



**Music  
Generation**

Annual Report

2022

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# Glossary

## Vocal Communities of Practice

Photo by Dave Keegan

## Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF)

The Music Generation Creativity and Collaboration 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 Fund is co-funded by the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Education.

## 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.

## 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 partnership between philanthropy, Government, and Local Music Education Partnerships.

### Old Fort Quarter Youth Music Festival

Photo by Alf Harvey



## 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 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 Team (QSD)

This team leads, develops, and delivers 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.

# Chairperson's Foreword

I'm delighted to introduce Music Generation's Annual Report for 2022. The year began with the country still feeling the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the limitations early in 2022, Music Generation had a very successful year delivering over 100,000 tuition hours to children and young people across the country.

Our continued growth is particularly important for children and young people who are re-connecting with normal life following the last few years of lockdowns and restrictions. Indeed, they are at the heart of what we do.

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

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.

2022 has also been a landmark year for Music Generation. In spring, we published our new Strategic Plan 2022-2026: *Transforming Young Lives Through Music*. The development of this Strategy gave us an opportunity to look back on our journey since 2010 and envision the future. I wish to thank all those who engaged with us as part of this process.

Music Generation's partners are instrumental in our shared success. The work of Music Generation would simply not be possible without their support. In particular I would like to acknowledge U2, The Ireland Funds, Bank of America, the Department of Education, Music Network, and the Arts Council. I would also like to highlight the considerable efforts of Local Music Education Partnerships, in which Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Authorities play a lead role, in furthering our shared goals.

I extend my thanks to the very committed Board and staff of Music Generation. There have been some amazing achievements in 2022 and I look forward to what the future brings for Music Generation.

**Leo Blennerhassett**

Chairperson

# National Director's Introduction

2022 was an exciting year for Music Generation with many achievements. We continued to work with, and through, our local partners to identify opportunities to deliver our mission. We responded to the needs of children and young people across Ireland as we emerged from the effects of the pandemic.

In responding to that need, our participation grew beyond expectation in 2022. For the first time, over 100,000 tuition hours were delivered to children and young people - a 31% increase on 2021. In 2022, 7% of children and young people living in Ireland took part in a Music Generation programme. Particular thanks are due to the local teams of Music Development Officers, Administrators, Resource Workers, and Musician Educators for their dedication and commitment to progressing our shared mission.

Almost 500 new musical works were created with and by children and young people. Hundreds of performances were staged while adapting to the challenges of safely returning to live events. Among these, our highlights included:

- Over 180 musicians from Cork City, Laois, Mayo, and Louth celebrating Ireland's national emblem the harp at St. Patrick's Festival through a spectacular performance to a national and international audience.
- 33 young musicians from Waterford and Laois performed with Sharon Shannon to open the Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference.
- 24 young musicians from Sligo, Cork City and Limerick City performing at the Ombudsman for Children's Office's Beyond Limits events which promoted inclusion for young people with disabilities.

Following the publication of our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan in the spring, we focused on preparing and planning for the implementation of our three strategic priorities: **quality, sustainability and advocacy.**

Key developments in quality included the completion of Quality Reviews with local partners. We also continued to lead Communities of Practice events attended by over 120 musicians throughout the year. In terms of 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 raise awareness of our mission through listening and engaging with children and young people in our storytelling.

I wish to take this opportunity to recognise the passion, dedication and commitment of everyone involved in Music Generation; for all they have done and continue to do to support and realise our shared mission and vision.

I look forward to 2023 with a sense of excitement for the new challenges, opportunities and possibilities that await us as we continue to achieve our ultimate aim of *Transforming Young Lives Through Music.*

**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 in which Education and Training Boards and Local Authorities play a lead role.

## 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.

↳ **2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan**



**Music Generation Galway County**  
Photo by Mick Shaughnessy

# The Year in Photos



**Music Generation Meath  
and Music Generation Kildare**  
Photo by Ste Murray



**Music Generation Carlow at Education and  
Training Boards Ireland Annual Conference**  
Photo by Marc O'Sullivan



**Music Generation Fingal**

**Music Generation Limerick City,  
Music Generation Limerick County,  
and Music Generation Clare**







**Music Generation South Dublin/  
NOISE Music**

Photo by Barbara Flynn



**Music Generation Cork City  
at Ombudsman for Children's Office  
Beyond Limits Limerick**

Photo by Don Maloney Photography



**Music Generation Waterford**

Photo by DGM Photography

“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





Music Generation Waterford  
Photo by DGM Photography

# Activities and Outputs



1

# 7%

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



2

# 505

**Musician Educators** actively delivered Music Generation programmes

## 2022 Year in Review

# 107,072

Performance music education **tuition hours** were delivered



3

# 101,960

**Programme Participants** took part in Music Generation activities



4

# 2,161

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



5

# 468

**musical works** were created by and with children and young people



6

# 26%

increase in **audience growth** across our social media channels



7

# 48

**types of activities** were provided across all our programmes. These included performance, conducting, videography, recording, podcasting and instrumental/vocal tuition.

## 2022 Year in Review

### Music Generation on TikTok

**@musicgenerationireland**

we trialled this digital platform to facilitate a space for programme participants to share their unique experience



8

# 33

**musical genres** were taught on Music Generation programmes



9

#### Image captions

Page 12

- 1 – **Music Generation Clare** Photo by Paul Corey Photography
- 2 – **Old Fort Quarter Youth Music Festival** Photo by Alf Harvey
- 3 – **Music Generation Meath and Music Generation Kildare** Photo by Ste Murray
- 4 – **Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath** Photo by Kelly Photography
- 5 – **Creative Sounds** Photo by Brian Farrell

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- 6 – **Music Generation Galway City**
- 7 – **Creative Sounds** Photo by Brian Farrell
- 8 – **Music Generation Louth/IAYO's 26th Festival of Youth Orchestras** Photo by Marc O'Sullivan
- 9 – **Music Generation Mayo** Lá na Cruite, Harp Day 2022



## Participation

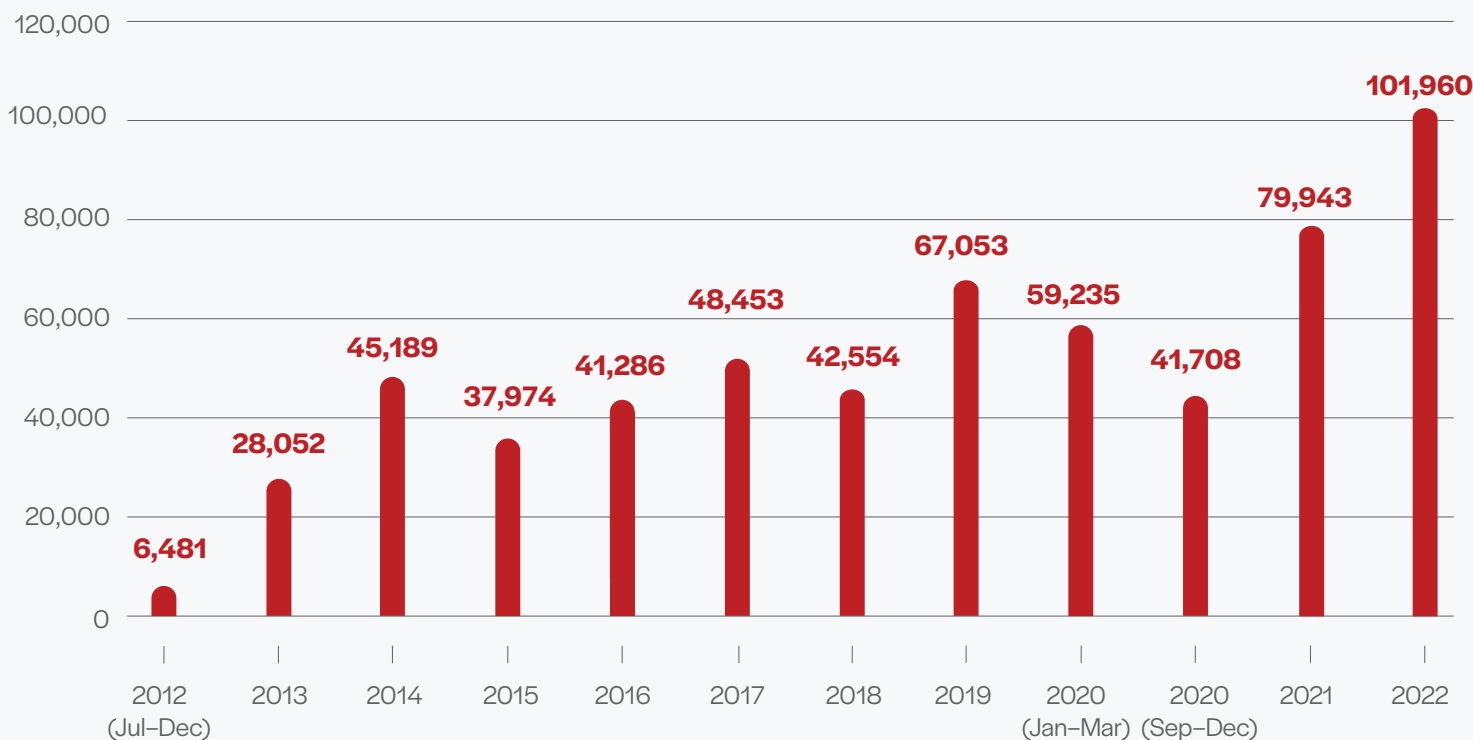
Music Generation worked with **101,960 programme participants** in 2022, across **28 LMEP Areas**.

This number reflects the continued growth of Music Generation and expansion into new areas of the country.

Music Generation worked with 7% of all children and young people in Ireland.

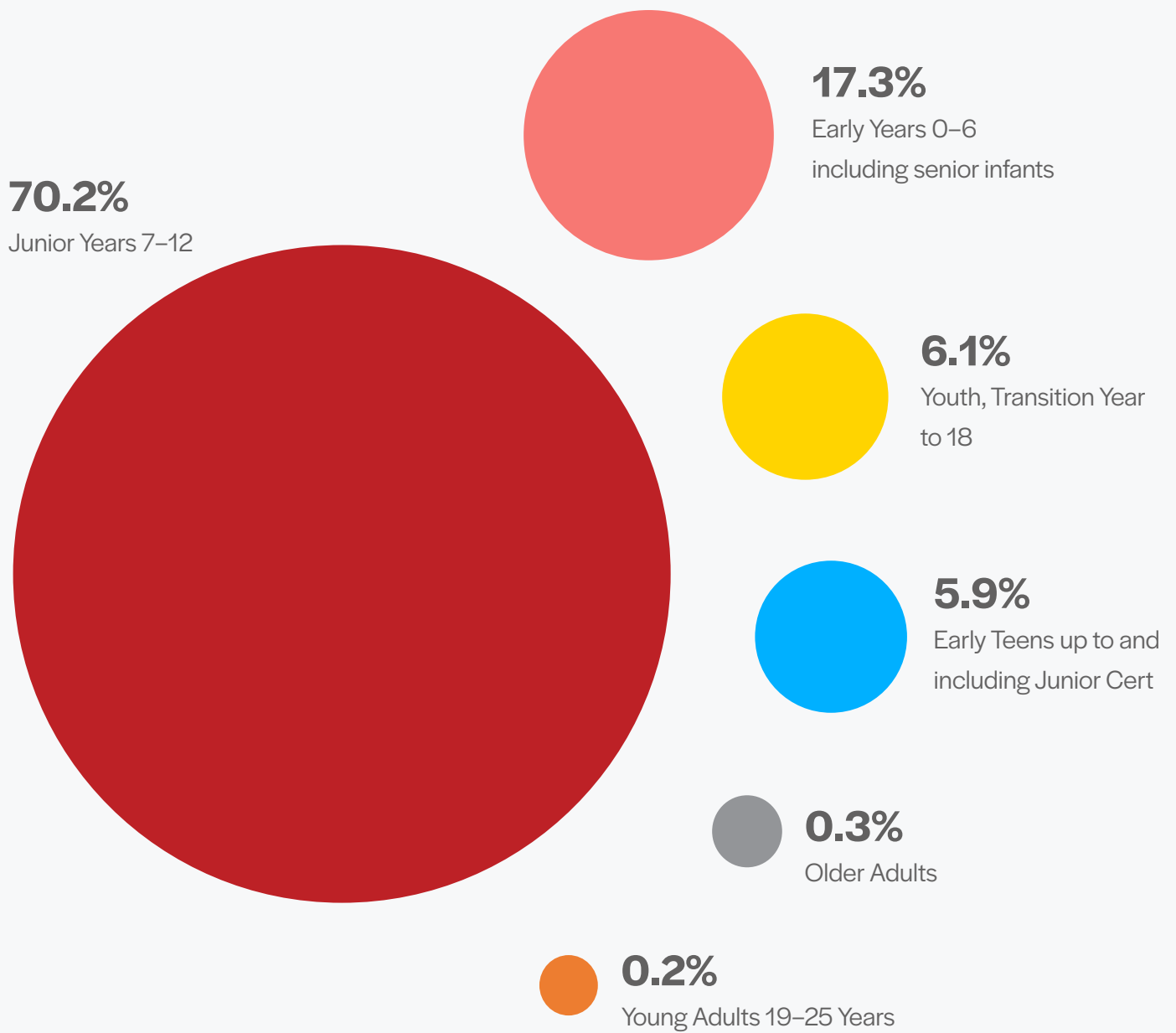
**Music Generation Laois**  
Photo by Renata Metelicka

## Total Annual Programme Participants



## Ages of Programme Participants

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



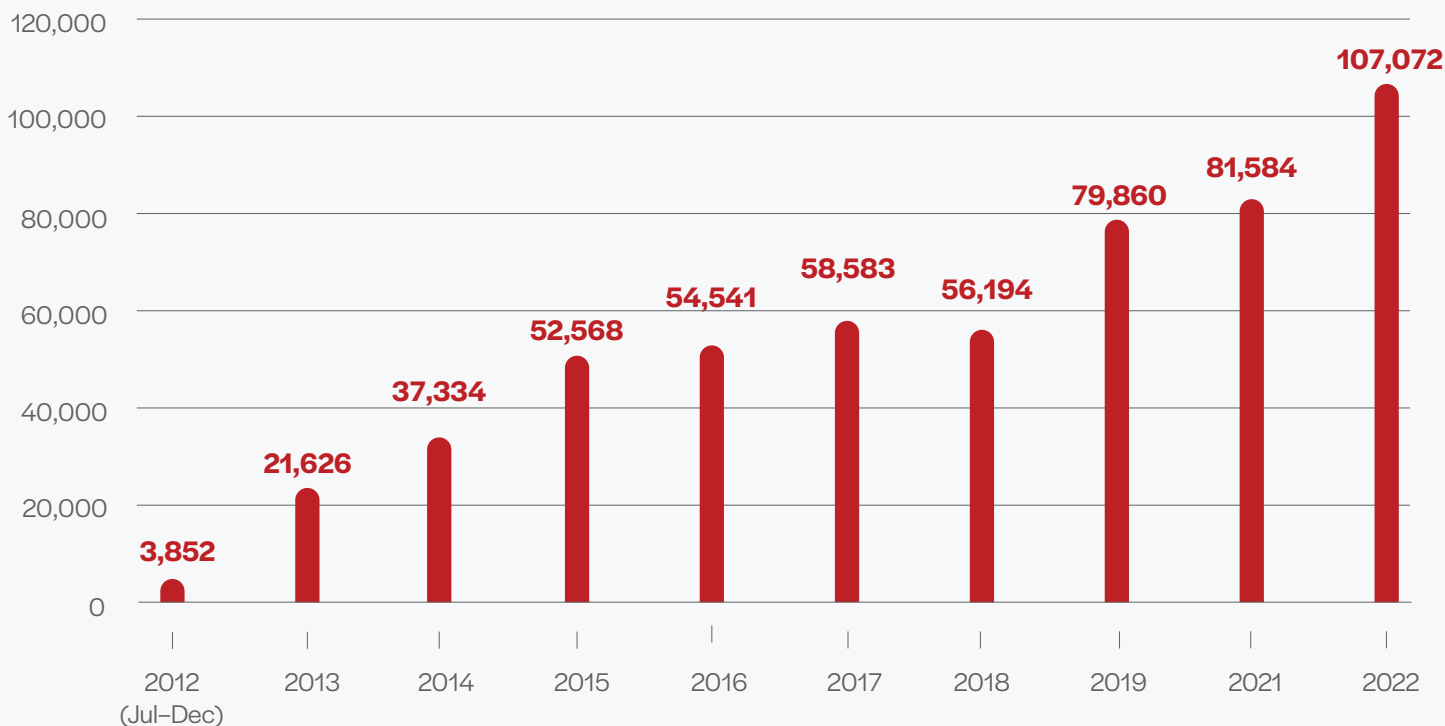


## Tuition Hours

There was a **31% increase** in tuition hours delivered in 2022. For the first time, Music Generation delivered more than 100,000 hours.

**Music Generation Dublin City**  
Photo by Dave Keegan

## Total Tuition Hours



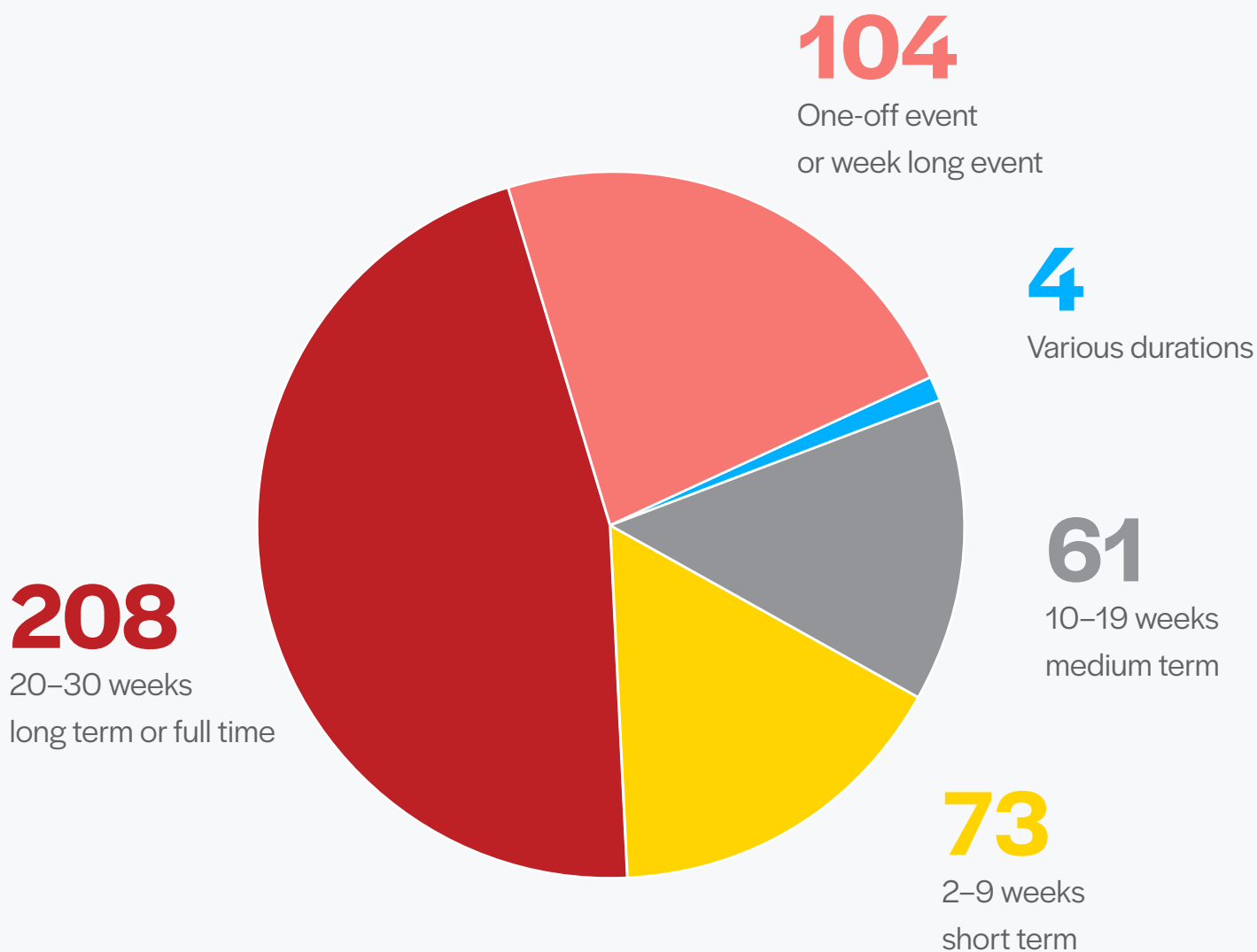
During the pandemic in 2020, information on tuition hours was collected differently. Rather than totalling tuition hours for that year, the average weekly tuition was monitored at three time points. Because of this difference, the total tuition hours for 2020 is not included in this graph.



## 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.





## Genre

LMEP Areas reported that programmes had **33 distinct types of genres**. Most of these were genre in the traditional sense, for example, rock, pop, traditional Irish. Some reported genres reflected more of a cross-over with what was being taught, the setting that it was taught in, or where music was being used through another focus, for example:

**Music Generation Cork City**

Photo by Darragh Kane

### **Music Technology or Production**

Skills-based programmes which use technology to explore many genres.

### **Composition or Singer-songwriter**

Skills-based programmes which use composition to explore many genres.

### **Foundational or Pre-instrumental**

Programmes that focused on introducing instruments, music appreciation, etc.

### **Wellbeing or Music Therapy**

Particularly programmes that focused on anxiety and sometimes performance anxiety.

### **Inclusive Music-Making**

Often programmes in certain special needs settings, where the goal of programming and activities was for all children to take part musically, rather than being a certain 'genre'.

### **Spoken Word**

For example, a focus on podcasting and radio production.

One-hundred and fifty-five (155) of the programmes reported having a single genre focus but most programmes 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.

### Pop

212 programmes

46.6% of programmes

### Traditional and Contemporary Irish

163 programmes

35.8% of programmes

### Rock

152 programmes

33.4% of programmes

### Classical

99 programmes

21.8% of programmes

### Folk

77 programmes

16.9% of programmes

### Modern or Contemporary Music

60 programmes

13.2% of programmes

### Hip-Hop, Rap, or Drill

50 programmes

11.0% of programmes

### Early Years or Children's Repertoire

46

10.1% of programmes

### Jazz

28

6.2% of programmes

### Country Music

27

5.9% of programmes

## What is taught

LMEP Areas reported 48 distinct types of activities taught on programmes. The vast majority of these were instrumental, but some taught more skills-based elements like conducting, performance, and ‘allied’ skills such as videography and podcasting. Others discussed the format of activities – for example, the focus of the programme was playing as an orchestra, or producing an opera or musical, or band jams and facilitation.

One-hundred and fifty-one (151) of the programmes reported having a single instrumental, technological or vocal focus (one programme teaching one thing). The remaining 299 programmes (66%) had a mix of elements, for example, multi-instrumental programmes. The table below shows the broad grouping of activities that are taught by the number of programmes and the proportion (%) of programmes that they are present on.

What is taught and programme activities	Number of Programmes	% of Programmes
Traditional Irish instruments	274	61%
Vocal and Singing	187	42%
Drums, Percussion and Hand Percussion	163	36%
Guitar	150	33%
Brass and Wind	134	30%
Music Technology, Recording, Production and Electronics	101	22%
Ukulele	97	22%
Strings	93	21%
Piano, Keyboards and Synths	80	20%
Composition, Singer-Songwriter and Improvisation	72	16%
Experiential	63	14%
Rock and Pop Instruments	61	14%
Playing as a group (ensembles, orchestras, band, sessions, gamelan, choirs, jams)	35	8%
Performance	19	4%
Musical Theatre, Opera, Video Production, Acting and Podcasting	8	2%
Conducting	1	less than 1%

## Unique Venues

Music Generation LMEP Areas reported using **1,162 unique venues** in 2022. This is an **increase of 31%** (890 unique venues used in 2021). The increase was expected, as activities continued to return to in-person programming and bricks-and-mortar centres, post-pandemic.

The proportion of venue types in use is comparable with previous years. Primary school settings account for the highest proportion of venues used, at 53.4%. Post-primary school settings are next at 11.4%, followed by youth centres at 6.5%.



**Music Generation Fingal**  
Phibblestown Community Centre

Music Generation LMEP Areas reported working in

**621 unique primary schools**

This represents 19% of all primary schools in the State.

Music Generation LMEP Areas reported working in

**133 unique secondary schools**

This represents 18% of all secondary schools in the State.

Music Generation also worked in

**20% of the special schools**

in the State.

## Workforce and Continuous Professional Development

### Workforce

505 Musician Educators actively delivered programmes in 2022. This is an increase of 36% compared to 2021.

The number increased due to the return to in-person programming in 2022 and increases in tuition and participation, which led to greater employment for Musician Educators.

Twenty-five MG LMEP Areas organised 421 visits from 177 guest professional musicians (or in some cases, ensembles).

Music Generation employed 38 Administrators and Resource Workers in 2022 (this includes three open vacancies reported at the end of 2022).



**Music Generation Wexford**  
Photo by DGM Photography

## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

In addition to the CPD organised by the National Development Office (NDO), **1,326.5 hours of CPD** were delivered to Musician Educators by the LMEP Areas. The most popular topics and focuses for training were:

**Specific Instrumental and Genre Training**

**Pedagogy**

**Team / MDO-led and Peer-Mentoring**

**Special Education Needs**

**Early Years**

Music Development Officers (MDOs) attended locally organised training in 21 of the 27 LMEP Areas (78% of LMEP Areas - up on 70% in 2021). Seventy (70) different CPD initiatives were attended by MDOs, with the most common type of training focused on Finance / Procurement, followed by Safeguarding (Children, Vulnerable Adults) and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).

Administrators and/or Resource Workers attended locally-organised training in 16 of the 27 LMEP Areas. Fifty-four (54) different CPD initiatives were attended by Administrators and/or Resource Workers. The most common type of training focused on Finance and Payment Systems, followed by Technology (for example, training on hardware, software applications, and Technology Enhanced Learning solutions). The broad area of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) was also common, for example five autism awareness and inclusion courses were attended.



**Creative Sounds**  
Photo by Brian Farrell



“I can’t describe it. Once you start you don’t want to stop. It’s an **amazing feeling**”

Cathal, Young Musician **Music Generation Kildare** speaking about performing

**Music Generation Kildare**  
**and Music Generation Meath**  
Photo by Dave Keegan





# Programme Highlights from Across the Country

**Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan**

Photo by Sandra McIntyre

## Carlow

Young traditional and folk musicians, composers and songwriters from [Music Generation Carlow](#) took part in the Atlantic Arc masterclass programme. The young musicians were led by an ensemble of renowned traditional musicians and singers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. They were directed by Dónal Lunny, one of Ireland's most accomplished performers, composers, and producers. The group were joined by young musicians from [Music Generation Laois](#) and performed original work together at the VISUAL Centre of Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre in Carlow.

[Find out more about the performance here.](#)

## Cavan/Monaghan

[Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan](#) launched a new mobile recording studio called An Ródaí.cm. The state-of-the-art studio has enabled Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan to reach a wider audience and create access to high-quality performance music education in rural areas. Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan gives learners the opportunity to record, mix, master and produce their own music, with support from expert technicians. The launch of An Ródaí.cm was marked by a special performance from young singers from Aughadreena National School who participated in the Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan Schools Vocal Programme.

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

## Clare

[Music Generation Clare](#) launched PIMA! Fest. PIMA! Fest is an inclusive and innovative participatory arts project that integrates communities and nurtures creative ambition. As part of the festival, young participants from Clare Youth Services took part in workshops where they explored electronic sound and visuals. Professional musician Jürgen Simpson and artist Mary Wycherley mentored the young music makers. They performed as part of a performance called “Clock”.

[Find out more about the workshops here.](#)

## Cork City

[Music Generation Cork City](#) marked its 10-year anniversary with a special concert at the Everyman Theatre. The event featured a variety of exciting performances, including a 10-year retrospective film created by a past participant of Music Generation, Seán Downey. The celebration also included a newly commissioned 10th Birthday Anthem entitled ‘Music Gives Me A Reason’. The song was collaboratively composed by Musician Educators and young songwriters and was performed by representatives from five of the area’s youth music programme partners. The concert was a fitting tribute to a decade of music-making by Music Generation Cork City.

[Watch the 10 Year Film here.](#)

## Dublin City

[Music Generation Dublin City](#) offered a unique workshop series titled “Music Club” in partnership with the National Concert Hall, The Ark, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Designed specifically for senior primary school groups, these interactive workshops gave programme participants the opportunity to explore a variety of musical genres. Participants could learn about Gamelan instruments and engage with professional musicians in a variety of arts and cultural settings.



**Music Generation Cork City**  
Photo by Claire Keogh

## Dún Laoghaire — Rathdown

[Music Generation dlr](#) launched a unique installation of outdoor musical instruments in three local parks in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. To celebrate the launch, young musicians from Music Generation dlr programmes took part in outdoor percussion performances with percussionist Sebastian Jezzi.

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

## Fingal

[Music Generation Fingal](#) began working in partnership with the Remember Us Special Needs Social Group in Balbriggan. They delivered an inclusive music program with the use of Soundbeam sensory technology. With this innovative technology, the young music makers were able to improvise, engage and create music on their own terms.

## Galway City

[Music Generation Galway City](#) led ‘Oscailte’, an open-mic event series for young people aged 14-18 years. The series was hosted in An Taibhdhearc National Irish Language Theatre and brought young musicians together for informal evenings of music and song. It also aimed to promote the Irish language among Galway’s youth.

## Galway County

[Music Generation Galway County](#) launched The Gaillimh Instrument Bank as part of Galway 2020 legacy drum programme ‘PULSE’. This initiative delivered county-wide percussion programmes and access to a large bank of percussion instruments. It aimed to connect local children, young people, and adults through music. The official launch was marked by young percussionists from a collaborative summer camp ‘CLG’ on the scenic Omey Beach along the Wild Atlantic Way.

[Watch the video here.](#)



**Music Generation Galway City**

Photo by Ciarán MacChoncarraige



## Kerry

[Music Generation Kerry](#) launched the Young Strings and Young Wind Ensembles. The new ensembles provided young musicians in rural Kerry performance and rehearsal opportunities. It marks the first steps to the development of the first Kerry Youth Orchestra. The launch was marked by a series of workshops with guest musicians in North and South Kerry. Highlights included a string workshop hosted by Music Network and facilitated by internationally renowned violist Jennifer Stumm. Young string players could also take part in summer performances with violinist Kenneth Rice from the Irish Chamber Orchestra and solo violinist Darragh Morgan at the Chamber Music on Valentia Festival.

**Music Generation Kilkenney**  
Photo by Carl Rochford

## Kildare and Meath

[Music Generation Kildare](#) and [Music Generation Meath](#) commissioned and produced a 'first-of-its kind' youth opera called 'Horse Ape Bird', in partnership with Irish National Opera. The young musicians worked alongside internationally recognised singers, orchestral players, conductors, and a full technical and staging crew. This allowed the young musicians to experience an exceptionally high artistic standard and professional production, from rehearsal right through to performance. The youth chorus had the opportunity to work directly with the 'Horse, Ape, Bird' composer David Coonan and writer Dylan Coburn Gray. [Read more about the project here.](#)

## Kilkenny

'Sing Out' was a hugely successful 6-week pilot choral programme led by [Music Generation Kilkenny](#) working in partnership with Kilkenny primary schools. Musician Educators worked on shared repertoire with the young singers across all the 'Sing Out' schools. The initiative culminated in a sold-out Christmas concert at St. Canice's Cathedral in the city featuring 200 young singers performing together for an audience of over 500 people. The pilot was a launching pad for the development of the first ever Kilkenny Youth Choir.

## Laois

[Music Generation Laois](#) hosted 'Tionól'. This annual event is the world's only festival for harp and pipes and celebrates these traditional instruments through dedicated music workshops and performances. Over 100 young harpers and pipers from Music Generation LMEP Areas across Ireland came together for three days of learning, performing, and creating new friendships. Áine McGreevy, Michael Rooney, and many other guest musicians delivered workshops and performances which inspired the young musicians.

[Find out more about Tionól here.](#)

## Leitrim

In 2022, Shannon Voices - Vocal Ensemble was launched as a partnership initiative between [Music Generation Leitrim](#) and [Music Generation Roscommon](#), in association with Sing Ireland. Schools involved in Music Generation Leitrim's vocal programmes were invited to take part in Sing Ireland's 'Sing Space' at Technological University of the Shannon (Athlone). These young singers were subsequently offered the opportunity to join Shannon Voices. The young choir was mentored by Alan Leech, one of Ireland's leading tenors and former conductor with the RTÉ Philharmonic Choir. Their premiere performance took place locally under his baton.

[Read more about the performance.](#)

## Limerick City

[Music Generation Limerick City](#) hosted a one-day improvisation workshop with over 100 young musicians from Music Generation programmes in Limerick City, Limerick County, Cork City, Clare, Laois, and Waterford. The event took place at the World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick and was supported by Musician Educators from each area. The aim of the workshop was collaboration based on three simple themes - Listen, Connect, Adapt. The participants came from backgrounds in a range of styles including traditional Irish, jazz, classical, folk, rock, pop, and hip-hop. Each participant was encouraged to collaborate to create free, experimental, and meaningful music.



**Music Generation Laois**  
Tionól Harp & Pipes



“I think today is really fun  
and shows how **music can**  
**be created in different ways”**

Katie, Young Musician, **Music Generation Limerick City**

## Limerick County

[Music Generation Limerick County](#) launched a creative hub with Foróige West Limerick Creative Learning Hub, with a group of LGBTQI+ young people. The programme aims to create an inclusive space and encourage participants to write music and make podcasts. The participants are supported by local Musician Educators who work as both advocates and mentors for the young people. The young musicians closed 2022 by leading their own busking session in Newcastle West.

## Longford

[Music Generation Longford](#) and Longford Youth Service supported a group of young musicians from the Longford Roma community to produce and release their first EP titled “INFINITY”. Going by the name “Galaxy Band”, the young musicians worked with the Musician Educators to plan, rehearse, and record the EP in Music Generation Longford’s mobile recording studio. Galaxy Band play a fusion of traditional Roma music with western music styles. Their four-track EP covers three popular Eastern European songs and a unique twist on Stevie Wonder’s “I Just Called to Say I Love You”. The EP was launched in Longford Youth Services as part of Culture Night on September 23rd.

## Louth

[Music Generation Louth](#) led a series of partnerships with professional musicians across 2022. In partnership with Create Louth, Music Generation Louth led three concerts giving 216 children and young people from seven rural communities an opportunity to participate and experience live performances. These were led by high-profile professional musicians including Zoe Conway, John McIntyre, and the Glas Quartet. Other collaborations with professional artists included the premiere performance at Drogheda Arts Festival of Causeway by Nós Nua Folk Orchestra with Glasgow-based concertina player Mohsin Amini.



**Music Generation Longford**  
Photo by Greig Berry

## Mayo

In celebration of the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, [Music Generation Mayo](#) hosted the #youngmusiciansofmayo event to reignite the performance spirit. It featured performers from Céilí Ukulele, the Music Generation Mayo Harp Ensemble, and Uilleann Pipers. The sold-out event in the Royal Theatre, Castlebar also received over 4,500 digital views.

[Watch Music Generation Mayo live at the Royal Theatre here.](#)

## Offaly/Westmeath

[Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath](#) hosted the 'Big Sing' at Belvedere House and Gardens. This two-day event included more than 450 primary school children from ten schools across Westmeath and Offaly. The festival aimed to create a platform for young musicians to develop their confidence and lay the foundations for a lifelong love of singing. The event included workshops for young singers and live performances.

## Roscommon

Senior Youth Voices of [Music Generation Roscommon](#) attended the [Creative Connexions Music Festival](#) in Sitges, Spain. The twelve-member choir attended masterclasses throughout the visit with professional vocalist Simon Morgan. The choir took part in both a flash mob performance in Sitges town centre and a main stage performance.

## Sligo

[Music Generation Sligo](#) relaunched 'Musical Horizons' summer camp. Programme participants took part in instrumental tuition and ensembles which included jazz bands, choirs and classical orchestras. Young musicians could take part in sessions about songwriting, dance, and media. Over 160 children and young people up to the age of 18 participated. The week ended with a large concert attended by families and friends.

**Music Generation Sligo**  
Photo by Brian Farrell





## South Dublin

[Music Generation South Dublin](#), in partnership with NOISE Music, led NOISE Music in the Big Picture – a programme dedicated to girls, young women, and those who identify as gender non-binary aged 14-17. The programme focused on empowering the participants through writing and recording new music with support from a team of female DJs, producers, songwriters, and performers. Throughout summer 2022 the young musicians wrote and recorded music which was presented through performances and a live DJ set on Culture Night.

[Watch more about their experience and performance here.](#)

## Tipperary

31 young people from across Tipperary worked on specially commissioned arrangements of traditional and newly composed pieces over the course of 3 full days of workshops, with Zoe Conway and John McIntyre, supported by Musician Educators from the [Music Generation Tipperary](#) Team. This culminated in a special performance of these pieces at The Source Arts Centre in Thurles, along with special performances by Zoe and John, as well as some of the young people in attendance themselves.



**Music Generation Tipperary**  
Photo by Maurice Gunning

## Waterford

The young musicians of [Music Generation Waterford](#) collaborated to produce 'Draíocht Phort Láirge', a suite of 12 newly composed tunes by Nóra Byrne Kavanagh. A 70+ piece trad-fusion orchestra of young musicians from trad, jazz, popular, and classical backgrounds worked with local Musician Educators to arrange, rehearse, and perform the suite. The aim of the special project was to connect the participants together musically and give them an opportunity to play with other instruments they would not typically perform with. The suite was premiered as part of the Imagine Arts Festival 2022 programme.

[Watch 'The Making of Draíocht Phort Láirge' here.](#)

## Wexford

[Music Generation Wexford](#) began Youth Opera Workshops in partnership with Wexford Youth Opera. Young people aged between 10 and 18 explored songwriting and worked collaboratively to create new songs. Each musician was encouraged to express their musical tastes and creativity. The programme aims to develop creative confidence and sessions include community theatre, songwriting, poetry, and vocals. The participants will continue to meet monthly in 2023 to gather ideas and produce new music which will culminate in the production of a new Opera.

## Wicklow

[Music Generation Wicklow](#) relaunched its Recording and Mentorship Programme which ran for the first-time post-pandemic. The programme offered support to up and coming young composers/singer-songwriters from across Wicklow. The young musicians were mentored to bring their music to a high standard for recording. A final professional video and recording were created for each participant to help the young musicians progress their music career and promote themselves as up-and-coming songwriters/composers.



**Music Generation Waterford**  
Photo by DGM Photography



# Young Ambassador Opportunities and National Cultural Events

The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference

Photo by Aengus McMahon

Each year, young musicians from Music Generation programmes from across the country are invited to bring their music to national and international audiences.

Music Generation works closely with funders, donors, and partners to **create** these **memorable performance** opportunities.

## Summoning a Harp Revival March

One-hundred-and-eighty (180) Young Ambassadors shared their take on traditional Irish music to an international audience at St. Patrick's Festival 2022. The young musicians came together from Music Generation LMEP Areas including Laois, Louth, Mayo, and Cork City to create and produce a programme which celebrated Ireland's national emblem — the harp.

[Read more about their experience at St. Patrick's Festival.](#)



**The Music Generation Harp Collective at St Patrick's Festival**

Photo by Dave Keegan

## Bank of America Board March

Members of the Music Generation Laois Trad orchestra performed at the No. 25 Fitzwilliam Place for the Bank of America Board. These Young Ambassadors were invited to perform in celebration of Bank of America's partnership with Music Generation.



## The Ireland Funds' Worldwide Conference June

Thirty-three Young Ambassadors from the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra and Music Generation Waterford Traditional Ensembles collaborated to perform at the opening of The Ireland Funds' Worldwide Conference 2022. The young musicians performed for special guests including U2's Adam Clayton and Minister for Education Norma Foley. They closed the event with a spectacular collaborative performance with Irish musician Sharon Shannon.

[Read more about their experience at The Ireland Funds Worldwide conference.](#)

**The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference**

Photo by Aengus McMahon

## Music Generation celebrates Cruinniú na nÓg June

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. In 2022, over 45 dedicated musical activities took place in Music Generation LMEP Areas. Here are some examples:

### Music Generation Cavan/ Monaghan

Young songwriters from Patrician High School, Carrickmacross composed, arranged, and recorded two original songs in the lead-up to the national celebration. With the support of Musician Educators, the young musicians produced their own music videos and premiered the music for Cruinniú na nÓg at Íontas Theatre, Castleblaney.

### Music Generation Cork City

hosted 'Rock the Block' at the Kabin Studio. This included a full day of music making led by GMC Beats, The Kabin Studio, and Creative Tradition. Young musicians took part in rap workshops, podcast sessions, and traditional music performances.

### Music Generation Sligo

delivered creative sessions in local libraries across the county. Young participants took part in conducting sessions and could try instruments including cello, violin, guitar, keyboard, harp, mandolin, drums and percussion.

## Music Generation celebrates 'One Night for All' at Culture Night September

Music Generation celebrated Culture Night 2022 with local communities across the country. The annual, all-island cultural evening celebrates the richness and diversity of culture in Ireland today. Here is a flavour of what took place:

### Music Generation Leitrim

hosted an intergenerational ukulele workshop at the Island Theatre in Ballinamore. Children, parents, and grandparents learned to play ukulele together and sing songs in an inclusive and relaxed environment.

### Music Generation Limerick City

hosted a gig night at Bedford Row which showcased bands and collaborations, led by programme participants from its Limerick Voices project.

### Music Generation Waterford

Young Brass players took over The Viking Triangle and treated the local community to performances as part of Big Bands of Waterford.

[Read more about Culture Night at Music Generation.](#)

## Music Generation Waterford perform at The Ireland Funds Monaco 2022 Weekend Celebrations October

Five young musicians from Music Generation Waterford, in collaboration with their tutors and guest musician Áine McGeeney, gave an exceptional performance at the 2022 Ireland Funds Gala celebrations in Monaco attended by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II. The musical collaboration involved a premiere performance of three original Irish traditional compositions with a contemporary fusion.

## Beyond Limits – Ombudsman for Children’s Office October

Music Generation Young Ambassadors took to the stage with inspiring performances at the Ombudsman for Children’s Office 2022 Beyond Limits. Beyond Limits is an event series hosted by the Ombudsman for Children’s Office empowering children and young people with disabilities, showing them the opportunities open to them, talking about the issues they want to talk about, and highlighting inclusiveness.

[Read more about Beyond Limits here.](#)



Music Generation Sligo at Ombudsman for Children’s Office Beyond Limits Sligo

Photo by Carl Brennan

## European Congress on Global Education 2050 November

Young Ambassadors from [Music Generation Waterford](#) performed at the European Congress on Global Education 2050 in Dublin Castle. This milestone event was attended by the network of Ministries and Agencies who are nationally responsible for global education in European countries and was live streamed to a global audience. [Watch part of the performance on Twitter here.](#)

## Department of Education hosts Standing International Conference of Inspectorates General Assembly November

Young Ambassadors from [Music Generation Kildare](#), [Music Generation Meath](#), and [Music Generation Louth](#) performed at the SICI - Standing International Conference of Inspectorates at Dunboyne Castle. Young singers from Music Generation Meath and Music Generation Kildare performed an excerpt from their youth opera, Horse Ape Bird. Young harpers from Music Generation Louth performed two pieces by Irish composers. [Watch part of the performance here.](#)

**Music Generation Wicklow**  
Young Ambassador Performance

## Bank of America's National Celebration of Partnership December

Young musician Joseph Ryder from Music Generation Wicklow performed his original music at Bank of America's National Celebration of partnership. [See photos of Joseph's performance here.](#)

## Department of Education launch of Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying December

Young Musicians from [Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath](#)'s Mullingar Music Jam performed and recorded Duke Special's Freewheel as the soundtrack to the Department of Education's [Anti-Bullying campaign video.](#)



# Strategic Goals

In 2022, Music Generation published Transforming Young Lives Through Music.

This plan charts the future direction of Music Generation for the next five years and continues 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.**

QSD is the name given to the Quality, Support and Development team of the NDO. The purpose of QSD is to lead on quality development and to support LMEPs to deliver their programmes to the best possible quality. In 2022 the QSD team began to write a new Quality Strategy for the years 2023-2026 with the input of MDOs. The team looked at findings from internal reviews, feedback on Quality Framework processes, and network planning and development, to guide the new Strategy. A first draft was written by the end of the year.

The big idea behind the work of the team is to “**develop and articulate a stronger shared understanding of our philosophy and approach to performance music education and share learning across the network**”<sup>1</sup>. This will be developed further in 2023 as part of the new Quality Strategy.

As part of our previous Quality Strategy 2019-2021, a Quality Framework was developed through collaboration between the NDO and MDOs. The Quality Framework is influenced by how quality is currently understood in the field of arts and music education. The purpose of the Framework is to deliver the best possible quality of opportunities for children and young people involved in Music Generation.



**Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath**

Photo by John McCauley

Four LMEP Areas (Louth, Tipperary, Meath, and Longford) took part in Planning for Quality training and implementation in 2022. This training involved the full team of MDOs, Musician Educators, Resource Workers, and Administrators. They took part in monthly meetings, online and in-person, with members of the QSD team. These meetings focussed on how Quality Framework parameters can become central to all aspects of the programme.

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

All other LMEP Areas finished a round of Quality Framework Reviews in April 2022. We have learned that the Quality Framework will take time to become part of the day-to-day work of LMEPs. Based on this learning, we will run 'Planning for Quality' workshops with LMEP Area teams in 2023 to encourage the use of the Quality Framework in local planning.

Music Generation NDO began Communities of Practice for Musician Educators in 2020. These groups aimed to:

**Stimulate ambition and excellence in performance music education**

**Enable best practice**

**Provide a forum for musician-led information sharing**

The Communities of Practice were designed to help Musician Educators share knowledge, engage in reflective practice, and develop quality in their pedagogy and approaches.

Six Communities of Practice ran during the academic year 2021-2022 and 128 Musician Educators attended these. At the end of the year, the QSD team gathered feedback from the musicians who took part to learn what worked well and to understand how we can learn from the Communities of Practice. This learning, along with learning from the Quality Framework implementation, is informing the new Quality Strategy 2023-2026.

**Brass and Woodwind Communities of Practice**  
Photo by Dave Keegan



## 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 that NDO collaborates with local and national partners is through a dedicated fund for creativity and collaboration, developed in partnership with the Arts Council. The Creativity and Collaboration Fund (CCF) supports national, regional, and local projects. These projects give children, young people, and musicians the chance to come together musically in addition to their ongoing programmes of music making and learning. The NDO held two rounds of funding in 2022 and ten projects were awarded funding.

Many CCF projects build on the success of previously funded projects and projects that involve several LMEP Areas to give children and young people national opportunities to make music together.

All CCF projects deliver on the objectives of the NDO Strategic Plan - to collaborate with local partners, to inspire and create artistic and pedagogically-excellent opportunities, and to strengthen the learning networks through the facilitation of partnerships between LMEP Areas and the NDO.



### Creative Sounds

Photo by Kenneth Browne

The CCF funded projects in two main categories (though these categories often overlap):

**Developmental** projects that focus on creative music making by children and young people (with diverse performance opportunities incorporated) – for instance, projects like Throwing More Shapes (Cork City), Limerick Voices (Limerick City), TY Trax with AE MAK, and Nós Nua (both Louth), Creative Sounds (4 LMEP Areas and Music Network), and NOISE 2 (South Dublin).

**Performance** projects that give children and young people the platform to build their skills and confidence alongside professional musicians – for instance, projects like Travelling Summer Sound Circus (Limerick City) and Summer School of Rock and Pop (Laois).

## 2022 CCF Projects

### Throwing More Shapes

In 2020, the CCF funded the Throwing Shapes project in Cork City. It is a music film directed by Rosie Barrett and produced by Music Generation Cork City, The Kabin Studio, Graffiti Theatre, and Cork Midsummer Festival. The film features a group of young rappers and musicians attending the Kabin Studio, Knocknaheeny and is a mesmerising portrait of youth transformation through music making.

In 2022, the CCF funded Throwing More Shapes, an extension project that uses the original film as a springboard for workshops led by the young artists who were the featured participants at the time of the original project. These emerging young artists are mentored by The Kabin Studio team and lead workshops in schools and youth programmes in new communities.

### TY Trax

TY Trax in County Louth has been running for several years with transition year students. In 2022, the CCF funded the highly successful, Dundalk-based pop artist Æ MAK to lead workshops that inspire students to create music and express themselves with confidence – especially female musicians.

These workshops (and final showcase) create a bridge from TY Trax being an in-school activity to an after-school activity.

### Nós Nua

To continue to successfully engage children and young people in making and learning music, Music Generation Louth is developing their ensembles. The Nós Nua project has tapped into a need for original creative music-making opportunities for young instrumentalists in different genres.

In 2022 the ensemble was funded to create a professional studio recording of Causeway, which was created in a previous CCF project. Causeway is a collaborative composition led by Scottish composer / musician Mohsen Amini. This project gives Nós Nua members a chance to work creatively with several composers/musicians to create new repertoire.

### Contemporary creative music-making in urban settings: Limerick Voices and NOISE 2

Both Limerick Voices (Music Generation Limerick City) and NOISE 2 (Music Generation South Dublin) facilitate contemporary, creative music making in urban settings. Their activities include a dedicated hub in Limerick, and a variety of partnerships with youth and community partners in Tallaght and Clondalkin. These projects provide support for young people to develop their own voices, with the support of professional musicians from pop, rock, hip hop, and DJ scenes. Limerick Voices celebrates 10 years in 2023 and will celebrate its achievements with dedicated workshops during the 2022/23 academic year, funded by the CCF.

## Singfest

Singfest in Offaly and Westmeath provides young children with accessible, inclusive pathways into choral and group singing taking place in schools, in community-based children's choirs, and culminating in a Big Sing each year. Over 500 children took part in 2022.

## Creative Sounds

Creative Sounds was a collaboration between four LMEP Areas (Roscommon, Longford, Cavan/Monaghan, and Leitrim) and Music Network, with significant project support from QSD. The project aimed to create an ensemble through which children, young people, and Musician Educators would experience creative music-making. The project would lead to the creation of new music, enhance performance, improvisation and composition skills, and leave a legacy of leadership for the Musician Educators. Fifty young musicians took part in the project, culminating in a performance of their newly created music alongside professional visiting musicians and local Musician Educators from each area.

## The Irish Concertina Orchestra

The Irish Concertina Orchestra operates a similar ensemble approach to Singfest and Creative Sounds. The group invite guest musicians to work as collaborators and compose new arrangements and compositions for the ensemble. Forty-five young concertina players performed the pieces along with professional musicians that included the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

## Summer School of Rock and Pop

This project gave children and young people the chance to take part in summer schools in traditional Irish, rock, pop, and rap genres. The schools offered vocal and instrumental tuition (harp, pipes, concertina, traditional flute, fiddle, tin whistle, bodhrán, guitar, drum kit, keyboard, and bass guitar). 'The School' also gave children and young people the opportunity to record music, film music videos, and perform. LMEP Areas nationwide were invited to attend these performances.

## Travelling Summer Sounds Circus

This project delivered a series of one-day events. These included pop-up gigs and partnerships with festivals and events across the Mid-West Shannon region. It provided performance opportunities for children and young people across all genres of music and in unique settings, including the Cliffs of Moher in Clare, the Peoples' Park in Limerick City, and Lough Gur in County Limerick. It ran as a partnership between Music Generations Limerick City, Limerick County, and Clare and increased the visibility of Music Generation in the region.

# Objective 3

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

The effective management of a high-quality performance music education programme is a highly skilled job. The Performance Music Education Management (PMEM) programme assisted MDOs to learn and grow in their role, helping them to strategically develop their LMEP programme. The training included topics like strategic planning, team development, effective leadership, and diversity in performance music education. Eight MDOs attended the training during the academic year 2021-2022.

Action Learning Sets were also held for MDOs in the academic year. These provided MDOs with a chance to practically problem solve together. Each month, the group met to work on scenarios relating to challenges in programming, management, and so on.

Network meetings took place every two months throughout 2022 for MDOs. The meetings took place regionally and nationally and, after a break of two years due to Covid-19, we were finally able to meet in-person. In June 2022, 24 MDOs and six members of the NDO staff met for a residential gathering of professional development sessions, and network meetings.



**Irish Concertina Orchestra**

Photo by Paul Corey

Three Administrator and Resource Workers network meetings were also held between January and June 2022 and were facilitated by the NDO's Administration Officer. A survey of Administrators and Resources Workers was completed towards the end of the year to help create a Network Strategy for 2023.

In 2022, the NDO also completed a re-design of the 2023 LMEP workplan template to gather data on learning network needs. This information, as well as the learning from PMEM, Action Learning Sets and network meetings, will be used to guide new opportunities for training, development, and CPD under the Quality Strategy 2023-2026.

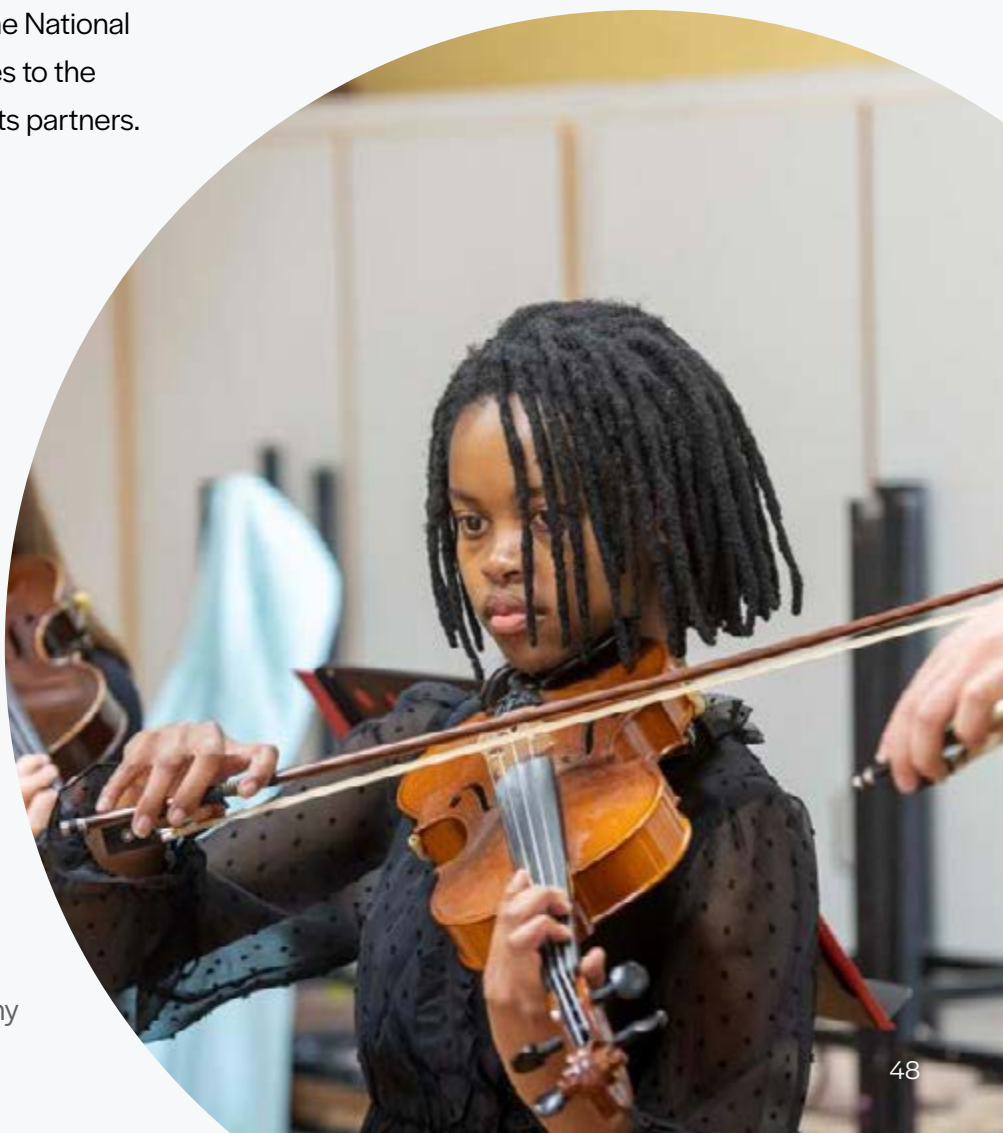
## Sustainability

**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.

The Department of Education is conducting a Value for Money Review of Music Generation. Once this has been completed, we will revisit the original aims of Music Generation that were outlined in the 2003 [Music Network Feasibility Study](#). We will examine the strengths of the model, the role of the National Development Office, and how this relates to the continued work of the NDO, along with its partners.



### Music Generation Kerry

Photo by Dominick Walshe Photography



## Objective 5

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

As part of our work, Music Generation maintains close relationships with our partners and funders. In 2022, we maintained regular engagement with U2 and The Ireland Funds through structured reporting and strategic checkpoint meetings. Along with this engagement, Music Generation's Young Ambassadors performed for U2, The Ireland Funds, the Minister for Education, and Bank of America at various [events](#).

The NDO met regularly with the Department of Education, delivered structured reporting, and complied with the 2022 performance delivery agreement. We also attended the annual meeting with the Department of Education Committee for Non-Mainstream Music Education in late 2022.

We continued to develop our partnership with the Arts Council who co-fund our Creativity and Collaboration Fund. We have had two phases of partnership to date with the second being slightly extended due to the pandemic. In 2022, it was decided that we would carry out an independent evaluation of this partnership and a tender was launched in collaboration with the Arts Council.



**The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference**

Photo by Aengus McMahon

An evaluator has been appointed and this report will be completed in 2023. We also continued our engagement with Creative Ireland through participation in stakeholder consultation for the 2023 – 2027 Creative Youth Plan and continued to work towards Music Generation's national expansion as part of the Creative Youth 2017 – 2022 plan.

# Objective 6

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

In collaboration with ETBs, the NDO continues to review the Music Generation workforce resourcing. We aim to understand how staff capacity and human resources can support the sustainability and quality of the delivery of local programmes.



**Music Generation Waterford**  
Young Ambassador Performance

## Objective 7

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

In 2022, the NDO was staffed by an 11-member team across Finance, Communications, Operations, and Quality, Support and Development. We continued to support and develop expertise within our team by providing ongoing CPD and training opportunities with 1% of NDO staff costs invested in 2022.

We also continued to improve our processes, like our financial systems, Creativity and Collaboration Fund processes, workplan, and statistical reporting. We continue to review and refine these processes and will examine the results of these changes to keep improving how we do things in 2023 and beyond.

**Music Generation Carlow**  
Photo by DGM Photography



## 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 Strategy was created to support Music Generation's Advocacy Goal and continue to raise awareness for Music Generation's mission. The Strategy focuses on involving children and young people in our storytelling and developing Music Generation's brand identity to increase audience engagement. Key elements of the strategy include

- **Using our digital channels** to empower children and young people, giving them a space to share their Music Generation experiences and stories.
- **Continuing to create memorable and inspiring experiences** and musical opportunities for children and young people.
- **Developing and enhancing Music Generation's national brand identity** and our digital communications.
  - We completed a project to **give LMEP Areas access to easy-to-use design and visual templates** which will support digital communications in each Music Generation programme.
  - We **increased our website traffic** by 14% and our social media followers by 26% in 2022.



**St Patrick's Festival**

Photo by Dave Keegan

We continued to tell our story to key stakeholders and audiences through video documentation, reports, and performances. The NDO also coordinated [Young Ambassadors](#) performances with children and young people in 2022.

We continued to promote local performances throughout the year through email and promotional campaigns, videos, social media, and interviews with children and young people.

# 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.

In 2022, we began a review of children and young people's participation. We wish to learn more about the best ways to give children and young people a chance to use their voice and influence the work of Music Generation.

This included the coordination of child and young person-led content creation and digital storytelling as well as the performance opportunities with national and international partners mentioned above. Music Generation also continued to foster relationships with key advocates in the sector, like the Ombudsman for Children's Office and the Children's Rights Alliance.

Music Generation intends to hold a national celebration in 2024. We will celebrate our achievements in creating, growing, and sustaining access to performance music education for children and young people across Ireland.

The NDO formed the Music Generation National Celebration Advisory Working Group with LMEP and MDO representatives. A Terms of Reference was developed, and the first meeting was held in 2022.

**Music Generation Waterford**  
Photos by DGM Photography



# Objective 10

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

Music Generation expects to curate and commission new research with a range of sectoral and third level partners. However, as the Quality Strategy is still in development, specific research actions will be decided once this is finalised (from 2023).

## Music Generation Kilkenny

Photo by Carl Rochford





Music Generation Louth/IAYO's  
26th Festival Of Youth Orchestras  
Photo by Marc O'Sullivan

# 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 2022** were:

### Leo Blennerhassett

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

### Joe Cunningham

Chief Executive of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (From February 2022)

### 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 (until February 2022)

### John Kelly

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

### Deirdre McCrea

Independent Arts Consultant and former CEO of Music Network

### Mel Mercier

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

### 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

### 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's **National Development Office staff in 2022** were:

### Anita Butler

Finance and Administration Officer

### Mairéad Duffy

LMEP Support Manager

### Cathriona Grange

Operations Manager

### Helen Grant

Finance Manager

### Paul Markey

Administration Officer

### Stephen McFarlane

LMEP Support Manager  
(from March 2022)

### Rosaleen Molloy

National Director

### Rebecca Murphy

Communications and Marketing Officer

### Margaret O'Sullivan

Head of Quality, Support and Development  
(from May 2022)

### Paula Phelan

Head of Quality, Support and Development  
(until February 2022)

### Aoife Ruth

Reporting and Analysis Manager

### Helen Shyne

Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager



# Governance

**Creative Sounds**  
Photo by Brian Farrell

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

**Operates in an open and transparent manner**

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

**Complies with its statutory and legal responsibilities**

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.

**Music Generation South Dublin/  
NOISE Music**

Photo by Barbara Flynn



## Frequency of Board and Committee Meetings

Board Meetings are held six to eight 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.



Music Generation dlr  
Photo by Peter Cavanagh



# Financials

## Old Fort Quarter Youth Music Festival

Photo by Alf Harvey

## Summary of 2022 Figures

Music Generation DAC's **total income for 2022** was **€6,263,604**.

Core funding of €37,871 was received from The Ireland Funds and €6,065,000 was received from the Exchequer through the Department of Education.

Music Generation also received €141,584 through its partnership with the Arts Council.

Other income of €19,149 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 €6,418,875 raised by Lead Partners in 2022, €1,169,650 was provided as Support-in-Kind. This recognises the significant contribution by each LMEP Area towards office accommodation, overheads, and administration staff required to support Music Generation programmes.

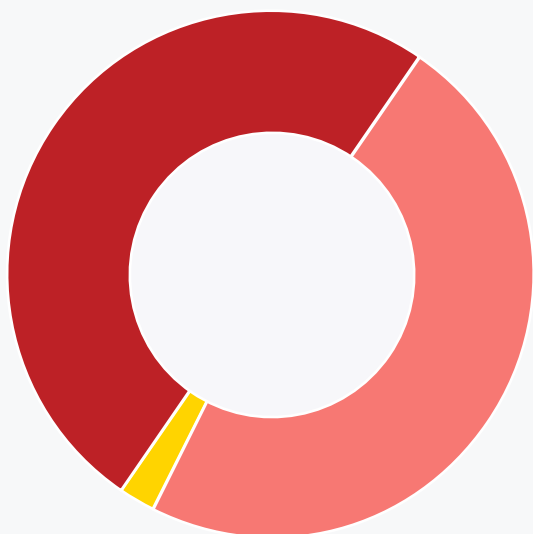


Music Generation Louth  
Photo by Jenny Callanan

### Total income for Music Generation programmes

**50%**

Local Music Education Partnerships



**2%**

The Arts Council  
U2 and The Ireland Funds  
Other

**48%**

Department of Education

### Total expenditure for Music Generation programmes



**94%**

Programme Services

**6%**

National Development  
Office running costs

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Membership and Attendance at Board Meetings

	Jan 06	Feb 28	Apr 26	May 27	Jul 01	Sep 27	Nov 01	Dec 13
<b>Leo Blennerhassett</b>	●		●		●	●	●	●
<b>Pat Burke</b>	●	●				●		
<b>Joe Cunningham</b>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Anna Marie Delaney</b>		●		●	●	●	●	●
<b>Martin Drury</b>	●	●						
<b>John Kelly</b>	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
<b>Deirdre McCrea</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Mel Mercier</b>		●	●	●				
<b>James Morris</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Chantal O'Sullivan</b>	●		●		●	●		

## Appendix B

### Directors' Fees and Expenses Paid to Board Members in 2022

No Directors' fees or expenses were paid to Board Members in 2022



## Appendix C

### Local Areas Involved in Featured Programmes and events

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#### Creative Sounds

Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan

Music Generation Leitrim

Music Generation Longford

Music Generation Roscommon

#### Irish Concertina Orchestra

Music Generation Clare

#### Old Fort Quarter Youth Music Festival

Music Generation Laois (host)

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath

Music Generation Roscommon

Music Generation Sligo

Music Generation South Dublin

Music Generation Waterford

#### St Patrick's Festival

Music Generation Cork City and The Kabin Studio

Music Generation Laois

Music Generation Louth

Music Generation Mayo

#### The Ireland Funds Worldwide Conference

Music Generation Laois

Music Generation Waterford



## 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

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Charity Registration Number: RCN 20077426.