



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



PHASE TWO: MUSIC GENERATION TO EXPAND TO 9 NEW AREAS ACROSS IRELAND

CURRENTLY MUSIC GENERATION IS...

- Engaged with 41,000 children and young people
- Across 118 music programs
- Delivered in 12 areas of Ireland
- Creating 370 new jobs
- Providing 54,500 hours of tuition across all genres and styles of music

In July of 2017, Music Generation announced that it will expand into nine new areas of Ireland between 2017 and 2021, thanks to the ongoing support of U2 and The Ireland Funds who together will have raised a total of €6.3m for the program's second phase.

This combined investment in 'Phase 2' of Music Generation will include donations from the proceeds of U2's The Joshua Tree Tour 2017, as well as donations previously raised for Music Generation through the band's iNNO-CENCE + eXPERIENCE Tour in 2015, alongside further philanthropic investment by The Ireland Funds. A grant from Bank of America, through the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, forms part of The Ireland Funds' investment in this second phase of Music Generation. The 'first phase' of the program was seed-funded through a €7m philanthropic donation by U2 and The Ireland Funds in 2009.

Moreover, this next phase of Music Generation has been assured of long-term sustainability following a commitment by the Irish Government, through the Department of Education and Skills, to co-fund the new areas into the future, together with Local Music Education Partnerships.

Speaking of this milestone achievement for music education in Ireland, U2's Edge said: 'This is a really important moment for Music Generation. Our ambition is for every child and young person in Ireland to have access to tuition and this next phase of expansion brings us ever closer. Huge thanks to both the Government and The Ireland Funds for their ongoing commitment to a programme of which we, as a band, are immensely proud.'

Chairman of The Ireland Funds America, John Fitzpatrick, commented that: 'We are delighted that Music Generation has reached this latest milestone. It has been our privilege to support this outstanding project for the last 7 years and to see it unlock the talent of 41,000 young people across Ireland. Its success is a tribute to the creativity of our young people and the generosity of our donors.'

Kieran McLoughlin, Worldwide President and CEO, The Ireland Funds, said: 'Music Generation is a wonderful Public Philanthropic Partnership making a huge difference to hundreds of communities. We are most grateful to Bank of America for joining U2, ourselves and Government in bringing this great project to thousands more children across Ireland. We look forward to working with Government to build upon the remarkable success of the programme to date.'





AT A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL MUSIC GENERATION CONTINUES TO GROW ITS REACH AND REPUTATION –

ALREADY THIS YEAR, GROUPS AND ENSEMBLES FROM COUNTIES LAOIS AND CARLOW HAVE REPRESENTED MUSIC GENERATION AS ‘YOUNG AMBASSADORS’ AT A SERIES OF PRESTIGIOUS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS. THESE INSPIRING OPPORTUNITIES CREATE AN IMPORTANT PLATFORM FOR THE YOUNG MUSICIANS TO SHOWCASE THEIR OWN WORK ON A NATIONAL STAGE, AND TO HONE THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERTISE AS PERFORMERS FOR THE FUTURE.

Traditional Irish music groups from Laois and Carlow were hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins at two Community Garden Parties in Áras an Uachtaráin during the summer months, where they had the 400+ strong audience tapping their feet and clapping in time with their rousing trad sets

In June, Music Generation Carlow’s trad ensemble ‘Reelig’ were invited to celebrate the announcement of 31 local authority creativity and culture plans by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny as part of Creative Ireland in Dublin Castle. The group raised the roof on a packed house of local and national government representatives, including Minister for Culture Heather Humphreys

Internationally-noted academics, practitioners and professionals felt the beat of 15 young Stampede Drummers from the village of Ballacolla, County Laois who gave an energizing Samba-inspired performance at the annual gathering of the Arts in Education Portal, hosted by the Arts Council of Ireland

30 members of the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra received a standing ovation from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his wife Madame Gregoire Trudeau and guests following an electric performance of their own composition, ‘Visions and Voices’, led by acclaimed musician Martin Tourish, at a state dinner hosted by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at Dublin Castle in July

‘We all really enjoyed this evening and it was a great opportunity that only Music Generation could provide. It was a great honour to perform in front of such a fantastic crowd at such a prestigious event...’

— **David, musician (Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra)**



Photo: Adam Scotti



VIBRANT CREATIVITY & QUALITY MUSIC TUITION FOR IRELAND'S YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR SEVEN REMARKABLE YEARS, MUSIC GENERATION HAS BLAZED A TRAIL IN CREATING ACCESS TO QUALITY MUSIC TUITION FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN IRELAND. THE IMPACT OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY PROGRAMME CAN BE SEEN AND HEARD IN THE VIBRANT CREATIVITY AND JOYFUL PARTICIPATION OF EACH OF THE YOUNG MUSICIANS PARTICIPATING IN ENSEMBLES, ORCHESTRAS, COMPOSERS' CLUBS, JAM BANDS, TRAD GROUPS AND DOZENS OF OTHER INITIATIVES IN THEIR LOCAL AREAS.

"If someone is thinking about getting involved in music or Music Generation the advice I would give them is to GO FOR IT! You learn music in a fun way and with your classmates, and get to perform in places that you would never get the opportunity to do otherwise. I've loved every minute of my time with Music Generation." — Jessica, musician (Music Generation Wicklow)