



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

MORE MILESTONES  
FOR IRELAND'S  
NATIONAL MUSIC  
EDUCATION PROGRAM:

**KERRY  
KILDARE  
LONGFORD  
MEATH  
TIPPERARY**



Photo: Brian Farrell

## MUSIC GENERATION REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE MOMENT

in May of 2019 when it announced its latest phase of expansion, opening the door to a brighter musical future for thousands more children and young people in five further counties: Kerry, Kildare, Longford, Meath and Tipperary.

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As part of Music Generation, each of the new areas will receive funding to create local access to affordable music tuition for their next musical generations, while also creating employment opportunities for professional musicians living within those communities.

Building on the first two philanthropically funded phases of Music Generation, which established the program in 20 areas between 2010 and 2017, this latest significant step will, for the first time, see the five newly-announced partnerships co-funded from the outset by the Irish Government, through the Department of Education and Skills.

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*“Every milestone reached on this journey is a source of great pride for the band as well as everyone who has worked so hard to make it happen. With this latest announcement, the finish line is firmly in sight and our dream of an accessible music education for every young person in Ireland is getting ever closer. We are beyond excited.”*

—The Edge, U2

## MUSIC GENERATION

This follows the landmark commitment made by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, T.D. in December 2017, to support full nationwide roll-out of Music Generation to all remaining cities and counties by 2022, as part of the Creative Ireland Programme plan.

This is a hugely important moment for Music Generation, and evidence of what truly revolutionary, long-lasting achievements can be gained through strategic partnership-working between philanthropy, Government and local partners.

The original €7m donation from U2 and The Ireland Funds that established Music Generation in 2010 was the largest single philanthropic donation to music education in the history of the state. In July 2017 U2 and The Ireland Funds, with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Bank of America, gifted a further combined donation of €6.3m to expand Music Generation into new areas of Ireland.

The tangible outcomes and long lasting impact of Music Generation have also already secured ongoing, sustainable partnership funding of €3.5m annually from the Department of Education and Skills, which is matched by local partners. By 2022 it's estimated that the total annual funding contribution from the exchequer, together with Local Music Education Partnerships, will reach €13m.

Looking ahead to 2022, the original vision of Music Generation's parent company, Music Network, for a publicly supported national system of local music education services appears close on the horizon.

*"That Music Generation continues to flourish is a testament to what can be achieved through meaningful public-philanthropic partnership-working. I would like to particularly acknowledge the commitment of our government partners in the Department of Education and Skills who have backed this fantastic initiative for the long-term and who are now supporting it to grow nationally, in addition to the local partners in new and existing areas whose on-the-ground leadership is vital to the program's success."*

— Caitríona Fottrell, Vice President & Director Ireland of The Ireland Funds

*"Music and the arts inspire us all and Music Generation is having enormous impacts in communities, with young people having instrument, ensemble, voice and choral experiences that simply wouldn't be possible without this program... I am delighted that today's announcement brings us even closer to our goal of giving children in every county access to this opportunity."* — Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh T.D.

MINISTER FOR  
EDUCATION & SKILLS,  
**JOE MCHUGH, T.D.**  
WITH YOUNG  
MUSICIANS FROM  
SOUTH DUBLIN



## MUSIC GENERATION IN NUMBERS

- **42,500** engagements in music tuition by children and young people, who would not otherwise have had the choice of access or the chance to participate
- **350** employment opportunities, mainly for musicians
- Tuition in **800** centres across **11** tuition contexts
- **12** Instrument Banks
- Delivery of **56,200** tuition hours
- **150** different programs offered across all genres of music
- **8,300** musical instruments for young musicians



Photo: Paul Moore



Photo: Naoise Cullhane

For four years now, Music Generation's South Dublin partnership has been working together with St Ronan's National School – a multi-denominational, DEIS category school based in Clondalkin – to establish a strings program. Students from third to fifth class, ranging in age from 8 to 12, receive weekly violin tuition and, in sixth class, are offered the chance to join the school strings orchestra. The impact of the partnership has already surpassed the expectations of the school staff, who have witnessed their students' growth and achievement both within and outside of the music room. For the young musicians, the benefits of access and participation are perhaps articulated best in their own words:

*"It makes me feel happy. It makes me feel many things – it's a part of me. Let's just say that when I'm down, it gets me back up."*

*"It makes me feel that I can learn anything I want to learn. I like how I'm just able to let go, and pretty much just spread my wings."*

