

MUSIC GENERATION

MAKING MUSIC EDUCATION HAPPEN

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

FOLLOWING SIX EXTRAORDINARY YEARS
REVOLUTIONIZING THE LANDSCAPE FOR
PERFORMANCE MUSIC EDUCATION IN
IRELAND, MUSIC GENERATION HAS EMBARKED
ON AN EXCITING NEW PHASE OF EXPANSION.

THE MUSIC GENERATION REVOLUTION: PHASE TWO

FROM 2017, IRELAND'S NATIONAL MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED
IN NEW AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, CREATING ACCESS TO INSPIRING ENCOUNTERS AND
TRANSFORMATIVE MUSIC-MAKING EXPERIENCES FOR THOUSANDS MORE CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THIS REMARKABLE SUCCESS STORY

WAS LAUNCHED IN JANUARY, WHEN AN OPEN NATIONAL CALL WAS ANNOUNCED FOR MUSIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO APPLY FOR PHASE 2 OF MUSIC GENERATION.

THIS NEW PHASE HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE AS A RESULT OF FURTHER PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT BY U2 AND THE IRELAND FUNDS, TO BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS OF MUSIC GENERATION'S FIRST SIX YEARS, BROADEN ITS REACH AND IMPACT, AND WORK TOWARDS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MUSIC TUITION FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON.

FURTHERMORE, THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF PHASE 2 HAS BEEN SECURED THROUGH A COMMITMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS TO SUSTAINABLY CO-FUND THE PROGRAM FROM 2020 ONWARDS.

“We’re so proud of Music Generation’s great achievement – and the government’s commitment is so important – in bringing this program to 38,000+ children across the country. The sky is the limit over the next five years.” – Adam Clayton, U2

THIS PIONEERING MODEL OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PHILANTHROPY, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS WILL ENSURE LASTING OUTCOMES FOR U2 AND THE IRELAND FUND’S MOST RECENT PHILANTHROPIC GIFT, AND A BRIGHTER MUSICAL FUTURE FOR OUR NEXT ‘MUSIC GENERATION’.



Young musicians from Music Generation Laois with U2's Adam Clayton and Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton T.D. at the launch of Phase 2 of Ireland's national performance music education program in January, 2017. This next phase of **MUSIC GENERATION** will enable access to music tuition for thousands more children and young people in new areas of Ireland over the next five years.

A NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN WILL GUIDE MUSIC GENERATION ON THE NEXT STAGE OF ITS JOURNEY.

“Much has been learned from our journey so far – about the quality of musical experience for children/young people, about engaged partnership working, about innovation and about the multiple dimensions of performance music education. As a learning and development organisation built on partnership, from 2016 - 2021 we look forward to

continuing to strengthen our work with a renewed sense of enquiry, to embedding a strong culture of reflection and, most especially, to aligning our learning in order to continue to achieve positive musical outcomes for children/young people.” — *Music Generation Strategic Plan, 2016 - 2021*

LANDMARK RESEARCH REVEALS A GROUNDBREAKING NEW MODEL FOR PERFORMANCE MUSIC EDUCATION

Music Generation reached a significant milestone in 2016 when it published the outcomes of a two-year research partnership with St. Patrick's College (DCU).

The document, titled *Possible Selves in Music*, challenges traditional thinking about music education and opens up a wealth of knowledge to all who are interested in bringing music into children and young people's lives.

“The concept of possible selves in music is a powerful one that conveys the transformational potential for children and young people's meaning-making experiences in music.” — *‘Possible Selves in Music’, 2016*

Launched on a global stage at the International Society for Music Education (ISME) Conference in Glasgow, and nationally at the Annual Conference of the Society for Music Education in Ireland, the research looks at how a new approach to music education can achieve truly powerful and positive outcomes for children and young people.

“What is at the heart of Music Generation is strategically leveraging the best outcomes for children and young people, personally and socially within vibrant communities, which have music as part of their fabric.” — *‘Possible Selves in Music’, 2016*

By working ‘in-the-field’ alongside the local partnerships involved, the research investigated how Music Generation is enabling thousands of children and young people in Ireland to reach their potential and experience transformation through music.

Possible Selves in Music was commissioned by the Board of Music Generation in 2013. The research was carried out by Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr. Thomas Johnston and Principal Investigator to the project, Dr. Patricia Flynn (DCU).

The research document is available to download free of charge from www.musicgeneration.ie



“WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION”

MUSIC GENERATION YOUNG AMBASSADORS SHINE ON A GLOBAL STAGE

An ensemble of 14 Young Ambassadors from Sligo and Donegal wowed delegates at the ISME Glasgow Conference in July 2016 when they performed their own original compositions to mark the launch of the Music Generation research document, *Possible Selves in Music*.

The ensemble, formed especially for this significant performance opportunity, included young musicians ages 14 to 19 who worked together with a skilled professional musician team to develop a dynamic 30-minute program fusing genres and styles including traditional Irish music, rock and pop.

“It’s very unique because you get to learn so many different skills, you get to perform with other musicians, you get to perform at big venues, you get to perform for family and friends, which gives you confidence, and you get to make friends.”— *Music Generation Young Ambassador*

Their set included ‘Time Travel’, a track written and recorded by the young Donegal musicians as part of the ‘Soundwaves’ project in 2015 (funded under the Music Generation/Arts Council Partnership), as well as ‘The Three Wishes’, an original composition by the group from Music Generation Sligo.

“This was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for me and I’m proud to have represented Ireland along with the others in my group. I made new friends and we all had loads of fun rehearsing and performing at the Piping Centre in Glasgow... I found this trip and the rehearsals so educational and I have learned lots from it.”
— *Music Generation Young Ambassador*

In addition, the ensemble premiered two brand new pieces—‘Synerjig’ and ‘Generation Music’—which received a rousing, standing ovation from the audience of international musicians and educators.



REACH + IMPACT

38,000	children and young people reached
350	employment opportunities
610	tuition centers
12	instrument banks
51,000	tuition hours
99	different programs across all genres of music
6,800	musical instruments for young musicians

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

- More than 100 young traditional Irish musicians from six Music Generation partnerships performed live to a crowd of hundreds at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Ennis in County Clare last August.
- Young Ambassadors from Laois and Carlow travelled to Sitges, Barcelona in October to share their wonderful traditional Irish music-making with international audiences at the Creative Connexions Festival.
- A choir of young singers from Counties Offaly and Westmeath treated guests at the US Ambassador’s Residence, Dublin, to a choral repertoire of festive favorites as part of The Ireland Funds Young Leaders Annual Reception 2016.

