



# Laois School of Music



# In Context

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- Laois Arts Plan 2001 – 2003
- Core Development Area — The Arts Officer identified the need for quality music tuition in the Midlands
- Laois County Council taking the initiative
- Support of County Councillors and County Manager
- Laois School of Music Established September 2001

# Partnership



- Laois County Council
- Laois V.E.C.
- The Arts Council
  
- Laois Primary Schools
- Music Network - Feasibility Study
- Member of Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
- Irish Association of Music Schools



# Mission Statement

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- Laois School of Music will maximise participation in, and access to the widest range of musical experiences for the people of Laois, in accordance with the highest standards of excellence.
- Déanfaidh Ceolscoil Laoise chuile iarracht rannphairtíocht iomlán agus bealach isteach do mhuintir Laoise don tsraith is leithne d'eispéireas ceoil, de réir na gcaighdeán is airde feabhais.

# Current Status

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- Full-time Co-ordinator
- 14 Part-time Music Teachers
- Steering Committee
- 300 Pupils in School Enrolment
- Youth Orchestra
- Administration Laois County Council and Laois V.E.C.
- 900 Pupils in Outreach Programme
- 160 on Waiting List



# Music Education

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- Addressing demand
- Accessibility for all — flexible hours/days for tuition
- Quality Music Training — experienced, qualified musicians
- Employment — music teachers
- Outreach — curriculum support
- Musicians of the Future — school will nurture and develop music teachers/musicians

# Community Impact



- **Economic** — teachers re-located to area, music shops, theatre
- **Decentralisation** — Dept. of Agriculture
- **Local Access** — no travel for quality music service
- **Profile** — Laois on a National level



# Demographic Profile - County

Abbeyleix

Cullohill

Ballacolla

Emo

Ballinakill

Mountmellick

Ballybrittas

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Portarlinton

Ballyroan

Portlaoise

Borris-in-Ossory

Rosenallis

Castletown

Stradbally

Clonaslee

Vicarstown

## Regional

Kildare – Monasterevin, Athy

Kilkenny – Johnstown

Carlow - Maganey

Offaly – Tullamore, Geashill



# Participating Outreach Schools

Scoil Bhride, Ballyroan

Emo N.S.

St. Paul's N.S., Irishtown

Clonenagh N.S., Mountrath

Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix

Ratheniska N.S.

Scoil Mhuire Fatima, Timahoe

Kiladooley N.S.

Errill N.S.

Ballyroan Boys N.S.

Killenard N.S.

Maryborough N.S. Portlaoise

Scoil Aonghusa, Stradbally

St. Patrick's N.S., Portarlinton



# Progress to Date

- **Outreach Programme** — National Children's Choir, Hallelujah Chorus, Dunamaise Theatre
- **Exams** — Royal Irish Academy of Music, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music
- **Festivals** — MayFest, Irish Association of Music Schools, St. Patrick's Day Parades

To date, up to 2000 students have availed of the tuition services at the Laois School of Music



# RTE National Symphony Orchestra Laois Residency - October 2006

- Primary & Secondary Schools workshops
  - LSM Orchestra Masterclass
  - Public Concert
  - Outreach Ensembles to local hospitals, retirement homes and the Midlands Prison
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- Total audience – 6,000
  - Collaboration with Dunamaise Arts Centre and local businesses



# Composer in Residence

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- Brent Parker Commissioned Jan '07
- 'The Slieve Bloom Suite' for Orchestra & Voice
- Premiere in June '07
- Project engaging many pupils of the School
- Co-funded by The Arts Council

# Social Inclusion

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- Music Makers for Special Needs Children — in association with a local Primary School
- Music Module in Kolbe Special School
- Scholarships — Lions Club, Rotary Club, EBS Community Investment Fund
- Family Resource Centre Electronic Music Project

# Present Funding

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- **Student Fees** — Individual Tuition €570 per annum  
Group Tuition €300 p.a.
- **Laois County Council**
- **Laois V.E.C.** — Community Education Grant
- **Arts Council**
  
- Outreach Programme currently self-funding

# National Award



Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award  
Arts, Culture and Recreation Category

# Evaluation

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- Arts Plan Evaluation 2001 – 2003
- School of Music Evaluation May 2005 – in association with the Arts Council



# Our Aims for the Future

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- Department of Education as Partner in order to :  
Sustain Current Provision, Fund Outreach Programme, Expand Music Programmes, Increase Accessibility
- Application for 3.2 Whole Time teaching equivalents – Laois V.E.C.
- Long Term Educational Facility/Designated Building – currently renting at discretion of Board of Management

# Summary

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- Wonderful asset to County Laois
- Quality Music Tuition available to all
- Eager to secure it's long-term sustainable future

