



Ireland's National Music Education Programme  
A Music Network initiative, co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds,  
The Department of Education and Skills  
and Local Music Education Partnerships

# CONTINUING ON A HIGH NOTE





## Last September

Music Generation announced the nine new areas of Ireland selected for participation in its second phase – a significant growth initiative enabled through the combined philanthropic support of U2, Bank of America and The Ireland Funds.



Within just months pilot programmes are already up and running in five of those areas, creating fresh opportunities for hundreds more children and young people to access quality music tuition in their local communities.

From a major six-county regional strings youth orchestra in the west, to whole-class singing programmes for participants in the south east, more and more music is catching on the breeze across the four corners of Ireland.

*'Symphonic Waves [an initiative of Music Generation Galway County in partnership with Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture] will be a wonderful asset, not just to the young musicians of Galway County and City, but to the wider regional community, and the generations to come...'*

*—Hannah Kiely, Chief Executive of Galway 2020*





## MY MUSIC GENERATION JOURNEY...

'Music Gen to us was a stepping stone, an opening to a whole different world, because where we were from there was no 'joining groups', unless it was violence. There was no community centre, there was nothing like that. So when we met the lads at Music Gen and saw that people are coming together to create music, and they like it – they actually love it – and they're asking if we want to come back and record stuff and you're given those opportunities, that's beautiful. That's everything for someone who has nothing.'

– *Hazey Haze (Limerick City musician)*

"... thanks so much to you all for giving Conor time, understanding, but most of all confidence, I didn't recognise the person he has become until yesterday, never once have I seen Conor chat to other teenagers like that, laugh and smile... I was so happy with his performance yesterday – but mostly happy with his interaction with those around him – which is nothing short of a miracle..."

– *Parent, South Dublin*

## MUSIC GENERATION AT THE IRELAND FUNDS CONFERENCE 2018

Earlier this summer Music Generation was honoured to play a small part in the great success of The Ireland Funds Conference 2018. On Wednesday evening, delegates received a fitting fanfare performed by a New Orleans-style ensemble of young brass musicians from Music Generation Cork City and Cork's Barrack Street Band.

The following morning, Music Generation Limerick City was thrilled to welcome delegates to its Creative Centre for a morning rich in music and song. Taking a tour through the Centre, delegates experienced youth music-making first hand and saw creativity come to life between

young rappers, songwriters, rock bands and Limerick City musicians-mentors.

Among those playing at the Centre were sixth class students from Corpus Christi National School, Moyross, who performed their own original song about 'turning tears into laughter' through music. They were joined by recent Music Generation 'graduates' and rappers SameD4nce, who spoke passionately about the power of music in bringing together divided communities and supporting young people even in the most challenging social circumstances.

- **48,500** opportunities for children and young people to engage in music tuition
- **400** employment opportunities, mainly for musicians
- Tuition in **800** centres across **11** tuition contexts
- **12** Instrument Banks
- Delivery of **58,500** tuition hours
- **150** different programmes offered across all genres of music
- **8,100** musical instruments for young musicians



## MUSICIANS ASSEMBLE

On Friday, 23 May 2018 more than 100 representatives from 17 programme areas assembled in Dublin City University (DCU) to take part in Music Generation's inaugural 'National Musicians' Day'.

A milestone moment on Music Generation's journey, this event marked the first ever meeting en masse of the extraordinary tutors that make music education happen for the children and young people with whom they work.

The day, which was designed in close collaboration with the musicians, sought to create opportunities for them to make new connections, share knowledge, reflect on their work, gain inspiration from colleagues, gather fresh perspectives and new ideas to energise their practice in the year ahead.

Keynote speaker, musician and composer Bill Whelan, spoke to delegates about their vital role as Music Generation musicians in inspiring and educating our next musical generation:

When, at the beginning, Bono expressed U2's aspiration he said that what they wanted to do was "really simple. We just want to make sure that everyone, whatever their background, gets access to music tuition." All of you sitting here today are not alone gifted musicians and performers in your own right, but you are also the hands-on executors of that "simple" idea...

Currently Music Generation creates some 400 employment opportunities for professional musicians in 17 counties who each week engage in transformational music-making with tens of thousands of children and young people throughout Ireland.

## BUILDING ON PARTNERSHIP

In November 2017 the Arts Council of Ireland announced the renewal of its enormously successful partnership with Music Generation, including an investment of €530,000 over three years, to 2020.

The Music Generation/Arts Council Partnership was initiated in 2013 to create opportunities for children and young people to engage with world-class musicians and bring new dimensions to existing local programmes. Projects funded through the partnership's first phase ranged from a major choral residency for 4,000 young singers in Ireland's midlands, to an outdoor, all-ages brass and percussion

extravaganza in Cork City, to a creative music-making programme for budding bands and song-writers in Donegal.

To date, the Partnership has enabled the delivery of 23 diverse residencies and projects in 12 areas of Ireland, involving participation by some 3,500 children and young people, working alongside 190 creative and performing musicians, producers, sound artists and poets.

We look forward to seeing and hearing what wonderful musical possibilities will be realised with support through the Partnership during its next exciting phase!