



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

# THE EVOLUTION OF A MUSIC REVOLUTION



*"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." — The Edge, U2*





In September 2017 Music Generation unveiled the new cities and counties that will receive funding to take part in its next phase, further enriching the landscape for music education in Ireland. The nine new partnerships selected for participation – Cavan/Monaghan, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (County Dublin), Galway City, Galway County, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Roscommon, Waterford and Wexford – will bring the total number of Music Generation areas to 22.

This exciting new chapter for Ireland's national music education program was made possible through the ongoing philanthropic investment of U2 and The Ireland Funds, who together donated €6.3m towards Music Generation's second phase. Five of the new areas have already commenced planning for roll-out, with a further four expected to get underway later in 2018. What's more, the sustainability of these new partnerships will be safeguarded into the future through matched funding which has been committed by national government and local partners.

To date the achievements and impact of Music Generation have been extraordinary. Across the 11 partnerships established since its inception in 2010, 41,000 children and young people are currently receiving access to high-quality music tuition in their locality each year. This next phase is set to broaden that reach significantly as well as creating a substantial number of employment opportunities for professional musicians in each area.

Ireland's musical future is bright as this remarkable programme continues to inspire and nurture its next 'music generation'.



## MY MUSIC GENERATION JOURNEY...

"Not only has playing the harp become such a big part in my life over the past five years, but music in general means something to me... If it wasn't for Music Generation I wouldn't be playing harp, I wouldn't have met the people I now call friends, and I wouldn't love music as much as I do... in my opinion it is one of the most brilliant choices I've ever made." –

*Cliona, young musician (Laois)*

"I can honestly say that Niamh would not have had the exposure or opportunity to play the sax was it not for the Music Generation project... Not only has she benefitted musically, we have seen first-hand the impact the programme has had on her personal development. She has gained more confidence in herself and has made more friends through her involvement in the programme." –

*Ger, parent (Cork City)*

"If asked what music means to me, I would simply say happiness. Getting involved in Music Generation can be a fantastic way to surround yourself in music and give you a taste of what a career in music could look like." –

*Pierce, young composer (Carlow)*

GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPISTS WORKING TOGETHER:  
THE POWER OF A PUBLIC PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIP

On Thursday, 7th December 2017 An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, T.D., together with the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, T.D., and Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, T.D., launched Creative Youth – A Plan to Enable the Creative Potential of Every Child and Young Person.

The plan sets out measures to ensure that every child in Ireland will have practical access to tuition, experience and participation in music, drama, art and coding over the next five years, and includes a commitment to support the roll-out of Music Generation nationwide by 2022.

For Music Generation, this means that thousands more children and young people across every city and county will have the opportunity to access and engage in truly transformative musical experiences with inspirational musician educators.

Commenting on the announcement, U2's The Edge said that – "This is a very exciting moment. A huge thanks to the Government for making this commitment. It is a very important milestone for Music Generation and we are thrilled."

This is an outstanding outcome of U2 and The Ireland Funds' investment and belief in Music Generation. It is an excellent example of a Public Philanthropic Partnership, with Government and Philanthropists working together to deliver benefit on the ground across the country. Deep thanks are due to the Government and to the Department of Education and Skills for their commitment, without which none of this would be possible.

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PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS  
22 CITIES AND COUNTIES

...AND WE'RE GROWING!



## PIONEERING PARTNERSHIPS CREATE INSPIRING MUSICAL ENCOUNTERS

In December, 2017 more than 50 flautists from six different Music Generation partnerships gathered at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin for the first ever Music Generation 'Galway Community Flute Day'. Over the course of the afternoon these aspiring young musicians ages 8 to 18 enjoyed the extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in a masterclass with 'The Man with the Golden Flute', Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway.

In advance of the masterclass the young flautists were set the task of rehearsing and refining a diverse and challenging repertoire of music, under the direction of local musician-educators. Rounding out the day with a flourish, each of the groups from counties Carlow, Laois, Louth, Offaly, Westmeath, Wicklow and Cork City then came together with Sir James and Lady Jeanne for an inspiring collaborative performance for their friends and families.

For both the participants and their tutors, this remarkable chance to practice with and learn from two of the world's most highly-esteemed musicians was truly transformative.

