its themes advocated for the right of access and inclusion for all children in Ireland today. The summit, held on Thursday, May 23rd, was opened by Taoiseach Simon Harris and focused on ways to address child poverty and improve well-being across Ireland.

[Watch the performance here.](#)



Music Generation dlr  
Crosscare Music Project  
Photo by Long Lost Designs

## Dún Laoghaire — Rathdown

[Music Generation DLR](#) was relaunched with its lead partner DDLETB. In June 2024, a Music Development Officer was appointed. In the first six months, the programme hired Musician Educators and an Administrator and completed a pilot project at three youth and community centres.

In partnership with Crosscare, Music Generation dlr ran an 8-week songwriting and music production programme focused on creativity and self-expression through music. The programme gave young people from Sandyford, Kilcross, and Nutgrove the chance to explore music technology and instruments such as guitar, bass, drums, and keys. With support from Musician Educators, the group recorded and mixed a song that reflected their personal experiences and unique styles.

[Watch more here.](#)

## Dublin City

[Music Generation Dublin City](#) launched its first band camp, "The DC Sounds Bandcamp", in partnership with Bohemians FC, BIMM Institute Dublin, Musicmaker, and The Grand Social venue. The two-week programme, which worked with local bands like RockJam and the Irish Youth Music Awards, supported five emerging bands. It ended with a sold-out gig for the bands and their families, marking a big success. Plans are in place to grow the programme next year. Plans are in place to develop and expand the programme in the coming year. [Watch a snapshot of DC Sounds here.](#)

## Fingal

[Music Generation Fingal](#) launched its "Tuition Hub" in Swords, providing vocal and instrumental education to young people aged 6 to 18 in the Fingal area. The programme offered affordable, high-quality music education through small group lessons in vocal training and a variety of instruments, including guitar, keyboard, violin, ukulele, and drums. Led by experienced Musician Educators, each class moved at its own pace, helping students develop musical and social skills such as communication and self-confidence. To further support the programme, Music Generation Fingal introduced an instrument bank and rental scheme, allowing participants to rent instruments at a reduced cost, making music education more accessible for families.

## Galway City

[Music Generation Galway City](#) launched "Youth Lates", a pilot youth music event series, in partnership with Galway City Council, Youth Work Ireland Galway City, Comhairle na nÓg, and Galway Arts Centre | Nuns Island Theatre. The programme provided a safe, engaging space for young people to be part of Galway's night-time economy. The series included open mic nights for aspiring musicians, poets, and performers (ages 16-19). It also featured live music showcases, DJ sets by local young DJs, special guest performances, and creative activities like a craft café and Dungeons and Dragons. [Watch more about "Youth Lates" here.](#)

## Galway County

[Music Generation Galway County](#) Musician Educators led a programme at Coláiste an Eachréidh, a GRETb gaelscoil in Athenry. The programme involved translating some of *The Saw Doctors'* best-known songs into Irish. It ended with Leo Moran, founder, vocalist, and songwriter with *The Saw Doctors*, visiting the school. He listened to the songs in Irish and joined the students for a performance in front of the school community. [See more here.](#)



**Music Generation Fingal**  
Swords Tuition Hub  
Photo by Ailbhe Kelly





## Kerry

In 2024, [Music Generation Kerry](#) continued its “Oidhreacht Traditional Ensemble”, made up of 45 talented young musicians. The group celebrates and preserves the unique Sliabh Luachra style of traditional music, which is native to County Kerry. Led by renowned Musician Educator Michelle O’Sullivan, the ensemble welcomes players of all levels creating an inclusive, supportive space for learning and sharing.

The ensemble took part in Galway Trad Fest this year, performing alongside well-known artists such as Sharon Shannon, Niall McCabe, and Beoga. They also joined over 100 young musicians from Music Generation Galway County, Wicklow, Waterford, and Laois for a large collaborative performance.

Closer to home, “Oidhreacht” has performed across Kerry and been featured in local media. Their music showcases the vibrant sounds of Sliabh Luachra, from energetic polkas and slides to expressive slow airs, ensuring that Kerry’s traditional music continues to thrive. [Watch the ensemble perform together here.](#)

## Kildare

“Brigid Sings” was a collaborative choral project, created in partnership between [Music Generation Kildare](#), Sing Ireland and Kildare County Council Arts Office, as part of the Brigid 1,500 celebrations in Co. Kildare. The project brought together five female singer-songwriters from Kildare to create five original songs about Brigid, her life, and legacy. These songs, along with illustrations and resources by local artist Laura Dempsey, were shared with all primary schools in the county. Schools were also offered workshops led by Music Generation Kildare Musician Educators, Sing Ireland facilitators, and project artists. Over 2,400 young musicians participated, with 121 performers taking part in the final concert at St. Brigid’s Cathedral, Kildare. [Discover more about Brigid Sings here.](#)

## Kilkenny

[Music Generation Kilkenny](#) launched “Song Collective”, a songwriting and band mentoring programme designed to support young musicians. The programme guided participants from their first ideas to live performance. The initiative aimed to empower young people with the tools and confidence to bring their musical visions to life. A highlight was the involvement of Kilkenny-born singer-songwriter Robert Grace, who shared industry insights and inspired participants with his experience. Young musicians aged 13-18 worked with mentors in workshops focused on songwriting, melody, lyrics, performance, and music production.

The programme followed a ‘seed to stage’ process, turning raw ideas into complete songs. The programme ended with a live performance at the Drum Youth Centre and the release of an EP on major streaming platforms in partnership with Foróige.

[Listen to their original tracks here.](#)



## Laois

[Music Generation Laois](#) launched the "Laois Community Choir", an intergenerational choir open to people aged 16 and over. With over 150 members from diverse backgrounds, the choir offered free membership, supported by LOETB Community Education and Healthy Ireland through Laois County Council. The choir had its debut performance at the official opening of The Fort, a new outdoor performance space at the Laois Music Centre in July 2024. This performance marked a significant moment for the choir, showcasing the talent and community spirit of its members.

[Watch the performance here.](#)

## Leitrim

[Music Generation Leitrim](#) launched its first Secondary schools "SingUP" in association with Sing Ireland. Secondary schools from across Co. Leitrim came together to perform a repertoire of songs learned in the classroom. The event was led by Patrick Barrett, Director of the Irish Youth Choir in Training. As part of the programme, two singers were chosen through audition for the Irish Youth Choir in Training Summer Camp, held at Limerick University in June. Music Generation Leitrim and Sing Ireland sponsored these students. The successful participants were from Mohill Community School and Drumshanbo Vocational School.

[See photos of the event here.](#)

**Music Generation Limerick City**  
*One Day In May*  
Photo by Dominik Kosicki

## Limerick County

[Music Generation Limerick County](#) launched its "Creative Youth Hub" in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, offering weekly sessions for secondary school students. The sessions focused on instrumental learning, digital music creation, and original music development, with an emphasis on community building through music and creativity. In its first few months, the group grew to 15 young participants, with several forming small groups and pursuing solo music projects. The Creative Youth Hub is a collaborative effort between Music Generation Limerick County, Foroige, C.A.R.A. (Creative Arts Raising Abbeyfeale), and the Limerick Arts Office. The initiative continues to foster musical talent and creativity among young people in Abbeyfeale.

[Watch more here.](#)



## Limerick City

[Music Generation Limerick City](#) continued its "Saturday Sessions" programme, offering young songwriters, producers, rappers, singers, and bands weekly mentorship, support, and space to create the music they wanted to make. Participants accessed the programme free of charge and worked in a collaborative environment that encouraged them to find their own voice and experience the joy of communal music-making. Throughout the year, several performance opportunities took place, including appearances at One Day in May. Each week, sessions concluded with peer-to-peer 'show and tell' performances, where young musicians showcased high-quality, original, and authentic work.

## Longford

[Music Generation Longford](#) led "Unplugged in St John's", a unique concert featuring young musicians from Music Generation Longford's "Sounds" and "Band Jam" programmes. The young musicians performed stripped back, unplugged, acoustic versions of their favourite rock and pop songs. This showcase gave the young musicians an opportunity to grow as musicians, learning how to arrange songs to suit an acoustic performance. The concert took place in St John's Church in December 2024, featuring a variety of acts including Irish dancing and some festive favourites.

**Music Generation Louth**  
*Classical String Programme*  
Photo by Gemma Murray

## Louth

[Music Generation Louth](#) string orchestra programme led by Davide Forti and Francesca De Nardi annually offers affordable training for young string players of all ages and skill levels. In 2024, over 60 young musicians rehearsed and performed with this programme. In August 2024, the "Senior String Orchestra" toured Italy, performing first in Belluno at the Nevegal Sanctuary. The tour continued in Trieste, where the orchestra joined CVS Cantaré Luciano De Nardi at San Gerolamo Church to celebrate the choir's 50th anniversary. The performance was enjoyed by the audience in the church and hundreds of online viewers.

[Find out more here.](#)





## Mayo

[Music Generation Mayo](#) continued “The Core”, a programme offering weekly jam sessions for young people aged 12–18 in Ballina, Co. Mayo. Participants took part in sessions to hang out and make music together, as well as recording and production sessions, improvisation, and songwriting workshops. The atmosphere was friendly, positive, relaxed, and encouraging. Young people were given a platform to perform and share their music. Performers of all genres aged 12–18 were welcome to participate or simply come along to hang out and support others. In 2024, young musicians also took part in regular open mic sessions, experiencing their first live performances in a relaxed, café-style setting. [Watch one of their original songs here.](#)



### Music Generation Longford

*Trad Ensemble*

Photo by Rachel Berry

## Meath

[Music Generation Meath](#) piloted their “Roadshow” project. A team of four musicians toured primary schools, delivering a fun, interactive show for the entire school, usually outdoors in the playground. The 45-minute show offered plenty of chances for children to sing and dance. A total of 18 schools were visited, and the project was a great success. The Roadshow will return for another tour in summer 2025.

[See more here.](#)

## Offaly

[Music Generation Offaly](#) led “Breaking Social Barriers Through Music”, a summer music programme for teens living in Direct Provision in Birr, Co. Offaly. The programme aimed to give teenagers in International Protection Accommodation Services a safe space to explore music and music technology.

Over six weeks, participants learned to play Violin, Cello, Keyboard, and Rhythm instruments, and created a small project. They also explored music technology, using laptops, midi keyboards, and digital percussion pads to create percussion and melodic lines, adding vocals with a microphone. The participants created an original rap to accompany a new composition. By the end of the programme, several participants expressed interest in pursuing music at secondary school and hoped for more similar opportunities in the future.

[Read more here.](#)



"At the end of our music class programme, I felt a lot more **confident** in picking music when I start in secondary school in September. I have **made a lot of new friends** in my new music class."

Young Musician, Music Generation Offaly



Music Generation Offaly  
Breaking Barriers  
Photo by Darren Brown





## Roscommon

In July 2024, [Music Generation Roscommon](#) presented “Songs About Love”, a special concert created for the Boyle Arts Festival. The show featured 40 young musicians, poets, dancers, and artists from Boyle Music Hub, members of the “Roscommon String Ensemble” (part of “Roscommon County Youth Orchestra”), and dancers from the “Victoria Walker School of Dance”. Together, they explored the theme of love through a wide mix of musical genres and songwriting styles.

This was the second original performance created for the festival. In 2023, the group presented “My Generation”, and following the success of both shows, the young performers are now rehearsing for their 2025 production, “End of a Century”. These projects continue to give young people a creative platform to express themselves and showcase their talents, while also building strong partnerships within the local arts community. [Watch the full performance here.](#)



**Music Generation Roscommon**  
*Songs about Love*  
Photo by Brian Farrell

## Sligo

[Music Generation Sligo](#) collaborated with the Sligo Orpheus Choir for a memorable intergenerational performance. More than 100 singers, including members of “Sligo Youth Voices” and the renowned “Sligo Orpheus Choir”, came together for a special rendition of *The Sally Gardens*. The performance was recorded against the beautiful backdrop of Strandhill, located on the Northwest Coast of Ireland. [Watch the performance here.](#)



## South Dublin

"Culture i Chroí" was a special event held at County Hall, Tallaght on Culture Night. The evening featured the New [Music Generation South Dublin](#) Children's Chorus performing the world premiere of a song specially composed for Tallaght by local composer, Damian Gallagher. The piece was scored for children's chorus, Gallagher's adult choir "Arabella Voices", a string quartet, pipes, oboe, flute, and keyboard. The evening also included a performance of Point the Gun by the Music Generation "SubSounds Youth Collective" duo, Joseph Ryder and Eimear O'Neill. The duo's performance was supported by a string quartet arrangement, created during a summer workshop with a group from Ohio, USA.

## Tipperary

[Music Generation Tipperary](#) launched "Ukulele Days" as part of its "Tune Up Tipp" programme. The "Tune up Tipp" primary schools instrumental programme provides children and young people across Tipperary with access to instrumental music education in schools, often leading to further opportunities within the community.

As part of the programme, Music Generation Tipperary organised a tour with five dates across Co. Tipperary, bringing together approximately 1,500 young musicians to perform with their ukuleles and voices. 150-200 young musicians performed at each event, supported by a live 8-piece house band. These sessions allowed children to perform solo or as part of a larger group. They played songs from their weekly lessons while experiencing the excitement of performing with a professional live band.

[See more here.](#)



**Music Generation Tipperary**  
*Sounds of Simple*  
Photo by Maurice Gunning



## Waterford

The “MidNight Collective” was a creative collaboration between [Music Generation Waterford](#) and Theatre Royal, co-funded by the Arts Council Late Night Pilot Scheme. The project brought together an ensemble of 35 musicians, including young musicians and educators from Music Generation Waterford’s rock, pop, wind, brass, and trad programmes, alongside guest artists *The New Brass Kings*.

The collaboration led to a series of creative arrangements that blended genres, featuring iconic hits from the 60s and 70s. These arrangements were created by the Music Generation Waterford musician team in collaboration with the “MidNight Collective” ensemble. The project culminated in a high-energy performance at Theatre Royal Waterford, presented as LateNight@TheRoyal in May 2024.

[Watch more here.](#)

**Music Generation Waterford**

*MidNight Collective*

Photo by DGM Photographic

## Westmeath

[Music Generation Westmeath](#) partnered with Creative Westmeath to develop “Westmeath Whisperings”, a composition project that brought professional composer Carrie Harding together with young musicians from Athlone and Mullingar. The project involved children and young people from a mainstream class at Cornamaddy CNS, the SEN class at St. Peter’s GNS, and the Athlone Youth Orchestra. Together, they co-created an original composition inspired by their local history, landscape, and personal experiences.

Throughout the process, the young composers worked closely with Harding to blend their ideas, melodies, and reflections into a unique piece that captures the spirit of their community.



## Wexford

[Music Generation Wexford](#) hosted a special event at Chadwick's Wexford Park in May 2024, where over 2,000 school children from across County Wexford gathered to perform. The children came together to sing and play ukulele for the world premiere and recording of "Everyone", an original song by composer and musician educator Laura Hyland.

Everyone united the whole-class music programmes from primary schools across the county, which ran throughout the school year under the guidance of dedicated Musician Educators. Children, aged 7 to 12, were treated to a performance by Extreme Rhythm, followed by the youth vocal ensemble Yellow Bellows.

The performance, conducted by composer Liam Bates and Anita Mahon, featured Yellow Bellows, 15 skilled musician educators, and a live band, with songs involving singing, body percussion, and ukulele playing.

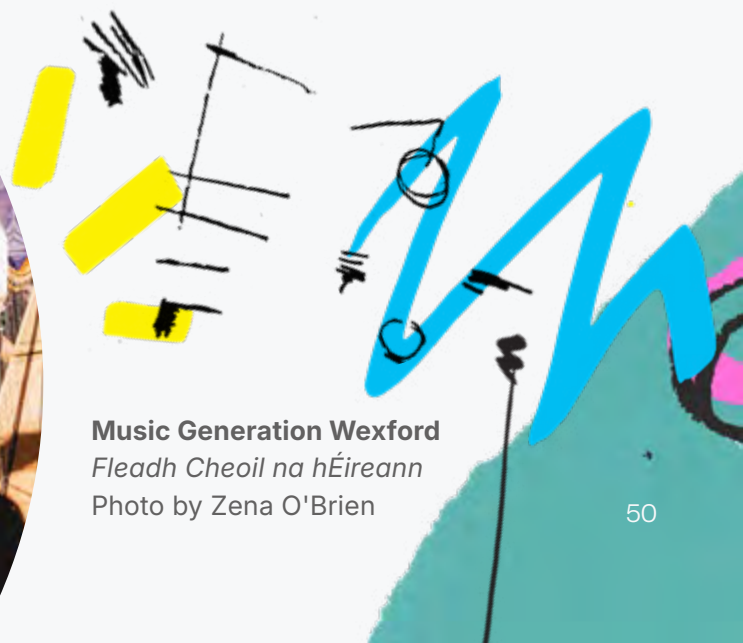
[Read more about the performance here.](#)

## Wicklow

[Music Generation Wicklow](#) hosted "Harmonising Beyond the Trees", an inclusive arts initiative, for children and young people from three primary schools in Rathdrum, County Wicklow. Led by Musician Educator, Olwen Carolan, visual artist Louise Shearer and composer Tom Lane, the project integrated music and visual arts to promote environmental awareness and community. Based on research on how environmental engagement can bring people together, the initiative encouraged participants to connect with their local surroundings.

The project began with a visit to Beyond the Trees, where children recorded natural sounds and community voices to create a soundscape. Later, they worked with the artists to perform songs and create individual canvases, showcased at Cruinniú na nÓg.

[Watch more here.](#)



**Music Generation Wexford**  
*Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann*  
Photo by Zena O'Brien



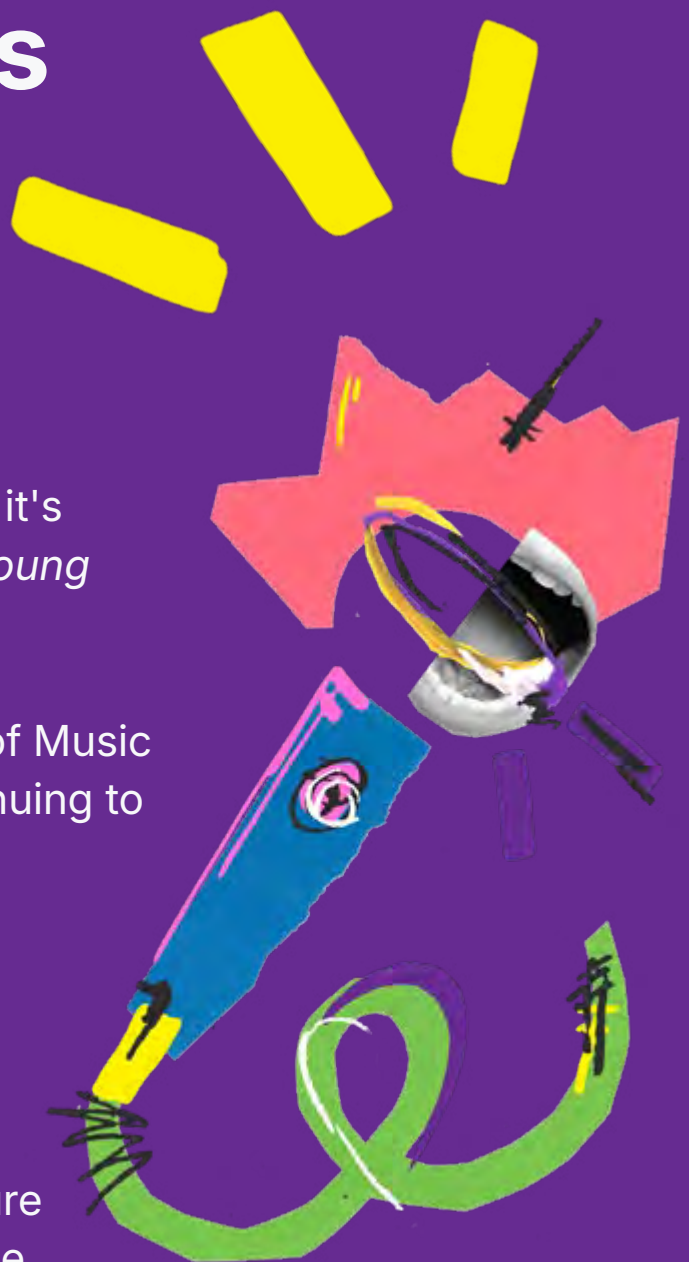
# Strategic Goals

In 2022, Music Generation published its 5-year strategic plan *Transforming Young Lives Through Music*.

This plan charts the future direction of Music Generation from 2022–2026 in continuing to bring our mission to life.

## Quality

**Goal:** to influence and nurture a culture of continuous improvement across the Music Generation network, so that children and young people have the best possible quality of experiences and outcomes in a variety of settings and across a wide range of musical genres and disciplines.



# Objective 1

We will work in an in-depth and long-term way with Music Generation local programmes to **support the further development of a culture of quality.**

In 2024 the NDO Strategic Plan Quality Pillar was advanced through five key priority actions:

1. Planning for Quality (PfQ)
2. National *We are Music Generation* Celebration 2024
3. Performance Music Education Research and Learning
4. Network Strengthening
5. Restructured Creativity and Collaboration Fund

## Planning for Quality (PfQ)

In 2024, we completed Phase 1 of the Planning for Quality process in a further five LMEP areas: Galway City, Galway County, Roscommon, Kilkenny, and Carlow, bringing to a total of seven LMEPs involved in the process. We also began a full review and evaluation. In 2023/2024, the project involved 75 Musician Educators, 5 Music Development Officers (MDOs), and other local team members, including Administrators and Resource Workers. The Planning for Quality (PfQ) process involves a series of workshops that use a collaborative action research approach to discussions about quality. The goal is to help build our shared understanding of Performance Music Education and to support a culture of quality across the network.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan



<sup>1</sup> Objective 1, Action 2 of [Music Generation's Strategic Plan 2022–2026](#)

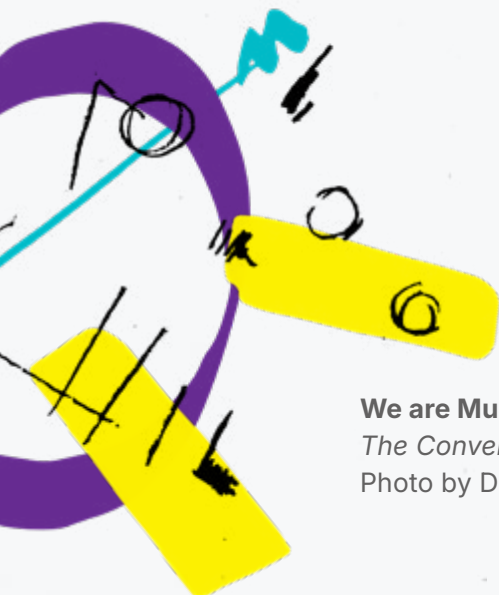
## National Celebration 2024

The QDL team began planning for Music Generation's national year of celebration in early 2023, working closely with colleagues across the Network. This planning set the stage for a vibrant year of collaborative, creative, and celebratory events, delivered both by the NDO and local teams.

The year-long programme, titled *We are Music Generation*, was developed through consultation with children and young people, key stakeholders (via an Advisory Working Group), and LMEPs through Music Development Officers (MDOs) and members of the Directorate Steering Group.

Some highlights led by the NDO included:

- A joyful *We are Music Generation* Day for children and young people at the Convention Centre Dublin
- *Access, Artistry and Advocacy*, a thought-provoking one-day conference at Dublin Castle showcasing a wide range of voices from across the network
- A National Musician Educator Gathering packed with musician-led presentations and hands-on activities



**We are Music Generation Day**  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan

## Performance Music Education (PME) Research and Learning

In 2024, PME inquiry was built into the PfQ process. This formed part of our ongoing work with Musician Educators, MDO, and administrative teams. As part of both the introductory and concluding workshops in the six-part series, we carried out a collaborative, reflective exercise. This captured participants' views on the key features and characteristics of PME.

Insights from the PfQ process were then shared through joint MDO–NDO presentations at quarterly network meetings, Directorate Steering Group meetings, and at national and international conferences, as outlined under Objective 3.





## Network Strengthening

Network strengthening is both a goal and a process that runs through the five priority actions of the Quality Strategy. In 2024, we continued to build and improve the structures and supports of the network through engagement with the DSG, MDO, LMEP, and Administrator/Resource Worker networks.

From the early planning stages right through to the delivery of the national celebrations in 2024, the NDO worked with the MDO network, Music Generation NDO board members, and members of the Music Generation–ETB Directorate Steering Group. Together, they formed an advisory working group to guide the celebrations. One of the main aims of *We are Music Generation* was to increase and strengthen engagement across the network.

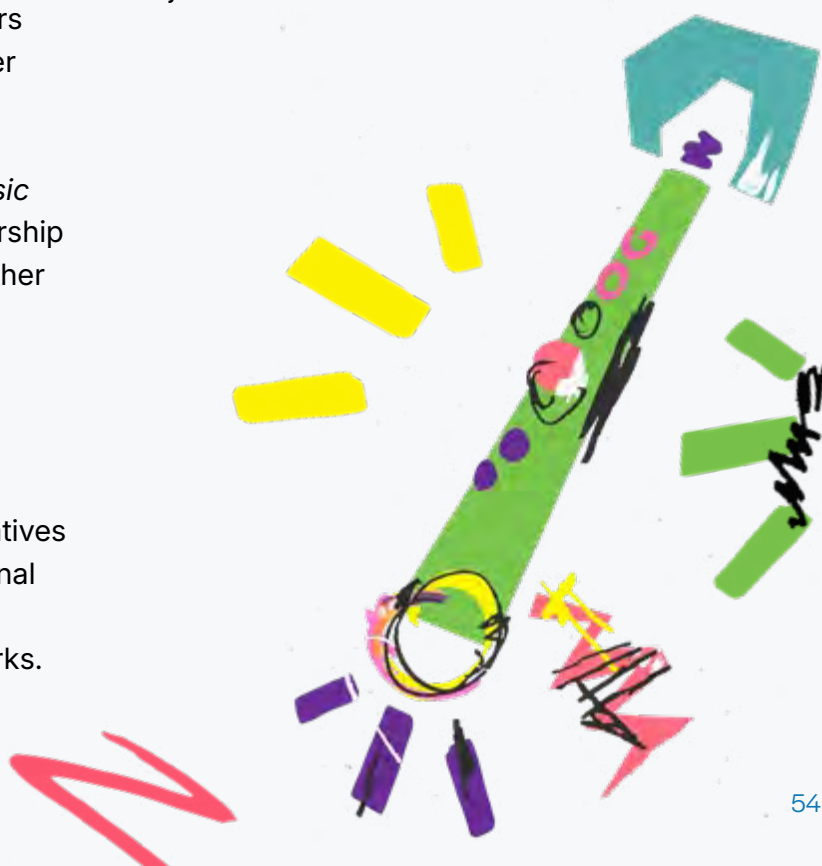
As part of this work, 209 Musician Educators took part in the National Musician Educator Gathering. The event was shaped around Musician Educator-led content, with a focus on sharing knowledge and experiences. In March 2024, our stakeholder conference, *Access, Artistry and Advocacy*, welcomed 224 participants and 28 presenters from across the network, encouraging further collaboration and learning.

The planning and delivery of the *We are Music Generation* Day was based on strong partnership working across the network. It brought together Musician Educators, MDOs, Administrators, Resource Workers, and Children and Young People, all working closely with the NDO. Their work was supported by stakeholders and advocates from across the wider Music Generation ecosystem. These NDO-led initiatives successfully achieved a key aim of the national celebrations: to strengthen connections and collaboration across our learning networks.

## Expanded Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF)

The Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF) supports projects at national, regional, and local levels. In 2024, additional funding was introduced through an expanded version of the fund, called the Create, Collaborate, Celebrate Fund (CCCF). This expansion was designed to support locally led programmes, initiatives, and projects as part of *We are Music Generation*. This priority area is described in more detail under Objective 2, including an overview of supported projects.

To progress the priority action of restructuring or reimagining the Creativity and Collaboration Fund, a strategic review began in 2024. This review was informed by recommendations from the Music Generation Arts Council Evaluation, carried out by Sound Connections UK in 2023, as well as feedback gathered during a symposium attended by Arts Council executives at the MDO network meeting in November 2024. More detail on this priority area, including an overview of funding allocated in 2024, is provided under Objective 2.



## Objective 2

We will collaborate with local and national partners to inspire and **support artistic and pedagogical excellence in programming** and practice across a range of settings.

One of the ways the NDO works with local and national partners is through the dedicated Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF), which supports projects at national, regional, and local levels. The CCF is designed to create artistic and creative development opportunities for professional artists, children, and young people. These projects give children, young people, and musicians the chance to collaborate and explore creative music-making and learning in different ways, alongside their regular music tuition.

In 2024, additional funding was made available through an adapted version of the fund — the Create, Collaborate, Celebrate Fund (CCCF) — to support all LMEPs in taking part in the national celebration events. Along with covering the costs for children, young people, and MEs to travel to NDO-led events in Dublin and Galway, the expanded fund also supported locally led programmes, initiatives, and projects delivered as part of *We are Music Generation* throughout 2024.

For the national events, the CCCF operated with a two-strand funding model. In Strand 1, every area was offered a fixed sum of €10,000 to support their participation in three NDO-led events. This funding helped remove barriers to participation for children and young people by covering transport costs where needed and provided funds for LMEPs to support Musician Educators'

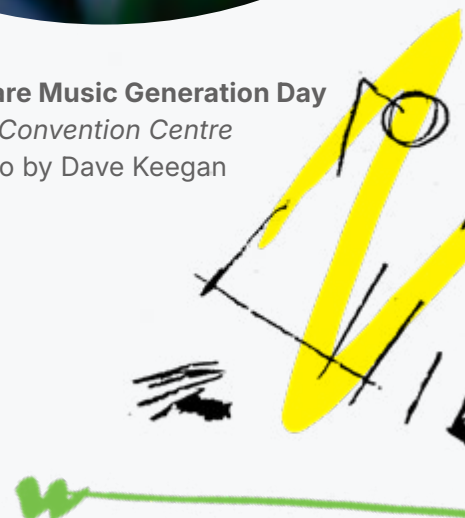
involvement. Strand 1 funding also supported locally led projects and initiatives, allowing LMEPs to showcase their local programmes and explore new opportunities.

Strand 2 provided funding for new and ongoing projects, assessed on a competitive basis according to the same criteria used in previous rounds. A total of 31 projects were awarded CCCF funding and were delivered in 2024 as part of *We are Music Generation*. Projects funded under Strands 1 and 2 are included in *We are Music Generation* highlights on pages 34 to 38.

A further CCF funding round was offered in October 2024, with 17 projects awarded funding. These projects commenced in 2024 and will be delivered throughout 2025.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan



## Objective

# 3

We will continue to **develop and strengthen the Music Generation national network** throughout the life of this plan.

In 2024, we hosted 20 national network events, bringing together groups including the DSG, MDO Network, Administrator/Resource Worker Network, and the National Events Advisory Working Group formed in late 2022. In 2023, we held consultations with children and young people to prepare for 2024. We made progress towards a more collaborative approach to MDO network planning by setting up a pilot MDO working group focused on network event planning and development.

Throughout 2024, quarterly in-person MDO Network meetings were held. These meetings created opportunities for sharing knowledge, spreading learning, discussing effective practices, planning strategically, and building partnerships.

Our annual three-day MDO Network residential event was hosted by Music Generation Waterford across several venues, including Waterford's Theatre Royal, GOMA — Gallery of Modern Art, and through a range of networking activities. It was attended by MDOs representing 23 LMEP areas, as well as local LMEP partners, and NDO executive. The event included performances, workshops, professional development sessions, discussions, site visits, and networking activities, including music-making.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan

Alongside three online meetings, one in-person meeting for Administrators and Resource Workers took place in Quarter 2, with 16 delegates attending from 12 LMEP areas. This meeting included presentations by network members and activities designed to promote networking, peer-to-peer sharing, and learning.

Training opportunities provided by the NDO for the learning network included Plain English Report Writing and Minute-Taking, as well as Communications and Planning workshops, all designed to support the reporting and governance needs of LMEPs.

As outlined under Objective 1, the formation of an Advisory Working Group in late 2022 to plan the national year of celebration was another way to strengthen the national network.





Additional work in advocacy, knowledge sharing, and network strengthening included consultation with young people during the planning of national events. Led by the NDO Communications team, in collaboration with QDL, these consultations gathered input from children and young people, helping to shape the national events. Their contributions included creating the title for the year, *We Are Music Generation* and inspiring the vibrant new logo for the 2024 celebrations.

Research integration continued to be a key focus during network meetings and external knowledge exchange activities, and work began in 2024 on preparing a Research Strategy for Music Generation. Early insights and learning from the PfQ initiative were shared internationally for the first time in 2024.

In July 2024, a joint NDO and MDO panel presented a symposium at the International Society for Music Education (ISME) global conference in Helsinki, Finland. The panel included MDOs from Music Generation Tipperary, Music Generation Meath, and Music Generation Galway City, along with members of the NDO executive team. Their presentation was titled *Music Generation: Complicated conversations exploring quality in performance music education*.



International Society  
for Music Education  
Conference Helsinki



## Sustainability

**Goal:** to work towards achieving the long-term sustainability of a publicly supported national system of local performance music education provision.



Objective 4

We will work to **secure a local and national infrastructure that is well resourced** (in human and financial terms) and characterised by exemplary governance.

In 2023 the Department of Education and Youth completed an Independent Review of Department of Education and Youth public funding to Music Generation. In 2024 the Department convened a Steering Group to consider the recommendations from the report. The Steering Group membership includes Department officials, ETB Directors, and the National Director of Music Generation.



**Music Generation Cork City**  
*Child Poverty and Well-Being Summit,  
Dublin Castle*





## Objective

# 5

We will continue to **broker strategic partnerships with a range of existing and new stakeholders.**

In 2024, Music Generation continued to nurture partnerships with a range of stakeholders including U2, The Ireland Funds, Bank of America, the Department of Education and Youth, the Department of An Taoiseach, the Arts Council and our national network of Local Music Education Partnerships in which Education and Training Board and Local Authorities play a lead role.

Our second National *We are Music Generation* event was a one-day conference at Dublin Castle, where many stakeholders and partners gathered. The event, titled *Access, Artistry and Advocacy*, featured a variety of voices and perspectives from across the network. Topics discussed included the importance of Music Generation in Ireland's music, arts, cultural, and educational landscape, 20 years after the 2003 Music Network Feasibility Study Report. Other discussions focused on children's and young people's right to access music, with contributions from Music Generation alumni, artists, and children's rights advocates. There was also a focus on the unique aspects of performance music education, particularly the role of the artist as both a musician and an educator.

After the independent evaluation of our Music Generation-Arts Council partnership by Sound Connections in 2023, a symposium was held to discuss the findings and insights from the report. This event brought together Music Development Officers and members of the Arts Council



**Music Generation Cork City and The Kabin Studio**

*The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference*  
Photo by Adrian O'Herlihy

Executive. Two meetings of the Music Generation-ETB Directorate Steering Group were also held, where topics such as information sharing and learning from successful practices were discussed.

In 2024, we also collaborated with the Department of An Taoiseach's Child Poverty and Wellbeing Programme. This included a special performance by young musicians from Music Generation Cork City at a conference in May, as well as a presentation at a Cross Government Network meeting in December. The presentation shared important insights from our work over the past decade to break down barriers and improve access to music for children and young people.



# Objective 6

We will continue to **provide insight and information** to the Department of Education and Youth and to local partners in respect of the appropriate human and other resources required to **deliver high-quality performance music education programmes**.

Together with ETBs, the Music Generation NDO continued to assess the resourcing of the Music Generation workforce. Our goal is to understand how staff capacity and human resources can help maintain the sustainability and quality of the delivery of local programmes.



**Music Generation Leitrim**  
*Sing Up*  
Photo by Therese McCartin



Objective **7**

We will continue to ensure that the **Music Generation National Development Office works effectively** within available resources.

In 2024 the National Development Office was staffed by a 9-member team working across Finance, Operations, Communications, and Quality Development and Learning. We met all regulatory, governance, and reporting requirements.

We continued to support and develop expertise within our team by providing ongoing CPD and training opportunities with 2% of NDO staff costs invested in 2024. We also made improvements to our processes, such as refining our financial systems, Creativity and Collaboration Fund processes, work plans, and statistical reporting.

We will continue to review and refine these processes, examining the results of these changes to ensure ongoing improvement in 2024 and beyond.

We also commenced work on the development of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy, due for completion in early 2025.

**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan





An abstract collage on a purple background featuring torn paper in teal, yellow, and pink, black ink scribbles, and various geometric shapes like triangles and rectangles in blue, yellow, and pink.

## Advocacy

**Goal:** We will advocate to key audiences for the right of all children and young people to have the opportunity to participate in performance music education.

## Objective

# 8

We will continue to **raise awareness of the value of performance music education** in the lives of children and young people.

A Communications Plan for 2024 was created to support Music Generation's Advocacy Goals and raise awareness of our mission. We focused on promoting *We Are Music Generation* — A year dedicated to celebrating the transformative impact of performance music education on the lives of children and young people. The plan prioritised including the voices of children and young people in our storytelling.

Key elements of the strategy included:

- Increasing public awareness of *We are Music Generation* and Music Generation's mission through traditional and digital media.
- Launching and supporting National events: *We are Music Generation Day*, *Access Artistry* and *Advocacy National Conference*, and *National Musician Educator Gathering*.
- Empowering the voice of children and young people through facilitating spaces for youth-led advocacy at *We Are Music Generation National Events*.
- Using our digital channels to empower children and young people, giving them a space to share their Music Generation experiences and stories.
- Promote awareness for community based artistic programming for *We Are Music Generation* in LMEPs nationwide.
  - We continued to explore new styles of video storytelling in collaboration with young musicians and LMEPs, resulting in an 8.6% increase in audience engagement on social media. Our total video views reached 247,649

We continued to build on our public awareness through securing national media opportunities.

### Access, Artistry & Advocacy Music Generation

*National Conference Dublin Castle*  
Photo by Brian Farrell



**"I love music and it's  
great to play it. And  
it's great to play it with  
people who love it too"**

Evan, young musician, Music Generation Waterford

**Music Generation Waterford and Music Generation Carlow**  
SoundCrowd '24  
Photo by DGM Photographic



# Objective 9

We will **actively encourage and facilitate child and young person-led advocacy** that speaks to their ambitions for, and experience of, the value that performance music education plays in their lives.

Throughout 2024, we continued to make progress in including the voices of children and young people in our communications and activities.

This involved coordinating content created by children and young people to share their stories through video and online channels. We also collaborated with national and international partners to create performance opportunities. Additionally, we continued to build relationships with key advocates, such as the Ombudsman for Children's Office and the Children's Rights Alliance.

## Youth Voice

*We Are Music Generation* promotion began with a dedicated social media campaign to raise awareness of every child's right to access music, culture, and the arts. Young musicians from Music Generation Sligo and Kilkenny created video content for a public call on UN World Social Justice Day, inviting young people nationwide to share what music means to them.



**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan

During *We Are Music Generation Day*, young musicians played key roles, including managing social media, videography, MCing, and conducting interviews. This included content developed with young musicians from Music Generation Galway City, South Dublin, Sligo, and Tipperary. [Watch more here.](#)

At *Access, Artistry, and Advocacy*, youth panellists **Tony** (Music Generation Laois), **Eva** (Music Generation Mayo), **Heidi** (Music Generation Cork City), **Nelvin** (Music Generation Dublin City), and **Fern Hope** (Music Generation Waterford) shared inspiring stories about the incredible impact of music on their lives, highlighting the importance of music education.

We also collaborated with young musicians to raise awareness for locally led celebrations.

We worked with the new Music Generation Mayo Youth Council to promote Féile Mhaigh Eo and share their experiences on the day. [Watch more about the festival here](#) and [here](#). *Corda Connections Youth Orchestra* is a unique collaboration between the Irish Chamber



**Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
**Music Generation**

*National Conference Dublin Castle*  
Photo by Brian Farrell

Orchestra's Youth Orchestra, Music Generation Kerry, and Music Generation Louth. Over a five-day intensive residential, these young musicians immersed themselves in classical string playing. During this time, we worked with the young string players to create content that captured their experiences, from rehearsals and performances to their relationships with Musician Educators and newfound friendships. We provided handheld video equipment, allowing them to document their day-to-day experiences.

[Watch their experiences here](#) and [here](#).

Their video content was screened at our National Musician Educator Gathering, celebrating the exceptional work of Musician Educators and their lasting impact on young musicians' lives.

[View it here](#).

We closed the year with a special digital finale on World Children's Day, November 20th, where young musicians shared their favourite musical moments from #WeAreMusicGeneration 2024.

[Watch some of their moments here](#) and [here](#).





## Objective

# 10

We will continue to **engage in research and anchor our advocacy in evidence-based learning.**

The focus of our research in 2024 was action learning through our Planning for Quality initiative, a review of Children and Young People's Participation, and an independent evaluation of the Music Generation–Arts Council partnership after 10 years of collaboration. These actions will feed into the development of our research strategy in 2025.

### We are Music Generation Day

*The Convention Centre*

Photo by Dave Keegan

**WE  
ARE  
MUSIC  
GENERATION**







**We are Music Generation Day**  
*The Convention Centre*  
Photo by Dave Keegan

# Music Generation Board and National Development Office



## Board

Established as a subsidiary company of Music Network Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), Music Generation Designated Activity Company (DAC) is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors. The Music Generation

**Board Members in 2024** were:

### Leo Blennerhassett

Chairperson, Management Consultant, and former Managing Director of Accenture Ireland

### Mel Mercier

Emeritus Professor of Performing Arts, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick

### Pat Burke

Former Assistant Secretary General at the Department of Education and Youth. Chair of the State Examinations Commission from 2015 to 2023

### James Morris

Founder of Windmill Lane Studios, Windmill Lane Pictures, The Mill (London), and Lead promotor in the establishment of TV3. Currently working on the development of a digital services initiative for film and TV production

### Anna Marie Delaney

Chief Executive of Offaly County Council (until September 2024)

### Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin

Head of Unit, Centre for Irish Studies, University of Galway

### John Kelly

Writer, Broadcaster and SONY, EMA, and PPI award-winner

### 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

### Joe Cunningham

Chief Executive of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board

### Deirdre McCrea

Independent Arts Consultant and former CEO of Music Network

## Staff

Music Generation's **National Development**  
**Office staff in 2024** were:

**Rosaleen Molloy**

National Director

**Mairéad Duffy**

Quality Development and Learning Manager

**Cathriona Grange**

Operations Manager

**Helen Grant**

Finance Manager

**Paul Markey**

Quality Development and Learning Co-ordinator

**Rebecca Murphy**

Communications and Marketing Officer

**Dr Margaret O'Sullivan**

Director of Quality Development, Research and Learning

**Maura Philpott**

Finance Assistant

**Helen Shyne**

Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager







**Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
Music Generation National Conference  
Dublin Castle  
Photo by Brian Farrell

# Governance

## How the Board Operates

The Board of Directors of Music Generation DAC is non-executive and independent. Board Members come from diverse backgrounds and bring a range of experience and skills, including significant artistic, education, business, and cultural expertise.

Together, they are responsible for providing leadership, developing strategy, identifying and mitigating risk, and monitoring the budgets and outcomes of the organisation. Board members are selected in line with the constitution of Music Generation DAC and all new board members undergo an extensive induction process. Board members are also updated on any new governance or legislative requirements when and as they arise. There is a 3-year term limit with a maximum of 3 terms.

Music Generation DAC has operational and governance processes in place to ensure that it:

### **Operates in an open and transparent manner**

### **Complies with its statutory and legal responsibilities**

### **Complies with the governance obligations of its funders and donors**

Music Generation is guided by relevant national strategies, Government policies, and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Music Generation 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 and Committee Meetings

Board Meetings are held eight–ten times per year. In addition, smaller committees of the Board meet on particular matters such as Human Resources, Audit and Risk, and the Creativity and Collaboration Fund.

## 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.



**Access, Artistry & Advocacy**  
Music Generation National  
Conference Dublin Castle  
Photo by Brian Farrell





Music Generation Galway City  
*Youth Lates*  
Photo by Ciarán MacChoncarraige

# Financials

## Summary of 2024 Figures

Music Generation DAC's **total income for 2024** was **€7,030,928**.

Core funding of **€23,783** was received from The Ireland Funds and **€6,985,000** was received from the Exchequer through the Department of Education and Youth.

Other income of **€22,145** included deposit income and funding to support performance opportunities for young musicians.

The funds allocated to Music Generation DAC cover programme outlay costs to Local Music Education Partnerships and National Development Office running costs.

Funding is provided by Music Generation DAC to **Lead Partners** once the Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) have raised the equivalent amount through locally generated matched funding. Of the €7,797,228 raised by Lead Partners in 2024, €1,360,691 **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 Music Generation programmes.

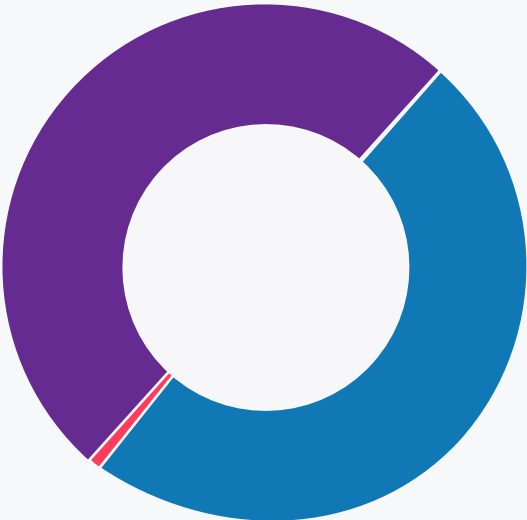


We are Music Generation Day  
The Convention Centre  
Photo by Dave Keegan

Total income for Music Generation programmes

52.5%

Local Music Education Partnerships



0.5%

U2 and The Ireland Funds  
Other

47%

Department of Education and Youth

Total expenditure for Music Generation programmes

94%

Programme Services

6%

National Development Office running costs





# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Membership and Attendance at Board Meetings

	Feb 15	Apr 30	June 7	July 12	Sep 24	Nov 5	Dec 10
Leo Blennerhassett	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pat Burke	N/A	N/A	●	●	●	●	N/A
Joe Cunningham	●	N/A	●	●	●	●	●
Anna Marie Delaney	N/A	●	N/A	●	●	●	●
John Kelly	●	N/A	●	●	●	●	●
Deirdre McCrea	●	●	●	●	●	N/A	●
Mel Mercier	N/A	N/A	●	●	●	N/A	N/A
James Morris	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Méabh Ní Fhuartháin	N/A	●	N/A	●	N/A	●	●
Chantal O'Sullivan	N/A	●	●	●	●	●	●



Membership and Attendance at Board Committee Meetings

Audit & Risk Committee	May 28	Dec 02
Leo Blennerhassett	●	●
Pat Burke	●	●
Anna Marie Delaney	●	N/A

HR Committee	June 6	Sept 20	Nov 29
Joe Cunningham	●	●	●
Deirdre McCrea	●	●	●
James Morris	●	●	●

Creativity & Collaboration Fund Committee	Sep 27	Oct 2	Oct 10	Oct 17
Deirdre McCrea	●	●	●	●
Mel Mercier	●	●	●	●
Méabh Ní Fhuartháin	●	●	●	●

Appendix B

Directors’ Fees and Expenses Paid to Board Members in 2024

No Director's fees or expenses were paid to Board members in 2024.



Cover Photo:

**Music Generation Laois**

*Summer Rock and Pop Camp*

Photo by Alf Harvey



**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 Youth and Local Music Education Partnerships



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Óige  
Department of Education  
and Youth

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Charity Number: CHY 19679, Registered Charity Number: RCN 20077426.