



**Music
Generation**



Annual Report 2021

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Glossary

Throughout Music Generation's Annual Report 2021 acronyms may be used as abbreviations for recurring terminology. This may include Music Generation titles and functions, Music Generation initiatives and/or statutory government and education authorities. This glossary offers helpful definitions which may be useful in navigating the Annual Report 2021.

Creativity and Collaboration Programme Fund (CCF)

The Music Generation Creativity and Collaboration Programme Fund supports national, regional, and local projects which provide children, young people, and professional musicians with opportunities to come together musically. The Creativity and Collaboration Programme Fund is co-funded by The Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon and The Department of Education.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

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

Education and Training Boards (ETB)

Education and Training Boards are statutory education authorities with responsibility for education and training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions. Education and Training Boards manage and operate Community National Schools, Post-Primary Schools, Further Education (FE) colleges, and a range of adult and further education centres delivering education and training programmes. 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 within an overall national framework. Each LMEP is led by a Local Authority or an Education and Training Board.

Music Development Officer (MDO)

Music Development Officers lead and oversee the development of performance music education programmes for Local Music Education Partnerships and respond to the specific needs and opportunities in their local communities.

National Development Office (NDO)

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

Performance music education

Music Generation focuses on the provision of 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 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.

Performance Music Education Management Training (PMEM)

The PMEM Training programme is a CPD initiative running across the whole academic year. The programme assists Music Development Officers to learn and grow as a performance music education manager, enabling them to strategically develop their LMEP programme. Broad topics include strategic planning, team development, effective leadership and diversity in performance music education.

Quality, Support and Development Unit (QSD)

The Quality Support and Development Unit lead, develop and deliver the Quality, Support and Development functions of Music Generation's National Development Office. QSD support 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.



Foreword

Welcome to Music Generation's Annual Report for 2021

Music Generation faced the continued, daunting challenge of delivering performance music education for children and young people in the second year of the pandemic. Despite the challenges, and thanks to impressive innovation, flexibility and resilience, we achieved a lot in 2021.

Music Generation continued to provide virtual opportunities for participation, availed of every opportunity to safely deliver in-person musical activities and performances, and continued to grow the breadth of performance music education available to children and young people in Ireland. All this, during a time that making music, connecting with each other, and having the chance for creativity, expression and transformational experiences were of the utmost importance for children and young people who have been so affected by the limitations of Covid-19.

2021 also marked the culmination of our 2016–2021 Strategic Plan and among the crowning achievements of this period has been the nationwide expansion of the Music Generation Programme. The organisation now looks to our next five years and continued strategic growth and development.

Music Generation has benefited from the steadfast support of our valued partners and their continued commitment to our mission. In particular I would like to acknowledge U2, The Ireland Funds, Bank of America, the Department of Education, Music Network, the Arts Council and the network of Local Music Education Partnerships in which Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Authorities play a key role, and with whom we work closely in pursuit of our shared goal. Without their interest, belief and commitment to Music Generation the organisation would simply be unable to deliver for children and young people.

I would like to add a note of personal thanks to members of the Board of Music Generation for their hard work and support throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank David Leahy who concluded his tenure on the Board in 2021.

I also wish to acknowledge the National Director and staff for their continued dedication, energy and drive in delivering Music Generation's mission. It is amazing what a group of committed people can achieve to transform young lives through music.

Leo Blennerhassett

CHAIRPERSON

Introduction

The ability of Music Generation to continue to adapt and rapidly respond will remain the hallmark of another year when, along with our partners, Music Generation continued to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Throughout the year Music Generation worked with, and through, local partners to identify opportunities to deliver our mission and respond to the needs of children and young people across Ireland.

Despite limitations, 2021 brought many memorable moments: the wonderful virtual performance of young Music Generation flautists who were joined by Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway; young vocalists and rap artists from Music Generation South Dublin performing their original composition at the Ombudsman for Children's Office *Child Talks* event; the children and young people from Music Generation Laois with their outdoor performance of *The Impossible Dream*; and inspiring moments of learning in musician-led Communities of Practice.

2021 marked ten years since we officially launched in 2011 and saw the conclusion of our 2016–2021 Strategic Plan. Many achievements have been made during this ten-year journey as we pursued a growth, sustainability and quality strategy. Through the power of partnership — between philanthropy, central government, Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) and the Music Generation National Development Office (NDO) — we established the architecture of a national system of local performance music education provision. This new and vital element in Ireland's music education landscape is a powerful legacy of our

first decade, which has given unprecedented musical opportunity to tens of thousands of Ireland's children and young people. It is also a collective achievement in which many committed partners have played critical roles for which we are deeply grateful. With the return of live performance post-pandemic, we look forward to celebrating this milestone with all of our partners in due course.

2021 was also a year when Music Generation took stock of its ten-year legacy and what has been achieved after a decade of growth. A significant amount of time in 2021 was taken to reflect, forward plan and prepare Music Generation's new 2022–2026 strategic plan: *Transforming Young Lives Through Music*.

We look forward to the next exciting stage of development for Music Generation over the lifetime of this plan and I wish to express my gratitude to all stakeholders for their engagement in the process.

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 Local Music Education Partnerships.





Vision

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

Bono, U2

Mission

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

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

The Year in Photos





Strategic Goals

Growth

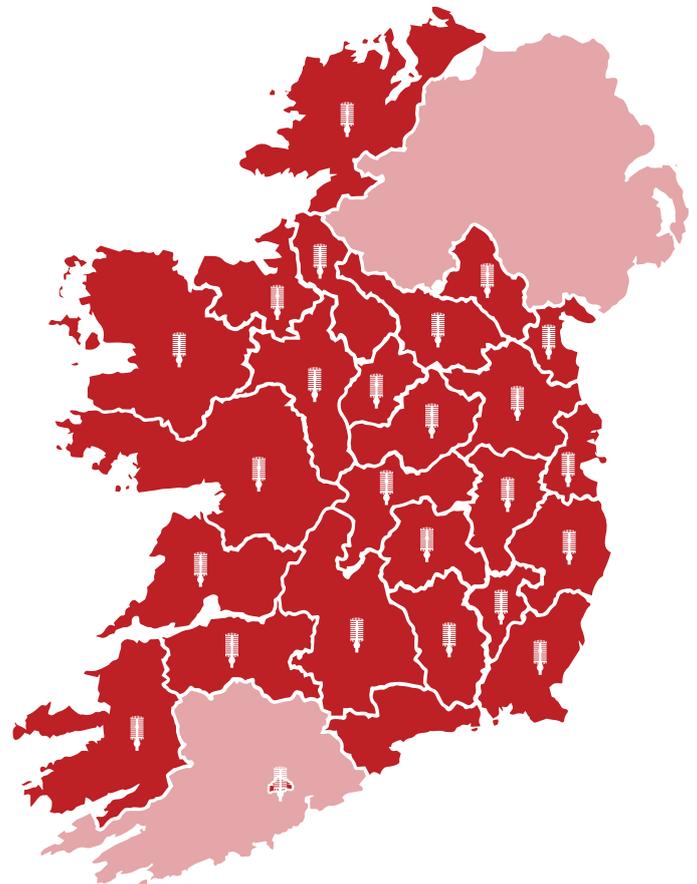
The goals of the Music Generation National Development Office to grow the provision of performance music education opportunities for children and young people included:

- Expand into more areas of the country
- Nourish growth in terms of depth of provision with the existing Local Music Education Partnerships established in Phase 1, particularly in relation to
 - the diversity of practice among musicians across the spectrum of performance music education;
 - children/young people’s growth, progression and musical independence across a diversity of programmes, music genres and contexts.

Other focuses of growth, like the emphasis on developing collaborative projects, and learning and networking opportunities are further outlined in the Quality section (see [Creativity and Collaboration Fund](#), and [Training CPD and Networks for Music Generation staff activities](#)).

Expand into more areas of the country

Music Generation continued to grow and expand in 2021, with Music Development Officers (MDOs) recruited in Dublin City, Fingal, and Limerick County. While Fingal and Limerick County programmes were still in the initial development phase, Dublin City began pilot programmes in late 2021, with a view to using the learning to develop performance music education offerings from 2022. The preparedness process for Cork County was also commenced in late 2021 with MDO recruitment expected in 2022.



Counties/Cities with a
Local Music Education
Partnership

Diversity of practice, programmes and contexts

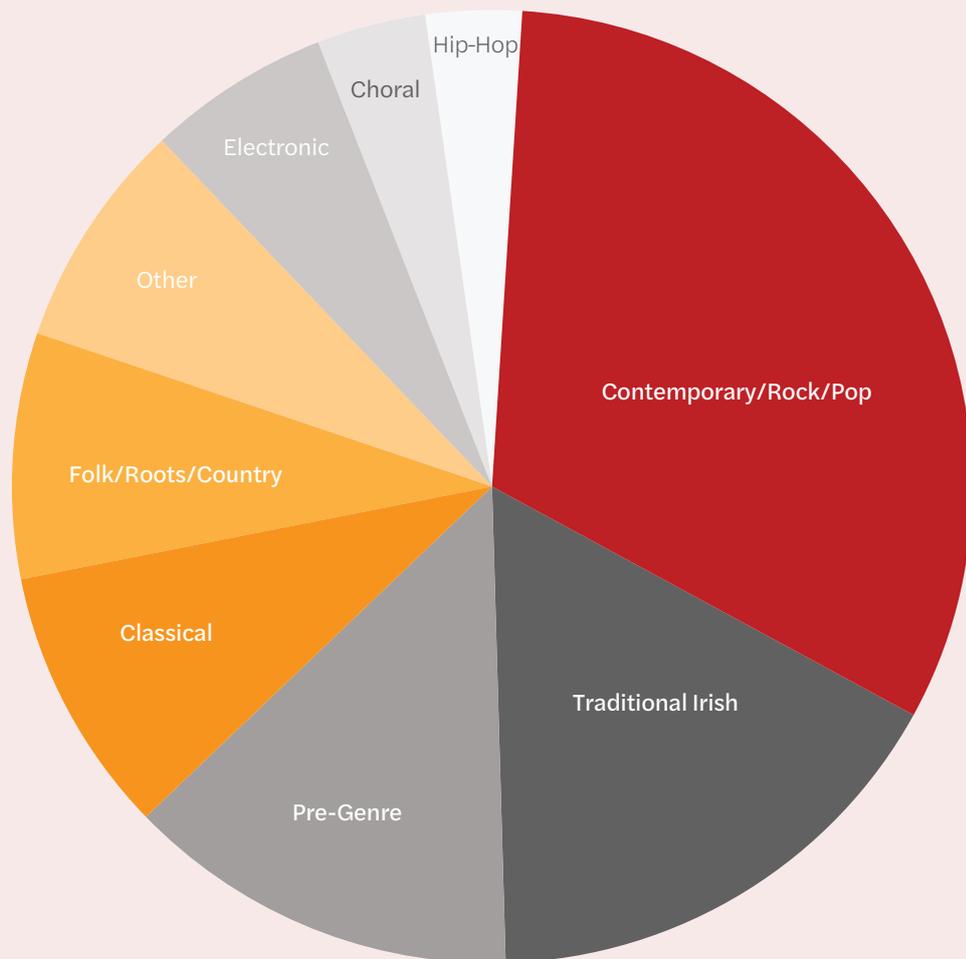
Music Generation LMEPs reported using 890 unique venues for programme activities in 2021, an increase of 24% on 2020. This growth reflects both the commencement of new programmes, but also a return to in-person programming and bricks-and-mortar centres. Music Generation works in a wide variety of contexts, among which are:

- after-school settings in the primary and post-primary environments;
- special education school environments;
- arts centres and civic spaces;
- direct provision centres; and,
- youth and community centres.

A small number of programmes launched activities for children and young people in intergenerational spaces like community nursing centres and Men’s Sheds.

Programmes operate in a diverse range of genres, offering a wide variety of instrument, vocal and technological focuses.

Programme participant numbers continued to increase and further details of participation are outlined in [Activities and Outputs](#).



Genre Focus of Music Generation Programming

Sustainability

Music Generation's goals under the Sustainability pillar were

- Through partnership, continue to develop, strengthen and sustain the infrastructure for performance music education.
 - Work with relevant Government Departments and LMEPs to respond to Music Generation's need to be adequately resourced by an appropriately skilled workforce across a range of artistic/managerial, musician, and administration/support roles to sustain future development.
 - Through public-private partnership, work with philanthropists, Government and LMEPs to continue to secure long-term sustainable funding streams.
 - Work effectively with the existing and new LMEPs by responding strategically in a co-ordinated way to long-term development and sustainability needs.
- Advocate for the value of performance music education in the lives of children/young people by engaging effectively with key stakeholders and target audiences.
 - Increase public awareness of Music Generation's impact.
 - Amplify and promote the work of Local Music Education Partnerships.

Developing the new Strategic Plan 2022–2026

The Board and staff of the Music Generation National Development Office invested significant time in 2021 to develop the next five-year organisational strategic plan. In-depth stakeholder engagement, feedback and information gathering took place with a wide range of partners including ETB and Local Authority Lead Partners, MDOs, Administrators, Resource Workers, Musician Educators, members of LMEPs, NDO staff, and institutional stakeholders. The insights gained in this process led to the draft Strategic Plan being prepared by the end of 2021, ready for final stakeholder engagement in early 2022.

Working with our partners and donors

In terms of partnerships, the National Development Office continued to develop our partnerships with U2, The Ireland Funds, Bank of America, The Arts Council, and the Department of Education through reporting, communications, compliance and meeting the terms of funding. Through Music Generation's Young Ambassadors opportunities, children and young people also took part in several performances for our partners. You can read more about this [here](#).

As part of our ongoing partnership with Bank of America, the NDO took part in Bank of America's Skills Exchange Programme. This programme connects charities to skills and experience that Bank of America employees have which may be of benefit to charities in achieving their objectives. Music Generation are grateful to Bank of America for inclusion on this programme in 2021 and for their expertise and knowledge which was hugely beneficial to the organisation.

Music Generation worked with the Music Generation-ETB Directorate Steering Group on formalising LMEP governance structures. Annual Review Meetings were also completed with 22 LMEPs.

Through Creative Ireland/Creative Youth we progressed National Expansion (with more details on this on [page 12](#)).

Effectiveness within National Development Office

In 2021, the National Development Office set about improving time- and resource-efficient monitoring, reporting and financial accountability processes. A core working group was formed to assess current systems and suggest improvements. This led to:

- Improvements in internal team information sharing;
- Collaborative working on required reporting;
- A review of the Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF) documentation process;
- The roll-out of MS Planner to monitor the NDO's strategic implementation plan for 2021;
- Improvements to procurement processes;
- The production of financial procedures documentation; and,
- A review of Music Generation LMEP reporting templates and subsequent changes.

Advocate for the value of performance music education in the lives of children/young people by engaging effectively with key stakeholders and target audiences

The NDO Communications Function continued to increase public awareness of Music Generation's work in 2021. This included a number of campaigns and specific promotions.

Playing on Through the Pandemic with Music Generation

PR Campaign

A targeted public relations campaign ran from April to June 2021 which presented how Music Generation's efforts throughout the pandemic played a positive effect on the wellbeing of children and young people during the challenging times of ongoing Government restrictions. The campaign highlighted activities within three Music Generation LMEPs: Music Generation Roscommon; Longford; and, South Dublin. It focused on the efforts made by Music Generation teams to ensure children and young people could continue to access music through virtual methods.

“It’s brilliant. It was something that kept us going during lockdown. The teachers are really friendly. Guitar is definitely the right instrument for me, I love it. I love the music we are learning as well. I look forward to playing with other musicians in Music Generation when lockdown is really over.”

Shane, Young Musician Music Generation Roscommon

The campaign featured a project led by Music Generation Longford, in partnership with Longford Youth Service, which worked with 17 Roma teenagers in Direct Provision.

The campaign commenced through a launch event in Boyle, Co. Roscommon and included a photoshoot with local young musicians, a national press release to national media and local media in Roscommon, Longford and South County Dublin, and a supporting digital campaign. Read more about the campaign [here](#).

Media coverage for the campaign included

The Irish Times, 3 July 2021: ‘We believe that access to music is a fundamental children’s rights issue.’



[Read online](#) →

Roscommon People, 27 May 2021: ‘Music Generation Roscommon plays on!’



[Read online](#) →

RTE Culture, 3 June 2021: ‘Music Generation – playing on through the pandemic.’



[Read online](#) →

Digital Campaign

A digital campaign took place in May 2021 to illustrate how music was kept alive by Music Generation for children and young people at a difficult time. It aimed to empower the voice of children and young people in the media and spotlight the local creativity in maintaining musical activities online. It also aimed to sensitively join the national conversation about the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on young people with an overall message of resilience. The intended audience included key stakeholders such as donors and Government, parents, young people and musicians.

Where Are they Now?

In October 2021 Music Generation commenced its ongoing omni-channel digital campaign which focuses on the stories of alumni from across the country, their Music Generation experience and what music still means to them today. Music Generation is continuing to expand its alumni network and will continue the series in 2022.

Music Generation Mayo alumni 'Nerves' shared their experience [here](#):



“We met loads of young people in bands like us when I previously thought we were something of an anomaly to be doing what we were doing in rural Mayo, and because of that we played loads of gigs off the back of it and made a lot of very good friends that we still work closely with to this day.”

Kyle Thornton, Nerves, Alumni of The Core Music Generation Mayo

Amplifying the activities of Local Music Education Partnerships

The Music Generation National Development Office regularly promotes the activities and events led by LMEPs to its national audience through monthly newsletters, event promotion, social media activity and through creating opportunities for national media coverage.

For example, Music Generation National Development Office worked with RTÉ Radio 1 to interview the young participants on [Music Generation Waterford's Intergenerational Project](#). The interview and performance were aired on Derek Mooney's Santa episode on Christmas Eve 2021. Listen [here](#). The National Development Office continues to optimise digital channels to enhance storytelling and audience engagement. Since 2020, [musicgeneration.ie](#) has experienced a 37% user increase with audience growth expanding across all social media channels.

Communications also worked to empower the voices of children and young people, giving agency to children and young people's advocacy for performance music education.

SubSounds EP Launch and Spotlight On...

Music Generation NDO commenced specialised campaigns to create a space in which young programme participants from Music Generation areas across Ireland could directly share their voice and experience to Music Generation's national audience. The first Spotlight with campaign included twelve young SubSounds participants from [Music Generation Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown](#) and [Music Generation South Dublin](#). The programme participants collaborated to write, produce, record and perform original music for a five-track EP. SubSounds is a youth music collective that aims to empower young people to develop their creativity, musicianship and composition skills through mentorship and collaboration.

The EP was developed by the young musicians throughout the SubSounds Summer 2021 programme and was launched through a virtual live performance premiering on Culture Night in September 2021. Through making music the young people engaged in collaboration, teamwork, problem-solving, composing, recording, producing, editing, filming, presenting and performing.

In addition to hosting the launch itself, the young musicians collaborated with Music Generation NDO to host our 'Spotlight On...' campaign in which they created their own social media material to promote their event. The young participants took the lead on all content creation and used the NDO channels to showcase their experience to a national audience.

The campaign included the creation of short-form videos produced by five young musicians and their Mentor, Ciara Dalton, which generated momentum across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram ahead of the premier itself. The participants' 'takeover' campaign achieved a total of 1,769 video views and reached a high engagement rate of 6%.

Watch the SubSounds EP launch [here](#) or read more about their experience [here](#).

"It' so much fun and so much more than just making music. You really do bond with these people and you learn so much about other people's tastes and it opens your mind to other types of music. You really do find yourself as a musician."

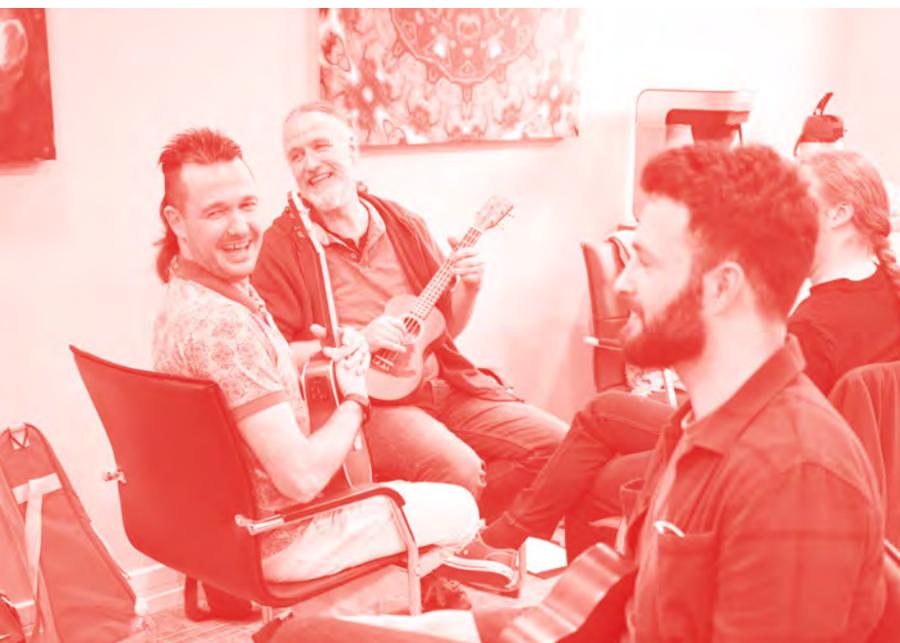
Jay, SubSounds Musician Music Generation South Dublin

Quality

Music Generation's goal under the Quality pillar was to work with all partners within LMEPs to achieve the highest quality of experience for children/young people in performance music education.

During 2021, the Quality, Support and Development (QSD) Unit within the NDO worked across all LMEPs (with programming). The working priorities included:

- Providing appropriate level of challenge and support to MDOs in all areas;
- Stimulating ambition and excellence in performance music education and executing local, regional and national CCF projects subject to Covid-19 restrictions;
- Embedding the Music Generation Quality Framework into annual work cycle of all LMEP areas;
- Continuing to develop Communities of Practice for Musician Educators to enable best practice and information sharing;
- Create relevant continuous professional development and training opportunities for colleagues across a wide range of topics; including MDOs, Administrators, Resource Workers and Musician Educators; and,
- Convening regional MDO networks with a focus on shared learning and problem-solving methods.



Quality Framework

The Quality Framework was developed in 2019 through collaboration between the NDO and MDOs, with support from the Department of Education. The process was underpinned by references to current best practice in the field of arts and music education quality thinking.

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

The Music Generation Quality Framework process is led by the MDO. Each year, the MDO selects between one and three areas of the programme to review. A review can last anything from a couple of weeks to a whole academic year, depending on the complexity of the area under review. The process itself involves an examination of programme quality through:

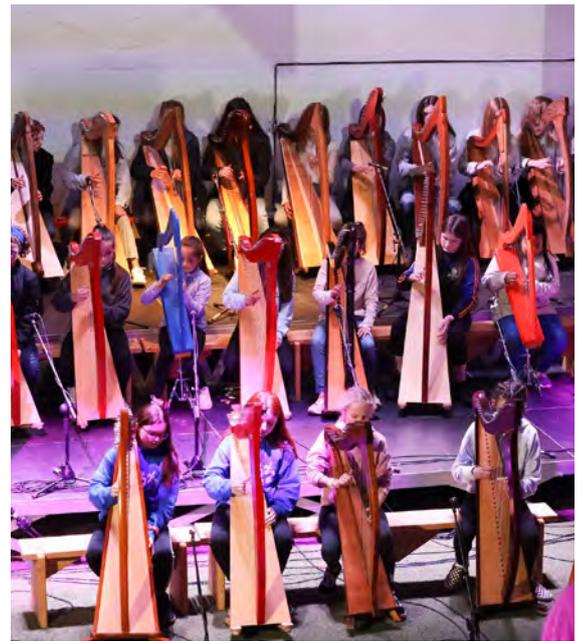
- discussion of the most appropriate parameters to view the programme through;
- writing quality statements and quality descriptors for these parameters;
- deciding on the evidence required to examine these parameters;
- reviewing the evidence, and finally; and,
- the development of action plans to enhance programme quality into the future.

The The Quality, Support and Development Unit (QSD) team worked across all LMEPs (with programming) to facilitate a long and short review using the [Quality Framework Toolkit](#). 27 Quality Reviews were completed in 2021 across 21 LMEPs. Unfortunately, six other LMEPs were forced to pause planned reviews due to pandemic restrictions and the challenges these posed to gathering evidence and quality data, and/or changes in staff teams.

The greatest success indicated from the Quality Framework process was the opportunity the framework gave to engage stakeholders (including Musician Educators, MDOs, and local partners) in rich, illuminating discussions about practice. As LMEPs continue to implement the action plans arising from the process, quality practice will be further embedded into programmes and work cycles.

Creativity and Collaboration Fund

The CCF supports national, regional and local projects which provide children, young people and musicians with opportunities to come together musically. Five CCF projects were funded and commenced in 2021 across five LMEPs (detailed below). A number of projects funded previously, but delayed due to Covid-19, resumed in 2021 as restrictions eased.



Music Generation Clare – Irish Concertina Orchestra (ICO)

The concertina is one of the most popular instruments in Irish music and is one of Music Generation Clare's most popular programme activities. County Clare has a long-standing connection with the concertina with some of the best-known performers originating from the region. Music Generation Clare will be embedded in the future growth of the instrument to give children and young people from 10-18 years of age the opportunity to learn and perform challenging new material. It is Music Generation Clare's ambition to capitalise on the prevalence of concertina in the county and become a centre of excellence in this field.

In 2021, the young concertina players extended and progressed their music making through intensive weekly workshops. Well-known composer, tutor and educator Dr Tim Collins was commissioned to write and arrange a suite of music, as was ZoDoMo (Zoë Conway, Dónal Lunny & Mairtín O'Connor), which the children and young people performed in May 2022 in both Glór, Ennis and at the Consairtín festival. The journey of the orchestra was documented in the form of a short documentary film which captured all activity from the very first meeting of the year to the final performance in May 2022.

Music Generation Limerick City — Limerick Voices

Limerick Voices is a teen composition and performance programme founded in 2014. Programme participants collaborate and create, developing their artistic voices over time. Since 2020 an online adjunct developed, using Soundtrap as its primary base. This has enabled a wider palette of expression and collaborations with young people across Ireland and internationally.

The programme includes individual singer/songwriters, producers, rappers, bands and collectives. A number of nationally acclaimed artists have grown from the programme. These include Powpig, Strange Boy Nature, Hazey Haze, Willzee and Laura Duff. Other outputs from the project were two 'mixtape' albums — Limerick Voices Volumes 1 and 2. Both are available on all mainstream streaming platforms.

Building on this foundation, the project completed a number of activities in 2021, with more planned for 2022. Activities in 2021 included the production of a further mixtape, the production and release of six podcasts, training in studio techniques, and the continuation of a cross-continental musical collaboration with children and young people in *Slam Out Loud*, India.

Music Generation Laois — Tionól

Tionól was established in 2016, as part of Laois LMEP's plan to develop a centre of excellence for piping and harping in the county. Tionól provides:

- workshop and performance opportunities for young musicians from Music Generations all over Ireland — creating opportunities to develop musically and socially;
- collaborative opportunities for harp and pipe Musician Educators from Music Generation programmes nationally; and,
- a series of guest musicians to teach and perform each year and inspire our young musicians and Musician Educators.

In 2021, Tionól adapted to Covid-19 restrictions and approached these as an opportunity to reimagine certain aspects of Tionól. Creative workshops were provided in Music Generation LMEPs in advance of Tionól, as well as the main October event. This longer focus led to increased impact as young musicians and their local Musician Educators prepared for Tionól in advance. Music Generation Laois also used some of the technological advances of the pandemic to bring Tionól to a wider audience. Families of Music Generation musicians from all over Ireland could enjoy a livestream of their child's performance.

Music Generation Cork City — Here Comes the Sun

As a major post-lockdown musical recovery plan for the children and young people of Cork City, Music Generation Cork City were funded to provide a series of artist residencies in partnership with local, regional, and national partners over 18 months in 2022/2023. Working towards Music Generation Cork City's 10th year of performance music education provision (2022), the ambition was to create a series of opportunities for artists in residence to work with children, young people, and Musician Educators to generate new music compositions and creative collaborations, continuous professional development (CPD) through creative practice, and related performance and recording projects.

Set-up activities, such as the recruitment of key staff and artists got underway in 2021 with activities planned to begin in 2022.

Music Generation South Dublin — NOISE Music

Through connections with young people between the ages of 14-18 years in youth services and the post-primary school system, NOISE Music is meeting the needs of young people who are evidently creative and have an interest in making music in new ways such as digital/studio-based means.

Within blocks of two-hour workshops across 11 locations in South Dublin during 2021, the NOISE Music team engaged in intensive outreach with young people. Specific locations in South Dublin were identified as regions where young people needed the most connection, inclusive programming and opportunities to connect.

The NOISE Music team partnered with youth workers, the music departments of post-primary schools and South Dublin Libraries to create 'points of access' for young people to engage with professionals working in the genres of Rap, DJ'ing, Spoken Word and Electronic music.

Working with vital community services such as the Peter McVerry Trust in Lucan, the Garda Diversion Unit in South Dublin, Communities Department within South Dublin County Council and organisations such as I Am Black & Irish, the NOISE Music development team have now gathered clear evidence relating to the impact of the programme on vulnerable, hard-to-reach children and young people which have positively resulted in musical outcomes, but also improved health and social inclusion outcomes too.

Communities of Practice

The Music Generation National Development Office initiated Communities of Practice Communities of Practices for Musician Educators in 2021, aiming to stimulate ambition and excellence in performance music education, to enable best practice, and to provide a forum for musician-led information sharing. The Communities of Practice were designed to give a forum for Musician Educators to share knowledge, engage in reflective practice, and further develop quality in their pedagogy and approaches.

Eight Communities of Practice for Musician Educators were convened in the following genres/areas:

- Brass and Wind
- Classical Strings
- Early Years
- Modern Youth Music
- Traditional Irish
- Vocal
- Inclusion
- Ukulele

Fifty-four events were held in 2021, attended by 76 Musician Educators. 1,176 additional hours were created for Musician Educators through attendances at Communities of Practices. Initially, the QSD Unit facilitated these meetings but for the academic year 2021/2022, specialised musicians were commissioned to facilitate the process in five areas: Brass and Wind, Inclusion, Ukulele, Traditional Irish, and Early Years. QSD continued to facilitate the Vocal CoP.

Training, CPD and Networks for Music Generation LMEP Staff

Along with the Communities of Practice, QSD delivered training and development inputs across the three cohorts of the Learning Network: Musician Educators, MDOs, and Administrators and Resource Workers.

The intention of training provided was to improve quality of practice by providing high quality opportunities for MDOs, MEs and Administration teams to engage in skills development, training and reflection. The concepts and language of the Quality Framework underpinned the development of these training inputs. The training and development inputs were focused on developing leadership capacity for MDOs, reflective practice capacity and skill acquisition for MEs, and skill acquisition for Administration teams, and to give each cohort an opportunity to connect with their colleagues regularly.

Training and development inputs were well attended, with 1,057 attendees across 91 different training and network events, and feedback indicated a strong value placed by participants on such inputs.

Performance Music Education Management Training (PMEM)

The effective and progressive management of a high quality performance music education programme is a highly skilled job. The PMEM programme assists MDOs to learn and grow as a performance music education manager, enabling them to strategically develop their LMEP programme. Broad topics include strategic planning, team development, effective leadership and diversity in performance music education.

Over the course of 2021, 18 MDOs engaged in PMEM training. Some of the key pieces of feedback were the value placed on having the space and time to think about leadership of oneself and the programme. There was also consensus that it would be beneficial to have an opportunity to focus on practical problem solving with real-life Music Generation situations.



Action Learning Set

Arising from the feedback regarding practical problem solving, Action Learning Sets were initiated in October 2021. Action Learning Sets are a simple and powerful way for individuals to learn from each other. They are a popular method in the field of action learning. Action learning is a process which involves working on real challenges, using the knowledge and skills of a small group of people combined with skilled questioning, to produce fresh ideas and reinterpret familiar concepts.

In the context of Music Generation, a small group of MDOs engaged in this peer learning. Each month, the group met to work on particular scenarios relating to challenges in programming, management, etc. Each member brought a real scenario, challenge or problem statement and then the group decided among themselves which of these they wanted to focus on. The group then worked reflectively and collaboratively to examine the challenge, share learning, troubleshoot and co-create solutions or approaches to the problem.

Learning Networks and Other Events

The Administrators and Resource Workers Network met regularly in 2021, providing a space for information sharing and connection with colleagues around the country. Additionally, bespoke training was delivered through the National Development Office on topics including instrument maintenance, introduction to finance, branding training, and data collection.

Locally, 15 Administrators and Resource Workers were given access to 32 additional training across a diverse range of topics including:

- Information and communications technology (ICT)
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Child Protection
- Music-related (e.g. music business/administration management, or music education)

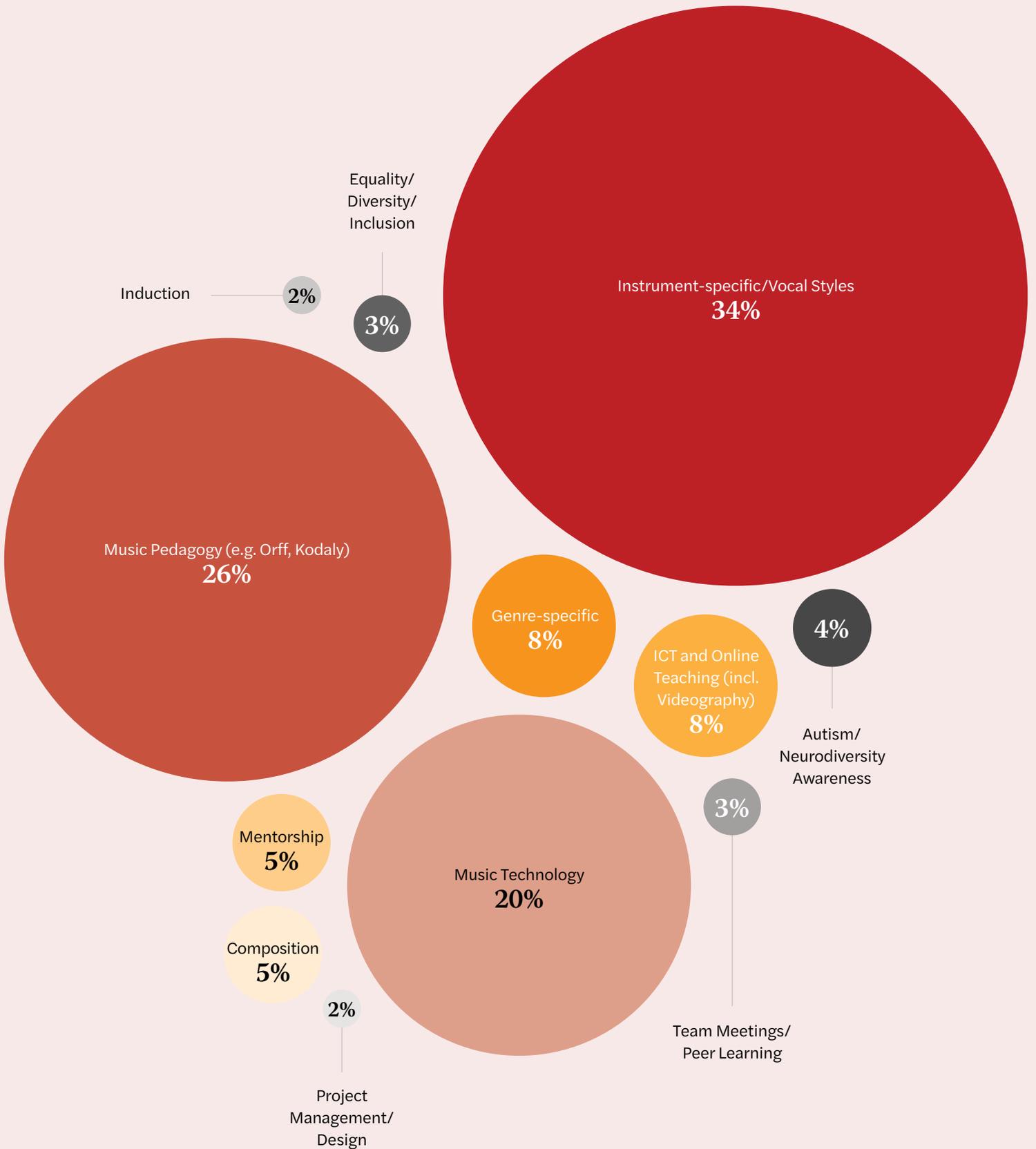
The MDOs Network met in two formats – as the whole nationwide network, and in regional groupings. 70% of Music Generation LMEPs reported additional training being made available (or being undertaken) locally by MDOs. The most popular topics for training included Child Protection, ICT (e.g. use of specific software), Equality Diversity and Inclusion, and further personal study (e.g. at third level).

Musician Educators had access to a range of training opportunities made available locally and through their individual Music Generation LMEP. In addition to the Communities of Practice, the National Development Office organised three webinars on vocal health, reflective practice, and musicians' mental health.

There were 837 course/training attendances at locally organised training for Musician Educators in 2021 and in total 4,297.5 CPD hours were made available to Musician Educators to attend training, representing a significant investment locally in measures to support quality.



Topics of Training Courses
for Musician Educators



Research

The National Development Office invested in research with a focus on articulating quality and sharing best practice across the diversity of performance music education. Given the proliferation of online delivery since the onset of the pandemic, research efforts in 2021 sought to learn about the experiences of children and young people engaged in musical activities remotely, as well as understand the future potential for technology use post-pandemic. Two surveys were carried out with programme participants (or their families) and LMEPs around the country. These highlighted barriers relating to technology, for example, access to adequate broadband and devices. Technical barriers unique to musical activities were also highlighted, for example latency and difficulties hearing musicians playing as a group.

There were also barriers affecting children and young people which included a lack of motivation, too much screen time, and the virtual space being a daunting environment to speak up in. Parents and caregivers, often integral to supporting children and young people to engage in online musical activities, faced an overwhelming balancing act between working from home and assisting children and young people to engage.

A significant recurring theme in responses was the loss of social interaction in the online environment and a sense that learning online is just not as good as being in-person. Respondents frequently cited missing their peers and Musician Educators, missing being able to play as a group, and the loss of the fun element online.

Despite these barriers, some participants noted the opportunities that online delivery presented, particularly in providing access to musical activities for participants who may have struggled to attend in-person, for instance due to living at distance from in-person activities. There was a sense that, though the vast majority of participants were looking forward to getting back to in-person learning, the possibilities of future online delivery should not be ignored.

Further to this insight, the NDO commissioned a review of best practice music technologies for music education. The review addressed the practicalities, restrictions and opportunities presented by the use of audio-sharing technologies on the web. It outlined

- the various methods employed by streaming software along with a description of their primary advantages and disadvantages;
- the platforms that currently exist;
- the purpose of using internet-based technologies and suggested alternatives to consider for sound-based interactions; and,
- future technological directions.

Through force of necessity, Music Generation maintained programmes online to offer opportunities even when restrictions were at their height. In future, it is hoped that this research will inform a pro-active and considered approach to online delivery that aims to deliver on the potential of music technology to break down barriers to access.



Programme Highlights from Across the Country

Carlow

Music Generation Carlow's Reelig Ensemble joined forces with Music Generation Laois and the Strabane Brass Band for a live and virtual performance of **Three Rivers**. This cross-border collaboration was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's 'Co-operation with Northern Ireland' fund. The project aimed to celebrate the return to live performance and pay tribute to the resilience of the young musicians who continued to showcase their art and talent during challenging times. Three Rivers was performed by the three ensembles in venues across counties Tyrone, Laois and Carlow. Watch the performance [here](#).

Cavan/Monaghan

Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan delivered a tin whistle programme targeted at families as part of the national **Keep Well campaign: Switching off and being creative**. The programme aimed to create a space for families to connect, learn new skills and experience performance music education. Sixty-eight families across the two counties took part over eight weeks and feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.

Clare

Music Generation Clare's Irish Concertina Orchestra gave its inaugural performance premiering a new suite written by Dr. Tim Collins at the **Consairtín Festival 2021**. The forty-two-member orchestra, the first of its kind in Ireland, was established in 2020 and includes programme participants from Counties Clare, Galway, Limerick, Tipperary and Cork. The programme participants contributed to a documentary about their online experience rehearsing, performing and programming throughout a pandemic ahead of the national event. This performance and documentary are available to watch [here](#).

Cork City

Music Generation Cork City presented *Throwing Shapes*, a documentary style film project co-produced by The Kabin Studio, Graffiti Theatre, Cork Midsummer Festival and Music Generation Cork City with support from Arts Council Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Cork City Council's Arts in Context fund.

Throwing Shapes showcases the journey of seven young artists who share their musical reflection of what it's like to be young in Cork City today. They share their stories and experiences through hip hop, spoken word, and composition. This project premiered at the Cork Midsummer Film Festival 2021 and was directed by Rosie Barrett and filmed by Albert Hooi. Read more and watch the trailer [here](#).



Dublin City

Within its first year of operation, **Music Generation Dublin City** recruited its core team of MDO, Administrator and Musician Educators. Six music programmes based around the medium of voice were designed and aimed at DEIS school settings. Following consultations with local schools and the Coolock School Completion Clusters (SCP), Dublin City began pilots of two Primary School programmes: Music Explorers (Early Years) and Music Club (Older Primary). These pilot programmes took place over five weeks in four schools and allowed for insights supporting further development of the programme.

Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown

Music Generation Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown continued its unique and impactful **Sojourn** programme in Carmona School throughout the academic year. Musician Educators from Churchtown School of Music, with expertise in working with children and young people with special needs, worked in a special educational school environment that incorporated a broad age range from children to late teens. The programme encouraged active music making and engagement with children and young people with severe to profound needs, assisted by the use of Soundbeam technology. Soundbeam is an award-winning ‘touch free’ musical device that uses sensor technology to translate movement into music and sound. It gives children and young people of all abilities the opportunity to play music. Watch the short documentary video about the programme [here](#).

Fingal

Music Generation Fingal was established through a new partnership between Music Generation, Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB and Fingal County Council. Fingal’s inaugural MDO was appointed in November 2021 and the roll-out of programme development is underway.

Galway City

Music Generation Galway City engaged with a group of Transition Year students from Merlin College and ATMOS Collective to write, record, and produce their own hip-hop track, **Y.A.M. (Young and Motivated)**. The young musicians engaged in a rich creative process while expressing themselves musically and narrating their experiences through the medium of hip-hop music. Their production, which premiered online, successfully displayed the value of such collaborations. Watch it [here](#).

Galway County

Eispéiris spreagúla a chothú do leanaí agus daoine óga. Níl muid ach ina thús.

In 2021 **Music Generation Galway County** launched weekly performance music education programmes at Scoil Chaomhain and Coláiste Ghobnait on Inis Oírr (The smallest of the Aran Islands). Musician Educators flew on a weekly basis to deliver performance music education to children and young people who regularly face geographical barriers of access.

Music Generation Galway County encompasses the largest Gaeltacht region in Ireland and four Islands. Many of these Gaeltacht areas can be remote and removed from Galway’s main music centres and therefore it is highly significant that the children and young people within these regions and Islands are given access to Music Generation’s programmes. It is also vital that these programmes are delivered bilingually where possible.

Kerry

Music Generation Kerry launched the **Transition Year Music Technology Programme**, a creative project which focused on developing digital skillsets through music making. The programme was delivered via Zoom to secondary schools in Tralee, Killarney, Castleisland, Kenmare and Cahirciveen and involved an introduction to Digital Audio Workstations, Soundtrap and Chrome Music Lab. The programme participants engaged in collaborative music creation and received guidance and introductions to podcasting and setting music to videography. Additional equipment was made available to support the participants including microphones, headphones, MIDI keyboards, Audio/MIDI interfaces.

Kildare

As part of **Music Generation Kildare’s** Digital Hub programme, seven young musicians composed, recorded and produced a seven-track album of original music titled **Distant Vibrations**. The album was written as a commentary on their individual Covid-19 experiences expressed through a mixture of rock, pop, electronic, acoustic and cross genre. The young musicians led the entire process from conception to completion including the composition, editing, co-ordination of album release, artwork, launch and promotion. An hour-long podcast was also created and delivered by the programme participants in which they explored the challenges they faced while navigating creative processes throughout a pandemic. The podcast was aired on Dublin Digital Radio and on The Hive Youth Radio and both the album and podcast were relaunched to celebrate Culture Night 2021.

Kilkenny

Music Generation Kilkenny's Jingle Bell Rockout was featured on RTÉ's Nationwide programme in December 2021. The young singers and instrumentalists from the 'Creative Music Space' performed live as part of the Yulefest Bandstand programme of events. For some, this was their first time performing live in public. The 'Creative Music Space' is an afterschool rock and pop music hub set up in partnership with Foróige. The hub is a space where young musicians can come together in a safe, relaxed environment to make new friends and be creative with music. Watch the RTÉ Nationwide performance and interview [here](#).

Laois

Music Generation Laois braved the outdoors to make the premiere performance of *The Impossible Dream* possible! Dr Martin Tourish's *The Impossible Dream*, explores and commemorates the story of Portlaoise aviator Colonel James Michael Fitzmaurice who led the first East to West transatlantic flight in 1928. In a fascinating parallel, the development of this work faced its own turbulent journey making it to the stage, as Martin and seventy-six young musicians navigated through the challenges of creating and rehearsing throughout a pandemic. In a highly collaborative way, the young musicians worked with Martin Tourish through Zoom calls, YouTube videos, emails and audio files to prepare for the performance. The stunning premiere was performed by the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra directed by Siobhán Buckley at the Laois Music Centre in December 2021. Watch the performance [here](#).

Leitrim

The **Music Generation Leitrim MusicWorks** programmes recommenced, delivering a range of musical activities to children from junior infants to sixth class. The Early Years programme participants engaged in musical games, movement to music, singing, and percussion sessions which encouraged teamwork and enhanced confidence building. The Senior Years participants developed their inner hearing and musicality through learning to play both melody and accompaniment elements of popular songs on the ukulele.

Limerick City

Music Generation Limerick City unveiled a groundbreaking collaboration between young songwriters, spoken word artists, peers from Slam Out Loud in India and producers and composers from Limerick city. Working with artist mentors in Limerick and New Delhi, the young people collaborated and created a mixtape and series of performance videos. The project was the culmination of Music Generation Limerick City's work across the pandemic and pioneered online and blended models of co-creation. It aimed to harness the immediacy of live music and combine it with the magic realism of post-production. This was the first in an ambitious series of international online collaborations. Watch the virtual collaboration [here](#).

Limerick County

Music Generation Limerick County was established through a new partnership between Music Generation, Limerick and Clare ETB and Limerick City and County Council. Limerick County's MDO was appointed in October 2021 and the roll-out of programme development was started.



Longford

Music Generation Longford in partnership with Longford Youth Service continued their successful programme bringing access to music to those in Direct Provision. The music programme with a Roma youth group has grown significantly and offers local young people from this community the opportunity to come together on a weekly basis to create, play, relax and feel the music. [Read more about this local project.](#)

Louth

Music Generation Louth's intrepid Harp Ensemble recorded performances on two locations at Carlingford Lough and Flagstaff Viewpoint as part of Cairde Na Cruite International Harp Festival and National Harp Day 2021. Irish musicians, Zoë Conway and John McIntyre, joined the twelve harpers to perform *Ómós do Shéamus* (composed by Conway and McIntyre) in memory of Séamus Heaney. This featured online as part of Harp Ireland's Harp Day 2021 schedule. [Watch it here.](#)

Mayo

The **Foxford Brass and Reed Band Partnership Programme**, a **Music Generation Mayo** multigenerational community band, continued its weekly tuition and rehearsals online while Covid-19 restrictions were in place for the first half of the year. In October small groups resumed playing in person along with the live dedicated rehearsal night for children and young people. The full intergenerational band rehearsals resumed from November.

The Foxford Brass and Reed Band were featured on a new radio documentary series telling the inspiring story of Mayo's hugely successful Music Generation programme which aired on Midwest Radio. The documentary included performances and interviews with programme participants and Musician Educators. [Listen back to the broadcast here.](#)

Meath

Music Generation Meath hosted a Beatboxing Workshop with SK Shlomo which was open to anyone in Ireland aged between 6 and 18 years. Participants could explore and learn skills to become a superstar beatboxer in a world of funny sounds, brilliant noises, and cool music. Fifty-eight children and young people from Meath, Wexford, Kerry, Cavan, Dublin and Cork took part in the workshop with the world-record breaking beatboxer and DJ.

Offaly/Westmeath

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath joined forces with Music Generation Louth, Sing Ireland and IMRO to bring **Spring Voices**. This online singing camp was open to young people anywhere in Ireland aged between 12 and 18 years. No previous experience of singing was necessary, and the workshops included everything from singing and songwriting to rap. The camp was delivered through weekly online group sessions with additional online resources made available to support further vocal training.

Roscommon

Music Generation Roscommon released a collaborative performance of Ben E. King's *Stand By Me*, performed by some of the children and young people of Music Generation Roscommon's Primary Schools Programme and Community Rocks. Community Rocks encourages young people within the community to collaborate and form bands and continued to seek performance opportunities for its participants throughout the pandemic.

This visual performance captured just some of the precious moments and experiences of the programme participants over fifteen months. The performance was featured at The Ireland Funds' San Francisco virtual Women in Leadership Lunch event. [Watch online.](#)



Sligo

Music Generation Sligo's Sligo's Youth Voices

continued to deliver virtual vocal sessions throughout 2021, increasing its reach to over 40 children and young people in Sligo and surrounding counties. Sligo Youth Voices is a partnership between Music Generation Sligo and Hawks Well Theatre which offers children and young people the opportunity to develop their skills in choral singing through exposure to a range of musical styles and experiences. To see out the end of 2021, 28 members of Sligo Youth Voices released a cover of 'Better Day's by Dermot Kennedy with a mission to share a message of positivity and hope to the local community. Watch the performance [here](#).

South Dublin

Music Generation South Dublin Community Hub participants collaborated with Dublin South FM airwaves through a live takeover series of performances and interviews. In the lead up to the broadcast, twenty-seven programme participants also took part in a songwriting/composing competition hosted by Music Generation South Dublin. The songs were assessed by a judging panel of professional composers/musicians and the winners were announced live on the radio show. Listen to the full broadcast [here](#).

Tipperary

Music Generation Tipperary developed their intergenerational virtual choir, **Tipperary Sings** in partnership with Tipperary County Council Arts Office and the Bealtaine 2021 Festival. The programme sought to enable children and young people to connect musically with family members in isolation. It aimed to create an uplifting musical hub in each home whereby programme participants could sing, practice, create and maintain a sense of togetherness. The programme was led virtually via large group vocal tuition and continued in person following the end of restrictions. A short documentary was created which reflected on the experiences. Watch the documentary [here](#).

Waterford

Music Generation Waterford continued to create performance opportunities virtually and in person for its Traditional Ensembles across Waterford City and County throughout 2021.

The Senior Traditional Ensemble collaborated with young string players from Winston Salem Youth Symphony Programme in North Carolina. This special partnership involved a virtual performance of *Mo Ghille Mear*, arranged by Nóra Byrne Kavanagh, which was released on St. Patrick's Day 2021. Watch the performance [here](#).

Following the return of live events, Music Generation Waterford's Advanced Traditional Ensemble performed at the Theatre Royal Waterford with special guests Fergal Scahill, Ryan Molloy and Tulua band. The Ensemble additionally hosted live performances in Waterford City for Culture Night 2021, which was featured on RTÉ News. The Ensemble also performed at International Piping Day 2021 in Christ Church Cathedral Waterford. Watch the performance [here](#).



Wexford

Music Generation Wexford's High Street Opera Shop continued throughout 2021, rebranding to 'High Street Opera Zoom'. These interactive workshops took place monthly and encouraged children and young people to develop their voices and musicianship while exploring creative responses to opera.

High Street Opera Zoom participants were invited to take part in Wexford Festival Opera's Little Conductor's Workshop. This involved a series of workshops led by conductor/composer Andrew Synnott and musician educator Elizabeth Drwal. The young musicians had the opportunity to develop their musicality, explore movement and rhythm as they were guided through conducting processes. The final workshop culminated with young people conducting the Wexford Factory Artists on the stage of the National Opera House. Watch the Live Stream [here](#).

Wicklow

Music Generation Wicklow in collaboration with Music Generation South Dublin designed and delivered **Signature Sounds**, a series of online workshops for young people exploring Sound Art. The workshops focused on developing sounds for creative composition. The project was delivered by composer Robert Coleman and explored ideas around listening, recording, soundscapes and sound maps, encouraging programme participants to merge these concepts into their composition and performance.

Young Ambassador Opportunities and National Cultural Events

Music Generation works closely with funders, donors and partners to create memorable performance opportunities for programme participants across Ireland to national and international audiences. With the gradual return of live events and music in 2021, children and young people continued to showcase their talents.

Music Generation celebrates St. Patrick's Festival – March 2021

Music Generation partnerships across Ireland marked the national holiday in unique and creative ways. We've included a selection of just some of the special musical events which took place to continue the international celebrations during an unusual year. Read more about St. Patrick's Festival 2021 [here](#).

- **Music Generation Galway's** Symphonic Waves Youth Orchestra united with Galway Traditional Orchestra for a very special collaborative performance which was facilitated by RTÉ One and broadcasted as part of the 2021 St. Patrick's Festival celebrations. The orchestras performed an original composition 'The Magic Carpet' by Eric Cunningham, co-arranged for orchestra by Ita Geraghty and Cian Boylan. The epic performance was filmed on the beautiful Furbo beach in Galway County and included a performance from dancer Daniela Goluba from the Genevieve Dance Academy. Watch the performance [here](#).
- Throughout St. Patrick's Day, **Music Generation Tipperary** released performance videos featuring young musicians from their Uilleann Piping programme. The UNESCO recognised instrument was also the focus of the day in **Music Generation Kildare, Meath and Kilkenny**. These areas offered a range of masterclasses to young budding musicians and performances from internationally recognised pipers. **Music Generation Kilkenny** streamed a live performance of 'Uilleann Pipe Dreams' which saw 12 young pipers perform alongside members of Na Píobairí Uilleann and the Kilkenny Pipers Club. Watch the video [here](#).



Young Ambassadors represent Music Generation at The Ireland Funds events – May and December 2021

Young Ambassadors from Music Generation Galway County performed at The Ireland Funds' Virtual San Francisco Gala. Music Generation presented a virtual performance of 'The Magic Carpet,' an original composition by Eric Cunningham, performed by Symphonic Waves, facilitated by Music Generation Galway County and Galway Traditional Orchestra. The work of The Ireland Funds makes music possible for children and young people in Ireland, so it was an honour for Music Generation to be a part of their San Francisco Gala! Watch it [here](#).

Music Generation Roscommon were delighted to be featured in the virtual San Francisco Women in Leadership Luncheon event in December 2021. Their uplifting music video of the classic Ben E King's "Stand By Me" included young musicians and singers from community music hubs and primary schools throughout County Roscommon. See the event [here](#).

Music Generation celebrates Cruinniú na nÓg – June 2021

Each year Music Generation partnerships throughout Ireland take part in Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people. A wide and diverse variety of performances, workshops and experiences are made available to children and young people in local communities nationwide and in 2021 the festivities continued virtually and outdoors.

Music Generation Carlow's ensembles Reelig, Reel Nua, Reel Óg, Mouthbox and BoomBrasstic united to learn and record **Tyndall's Spark** – a multi genre commission by composer Dr. Martin Tourish. The commission premiered on Music Generation Carlow's Facebook and YouTube page. Watch Tyndall's Spark.



Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan's Trad Ensemble premiered new work by composer and harper Michael Rooney through an online concert and broadcasted on Tg4's **Cúla4 ar Scoile**. Eleven young musicians worked with the composer who guided the performers through a new piece which represented music from the Cavan/Monaghan region. Watch the performance [here](#).

Music Generation Meath's forty-four-member Youth Choir worked with local singer/songwriter Róisín Ní Ghallóglaigh to create and record a new piece of music entitled *Bíonn The River Goddess* for Cruinniú na nÓg 2021. The young singers from across the county contributed to the recording and the virtual performance was premiered on YouTube. Formed in January 2021, Meath Youth Choir is made up of young people aged between 11 and 18, directed by Giovanna Feeley.

Music Generation Kildare hosted 'Build a drum/Bang a drum.' This introductory workshop for children guided the young participants in tutorials on how to make a percussion instrument from items within the home and explored creative music making through percussion. Kildare also delivered "**Composer for the day**", a workshop exploring basic practical composition techniques.

Music Generation Clare's Harp Ensemble presented a virtual performance for all ages which included arrangements of traditional and popular music. Musician Educator Niamh O'Brien united young harp players from across Co. Clare to perform. Watch the performance [here](#).

Sir James and Lady Galway inspire Young Ambassadors – July 2021

Young flautists from Music Generation areas from across Ireland joined Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway for a special virtual performance of the famous Brian Boru March. This performance, presented and delivered by the Galway Flute Academy in collaboration with Music Generation, was part of a wider collaboration which saw children and young people from Cork City, Carlow, Laois, Louth, Offaly/Westmeath, Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow come together for two special online workshops. Watch [online](#).



Music Generation comes together for Culture Night – September 2021

Music Generation areas across Ireland took part in this annual all-island celebration of culture. Jumping on the bandwagon was **Music Generation Laois** who presented performances aboard The Bandwagon featuring Scottish duo Catriona McKay (harp) and Chris Stout (fiddle). The Bandwagon is a movable musical vehicle developed by Laois School of Music, which saw its debut live performance at Electric Picnic in 2019.

Moving west, young musicians from bands in **Music Generation Roscommon** took part in the launch of Culture Night Roscommon 2021. The young musicians had the opportunity to feature their original music on the grounds of King House, Boyle on Culture Night as Guest Performers during the Boyle Songwriters Circle CD launch.

Music Generation Cork City hosted a range of online and in person events on the night which included live film screenings, rap beat and songwriting workshops, open trad sessions and open band rehearsal with the entertaining Barrack Street Band.

Young Ambassadors perform at Department of Education Innovation Week – November 2021

Music Generation South Dublin participants performed for Minister of Education Norma Foley to celebrate creativity in the classroom as part of the Department of Education’s Innovation Week 2021. Five young musicians supported by their mentor wowed the Department audience with their performance of ‘For the First Time’ by The Script. The participants take part in weekly Hangout Sessions in Tallaght led by Music Generation South Dublin and Foróige where they collaborate through songwriting and performance. Watch it [here](#).

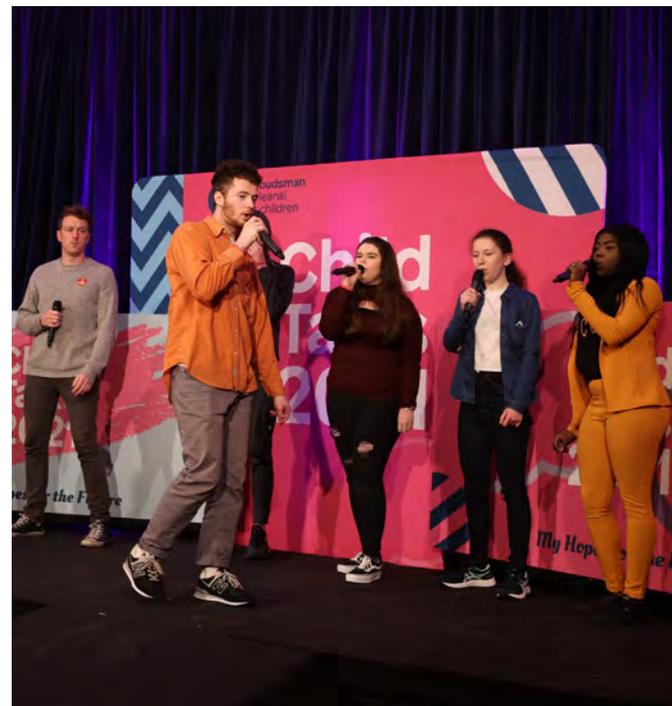
Young Ambassadors take to the stage at World Children’s Day event – November 2021

The Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO) hosted their fourth annual Child Talks event in November 2021. Music Generation has been honored to be part of all four events to date. Child Talks gives young people in Ireland a platform to discuss and voice their opinions on children’s rights and issues that matter to them. The Young Ambassadors, some of whom had no previous experience writing music or performance, composed the vocal and rap piece around the event’s theme of *My Hopes for the Future*. With support from their mentors, they joined a number of inspiring young speakers who shared their Hopes for the Future and called on people of power to listen and learn from children and young people today.

The performance took place at the RDS, Dublin and was broadcast live on the OCO website. Watch the broadcast and performance [here](#).

“This was my first experience writing lyrics and singing on stage and my first performance was really positive. I was really nervous beforehand but going out there with my friends and mentors just got me really comfortable.”

Lydia, Young Ambassador Music Generation South Dublin



Activities and Outputs

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

79,943

→ Programme participants in 2021

81,584

→ Performance music education tuition hours delivered in 2021

890

→ The number of unique venues in which Music Generation worked in 2021

550

→ The number of musical works created with children and young people in 2021

3,139

→ Instructional, technical and digital resources made available to children and young people, and Musician Educators in 2021

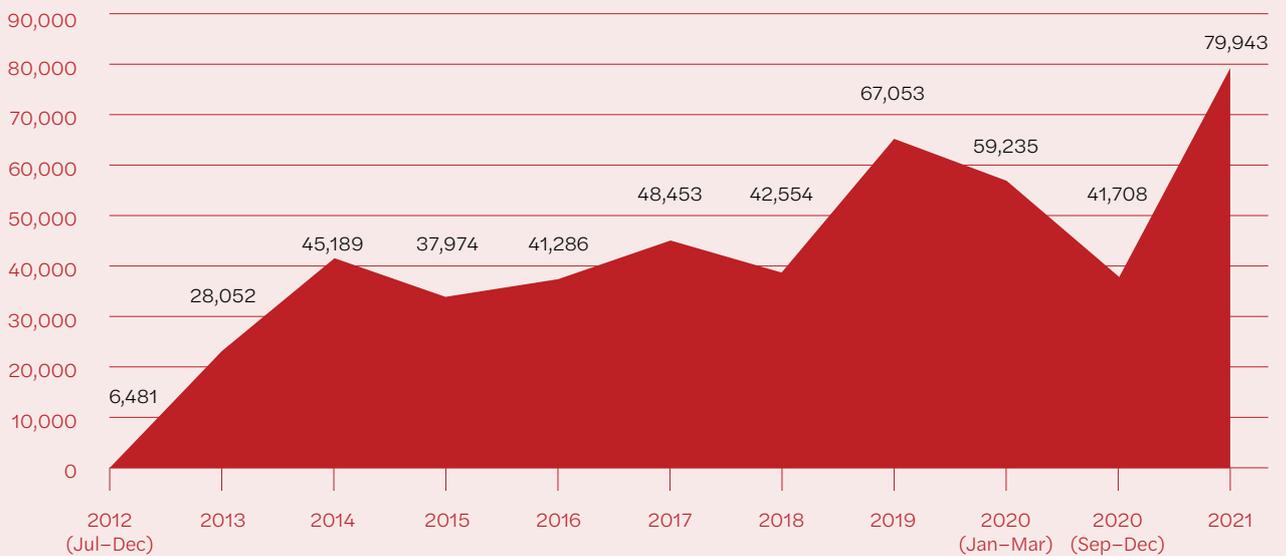
1,679

→ The number of Music Generation performances by children and young people in 2021

Participation

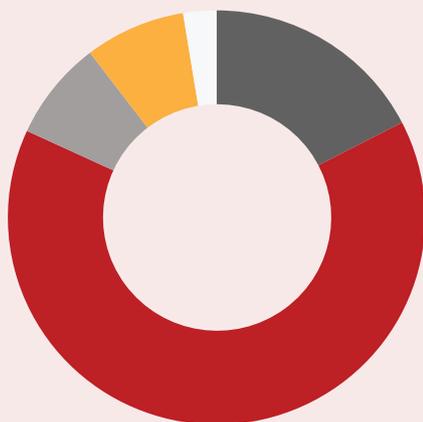
Total Annual Programme Participants

Music Generation worked with 79,943 programme participants in 2021, across 26 LMEP Areas. This figure reflects the continued growth of Music Generation and expansion into new areas of the country, and the easing of restrictions related to the pandemic.



Age Breakdown of Programme Participants across all MG LMEP Areas 2021

The highest proportion of programme participants are among the 7-12 years old age group. Between 2020 and 2021, there have also been increases in the numbers of Early Teen programme participant numbers increased (+66%) and Youth (After Junior Cert) programme participants (+22%).



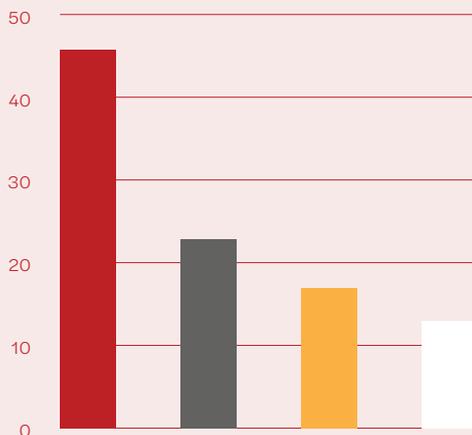
Junior Years (7-12)	64%
Early Years (0-6 incl. senior infants)	17%
Early Teens (up to and incl. Junior Cert)	8%
Youth (after Junior Cert)	8%
Adult (>18), e.g. in the case of inter-generational programmes	3%

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.

■ c. 20–30 Weeks (long term/full year)	46%
■ One-off event/week long event	23%
■ c. 10–19 Weeks (medium length)	17%
■ c. 2–9 Weeks (short term)	14%



Effects of Covid-19 on Programme Design and Delivery

Music Generation programmes were still facing the effects of the pandemic in 2021, albeit to a lesser extent than 2020. Design adaptations continued to be made, for example, in designing programmes specifically to work despite pandemic restrictions, reimagining original plans to suit the level of restrictions in place, or in some cases scaling down original programmes to enable them to take place. 24% of new programmes in 2021 were also designed regardless of the pandemic, and 75% of these were in-person programmes.

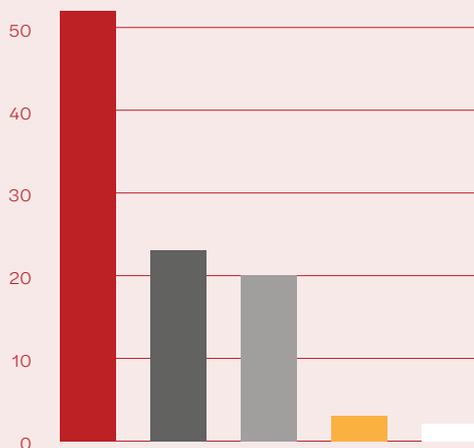
■ New — developed specifically for Covid-19 context	25%
■ New — not developed specifically for Covid-19 context	24%
■ Retained in full	20%
■ Retained but reduced scale	16%
■ Reimagined	11%
■ Paused	4%



Proportion of Programmes Accessed Remotely/In-Person in 2021

The proportion of programmes that could be accessed in-person increased, as expected with the lifting of restrictions, from 37% in 2020 to 52% in 2021. Online and blended delivery of programmes continued in 2021.

■ In-person	52%
■ Online – synchronous	23%
■ Blended (mix of online and in-person)	20%
■ Online – combination of synchronous and asynchronous delivery	3%
■ Online – asynchronous only	2%



In total, 3,139 videos or other asynchronous items of digital content were created by Music Generation LMEP Areas in 2021.

These are made up of three categories:

- music tuition videos (2,500 videos or 80%);
- technical videos, e.g. ‘How to tune a ukulele’ or ‘How to record a song’ (186 videos or 6%); and,
- other digital resources, e.g. backing tracks, click tracks, pass the riff (453 or 14%).

Towards the end of 2020, there was a notable reduction in the volume of music tuition videos being created compared to the early phase of the pandemic. This downward trend continued with an almost 30% decrease in this type of content creation from 2020 to 2021.



Programme Focus

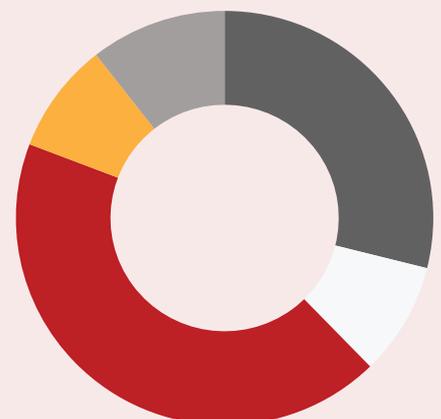
Music Generation programmes have different formats with the highest proportion being ‘instrumental’, or ‘a mix of vocal and instrumental,’ focussed. Other categories include Music Technology or Production and Experiential. Music Technology may not necessarily involve what would traditionally be considered an instrument. Music making takes place digitally, for example, through Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) or beat-making software.

Experiential programmes predominantly included early years and special education settings, or activities such as songwriting. Further details on the genre of programming are included in the [Sustainability section](#) of the report.

Investment in instruments, technology and accessories to enable music making continued in each Music Generation LMEP Area with 17,826 items added to instrument banks in 2021.



■ Instrumental	43%
■ A mix of vocal and instrumental	29%
■ Vocal	10%
■ Music technology/Production	9%
■ Experiential	9%



Workforce and Measures to Support Quality

Music Generation’s active workforce as of end December 2021

In addition to NDO-led and Network professional development initiatives reported in the [Quality section](#) of this report, Music Generation LMEP areas also made significant resources available to Musician Educators to develop professionally and enhance the quality of programming.

There were 837 course/training attendances at locally organised training for Musician Educators in 2021. For the most part, attendances were paid and in total 4,297.5 hours were paid to Musician Educators to attend training representing a significant investment locally in measures to support quality.

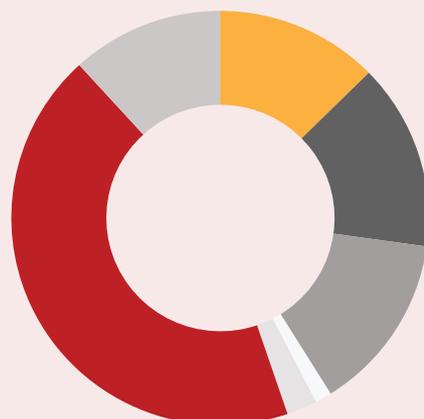
Further opportunities were made available to both Music Generation staff as well as children and young people through visits by professional musicians. Twenty-five Music Generation LMEP Areas organized 525 visits from 152 Professional Musicians (or in some cases, ensembles).

ROLE / OFFICE	HEADCOUNT
National Development Office	10
MDOs	29
Administrators	24
Resource Workers	8
Musician Educators	371
TOTAL	442

Primary Purpose of Visits by Professional Musicians

Details of the primary purpose of visit were given for 467 visits with the most common purpose being to deliver tuition to children and young people. Visits often had dual purpose, for example, to deliver tuition and to deliver CPD opportunities to Music Generation staff. For example, although 68 visits were primarily for staff CPD, when the ‘Other’ category is also factored in, this increased to 92 CPD visits.

Tuition	43%
CPD	15%
Performance	14%
Composition	13%
Other	12%
Rehearsal	2%
Planning	1%



Board

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

Music Generation Board Members in 2021

Leo Blennerhassett

Chairperson, Management Consultant and former Managing Director of Accenture Ireland

Pat Burke

Former Assistant Secretary General at the Department of Education and, more recently, Chair of the State Examinations Commission

Anna Marie Delaney

Chief Executive of Offaly County Council

Martin Drury

Independent Curator and Adviser

John Kelly

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

David Leahy

Chief Executive of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board

Deirdre McCrea

Independent Arts Consultant and former CEO of Music Network

Professor Mel Mercier

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

James Morris

Founder of Windmill Lane Studios, Windmill Lane Pictures and The Mill (London), currently working with Windmill Lane to establish a Visual Effects Studio in Dublin

Chantal O'Sullivan

Antique dealer, member of the New York board of the Irish Georgian Society, board member of The Ireland Funds and New York's Glucksman Ireland House

Staff

Music Generation National Development Office Staff in 2021

Rosaleen Molloy

National Director

Anita Butler

Finance and Administration Officer

Mairéad Duffy

LMEP Support Manager (from Feb 2021)

Cathriona Grange

Operations Manager

Helen Grant

Finance Manager

Paul Markey

Administration Officer (from Aug 2021)

Cecelia Molumby

Communications and Marketing Officer (until Oct 2021)

Jenny O'Connor Madsen

LMEP Support Manager (until June 2021)

Paula Phelan

Head of Quality, Support and Development

Aoife Ruth

Reporting and Analysis Manager (from Jan 2021)

Helen Shyne

Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager (from June 2021)

Governance

How the Board operates

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

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

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

Music Generation also adheres to the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities – “SORP.”

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

Frequency of Board and Committee Meetings

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

Statement on Risk Management Measures

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

Financials

SUMMARY OF 2021 FIGURES

- Music Generation DAC's total income for 2021 was €5,467,722.

- Core funding of €732,873 was received from The Ireland Funds and €4,760,176 was received from the Exchequer through the Department of Education.

- Other income included deposit income and funding to support performance opportunities for young musicians being deferred until 2022.

- The funds allocated to Music Generation DAC cover programme outlay costs to LMEPs and National Development Office running costs.

- Funding is provided by Music Generation DAC to Lead Partners once the LMEPs have raised the equivalent amount through locally generated matched funding. Of the €5.2m raised by Lead Partners in 2021, €1.1m was provided as Support-in-Kind. This recognises the significant contribution by each LMEP area to the office accommodation, overheads and administration staff required to support the Music Generation programmes.

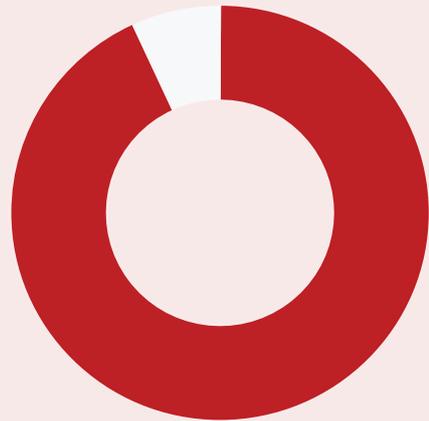
Total income for Music Generation programmes

LMEPs	48%
Department of Education	45%
U2 and The Ireland Funds	7%



Total Expenditure for Music Generation programmes

Programme Services	93%
National Development Office Running Costs	7%



**APPENDIX
A****MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE
AT BOARD MEETINGS 2021**

BOARD MEMBER	JAN 14	FEB 22	MAR 5	APR 13	MAY 11	JUN 1	JUN 30	JUL 29	NOV 2	DEC 14
Mr Leo Blennerhassett	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mr Martin Drury	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mr Pat Burke	●	●		●		●	●		●	●
Mr James Morris	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ms Deirdre McCrea	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●
Ms Chantal O'Sullivan	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	
Mr David Leahy		●	●	●	●	●	●			●
Ms Anna Marie Delaney		●	●	●		●	●		●	●
Mr John Kelly	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●
Mr Mel Mercier	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●

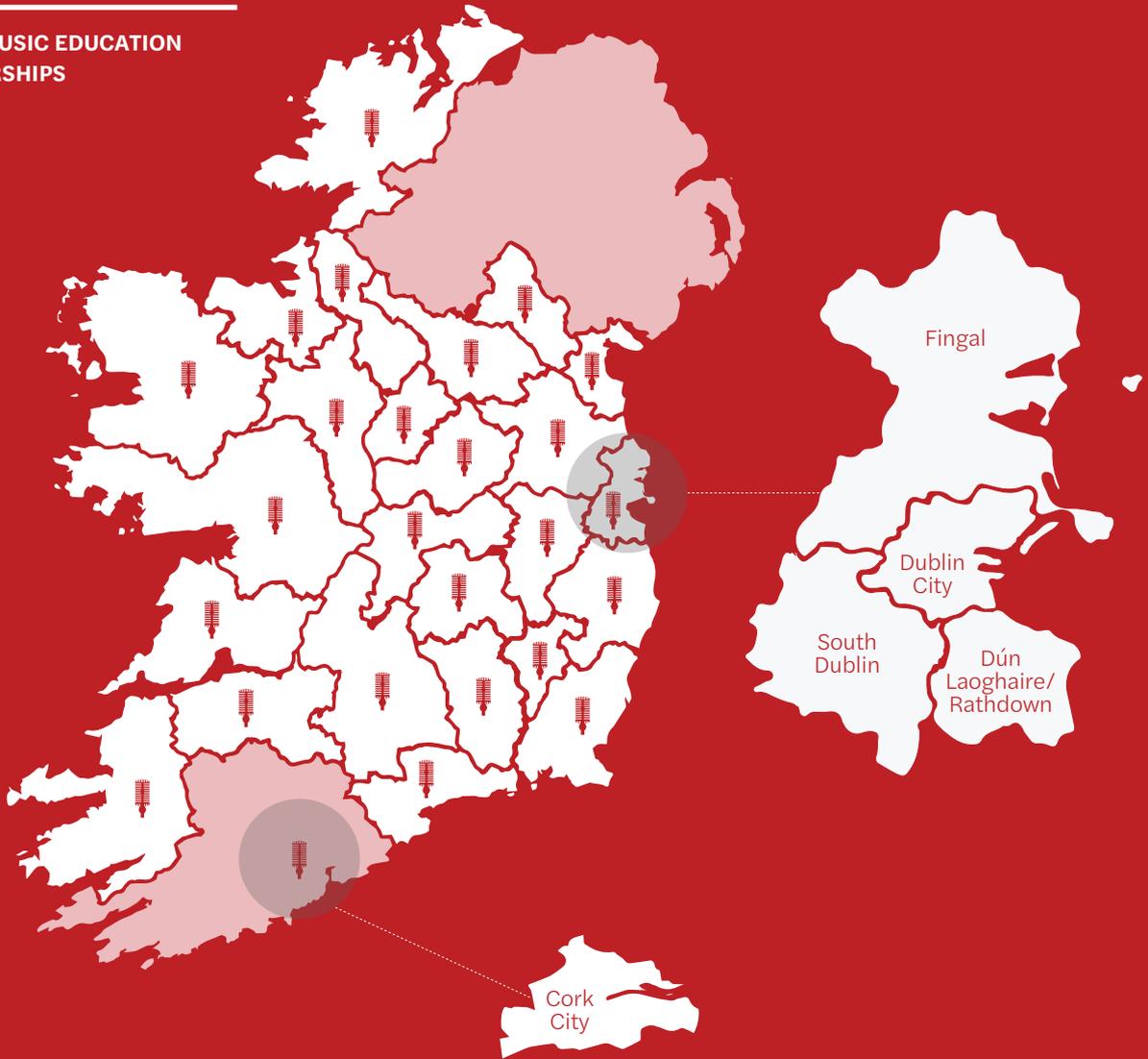
**APPENDIX
B****EXPENSES PAID TO BOARD
MEMBERS IN 2021***

BOARD MEMBER	€
Mr Leo Blennerhassett	–
Mr Martin Drury	–
Mr Pat Burke	–
Mr James Morris	–
Ms Deirdre McCrea	–
Ms Chantal O'Sullivan	–
Mr David Leahy	353.75
Ms Anna Marie Delaney	–
Mr John Kelly	–
Mr Mel Mercier	–

*No Directors' fees were paid to Board Members in 2021.

The figures above include Board Member expenses for attendance at LMEP events and attendance at Board meetings.

LOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS



PRINCIPAL PHILANTHROPIC DONORS



THE IRELAND FUNDS



BANK OF AMERICA



PROGRAMME PARTNER



FUNDERS



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



**Music
Generation**

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



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education