

**Making
Live Music
Happen**

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**Music Network
Strategic Plan
2014 / 2017**

Our vision is that of a culture which increasingly values live music as an integral part of our everyday lives, and embraces it as a significant contributor, within the broader arts spectrum, to a healthy, vibrant society

14/17

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01.

Introduction

Music Network is Ireland's national music touring and development agency, and was founded in 1986 by the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon

The organisation holds a unique position in the Irish music sector and has a strong and consistent track record of achievements (see appendix 1). Building on these achievements, this 3 year Strategic Plan presents the organisation's Vision and Mission Statement, and sets out the priority actions that Music Network will undertake between January 2014 and January 2017 to ensure it continues to address the needs of the sector most effectively, within available resources, into the future.

The Plan also contextualises the organisation's work in terms of its key stakeholders (audiences, musicians, partners), and charts implementation over the three year period.

Consultation with key stakeholders played an important role in the formulation of this plan; Music Network commissioned an independent review of its services and activities in 2012, which has informed the direction the organisation is now taking, in the interests of music development in Ireland. Music Network is appreciative of the suggestions and comments received, the majority of which are reflected in this document.

This plan will be undertaken in the spirit of partnership, and will seek to harness the co-operation of key public and private partners/groups and bodies at local, regional and national levels, which share or complement Music Network's vision for music in Ireland. Its success will, to a large extent, depend on the evolving external environment and the strength of these partnerships.

02.

Executive Summary

A key national music organisation of 27 years standing, with a strong track record and which holds a unique position in the Irish music sector, Music Network has reached a pivotal point in its development

Following the appointment of a new CEO in 2012, the organisation has embraced the opportunity to review both its current programmes and the context within which they operate.

In acknowledging a cultural and societal landscape in a state of flux, a range of opportunities and challenges present. Today's vastly more evolved live music scene offers great potential to develop new, more holistic and 'joined up' approaches to Music Network's aim of 'making live music happen'. Accordingly, this plan represents a significant shift in the organisation's thinking, a re-orientation that will enable it to focus on what it hopes will become the ground-breaking new initiatives of tomorrow.

The plan outlines, at a high level, a range of actions for delivery over the next three years, across 3 priority areas:

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT MUSICIAN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Its aim, through these 3 closely integrated themes, is to foster a virtuous circle of musician and audience development, achieved with and through its partners, both continuously reinforcing each other as momentum is built and sustained.

Audience development is central to Music Network's new strategic direction and will permeate every area of its activities. All **musician development** activity will be designed to support career development in music performance, and be almost exclusively linked to touring opportunities. **Partnership development** activity will focus on audience and by extension musician development, as both are intrinsically linked.

Music Network has an unparalleled track record in music touring in Ireland (see appendix 2), and through its national reach, development of touring infrastructure, and linking of arts policy with on the ground activity, the organisation will assert its position as the expert music touring agency in Ireland over the forthcoming three years. This will enable it to apply the intelligence and resources at its disposal to best effect, and create the most meaningful impact on the sector.

With this goal in mind, the programme of work from 2014 to 2017 will include the following new developments:

- Consolidation of Music Network's 4 performance programmes into a single audience-focused, artistically-driven, touring programme
- Working with fewer partner promoters, in a more intensive way¹
- Piloting and establishment of a Musician/curator Residency Programme
- Piloting and establishment of a Brokerage Programme for National Touring Partners
- In partnership with The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, the creation of a new programming strand: live music experiences for child and family audiences
- A programme of bespoke audience development/outreach activity in conjunction with Music Network's Touring Programme. This will include a linkage programme between Music Network's Touring Programme, its partner promoters and Music Generation/local Music Education Partnerships' (MEPs') development and outreach programmes
- A discretionary fund for musician development, linked to and in support of Music Network's Touring Programme
- Support for emerging musicians, ring fenced within the above scheme, and within the Music Network Touring Programme
- Establishment of a National Musical Instrument Fund Scheme²
- Establishment of a dedicated delivery unit for love:live music/ National Music Day.³

Realisation of the above will, to a large extent, be dictated by available resources. A testing period, with regular review and recalibration where necessary, will be in-built to the delivery of all programmes, in order to achieve a continuous cycle of improvement over the lifespan of the plan.

1. Music Network uses the term 'partner promoters' to describe its valued network of promoters across Ireland, with whom it presents its concert programmes. These include dedicated arts venues, local authority arts offices, voluntary and community promoters, and music/art festivals.

2. As a natural extension of the Music Capital Scheme managed by Music Network, which was established as a 3-year pilot scheme by the Arts Council in 2008, and has been funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht since 2011, and intersecting with the work of Music Generation.

3. Subject to funding, and guided by an Inter-sectoral Steering Group which reports to Music Network's Board of Directors, and whose role will be to oversee the development and implementation of a new love:live music policy framework and strategic plan.

This strategic plan heralds an exciting new chapter in Music Network's evolution, both playing to the organisation's strengths and breaking new ground. From June 2012 to June 2013, the organisation's board of directors and executive participated in *Planning for Success in the Arts: a Capacity Building Intensive for Arts Managers and their Boards*, a programme delivered by the DeVos Institute at the Kennedy Center, through Business to Arts. The intensive planning process undertaken in parallel to create this strategy has re-energised and re-focused the organisation, and it is excited to be working towards its vision from its new base at Earlsfort Terrace.

03.

Vision & Mission

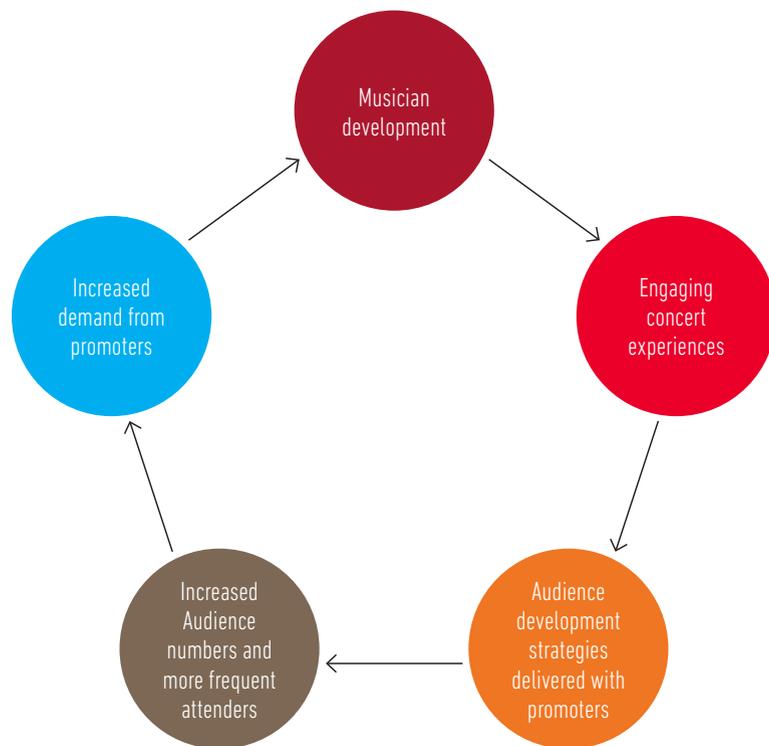
Our vision is that of a culture which increasingly values live music as an integral part of our everyday lives, and embraces it as a significant contributor, within the broader arts spectrum, to a healthy, vibrant society

Our Vision 3.1

Over the 27 years of its existence, Music Network has contributed significantly to music development throughout Ireland.⁴ Recognising our role as Ireland's national music touring and development agency, and our unique position within the sector, achieved through our multi-faceted and far-reaching partnership model, our vision is that of a culture which increasingly values live music as an integral part of our everyday lives, and embraces it as a significant contributor, within the broader arts spectrum, to a healthy, vibrant society. Central to achieving this vision is the creation of a life-long continuum which supports musicians from their earliest musical experiences, right through to successful professional performance careers, and in tandem, the development of a receptive, stimulating environment in which they can flourish. In simple terms, we want to develop a virtuous circle of musician and audience development, achieved with and through our partners, both continuously reinforcing each other as momentum is built and sustained.

4. For example, our work in Music Education convinced U2 and The Ireland Funds to invest €7 million, enabling us to establish Music Generation, and giving children and young people in Ireland unprecedented opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument.

Musician and Audience Development



KEY

Musician Development: by supporting professional musicians through a range of programmes, we are continually fostering engaging concert experiences

Engaging Concert Experiences: which encourage audiences to become more frequent attenders

Audience Development: through delivery of audience development strategies in partnership with promoters, which engage new audiences

Increased Audiences and More Frequent Attenders: leading to **increased demand by promoters** for these concert opportunities and audience development initiatives, in turn fostering musician development

Everything Music Network does correlates to this vision: from its work in music education, to supporting musicians at varying stages of their development, to providing concerts, audience development and outreach activities through its valued network of partners, and supports its mission of providing access to exceptional live music for people across Ireland, and of supporting the professional development of musicians.

Touring has always been central to Music Network's remit, and the organisation has an unparalleled track record in music touring in Ireland, honing its expertise in this area through many years of practical experience. Music Network now wishes to further embed its work and fully capitalize on the knowledge and skill set within the organisation. This includes:-

- curatorial and artistic programming expertise in a range of genres
- knowledge of audience attendance trends on a detailed geographic basis
- skill in the development and servicing of an extensive network of partner promoters
- PR and marketing expertise specific to concert touring
- strong relationships with promoters and with musicians and/or their agencies both in Ireland and internationally
- extensive knowledge of and contacts within both the non-professional and professional music sectors
- experience in the design and delivery of associated audience development and education/outreach initiatives⁵
- proven ability to deliver to consistently high administrative standards.

In addition to its own national touring programme, the organisation also has the benefit of experience gained in managing the Arts Council's Performance and Touring Award Scheme (2006 – 2011). As such, Music Network is widely recognised as the predominant agency for music touring in Ireland and is therefore ideally positioned to lead in any new national developments specific to this area. Over the period of this plan, Music Network intends to consolidate all its

5. Music Network successfully created and implemented an Audience Development Strategy, comprising programming, outreach and marketing components, in 2007-8. Unfortunately due to funding cuts in late 2008, this programme strand ceased to operate; however, the core principles within the strategy are still current in today's environment, and will therefore form the basis of its new Audience Development Strategy 2014-17.

performance programmes into a single touring programme⁶, flexible in delivery mode, and taking a variety of formats depending on the nature and parameters of each individual project. Within this framework, a new development will be the establishment of a Brokerage Programme, aimed at building capacity among other music organisations/groups seeking to tour music around Ireland. Audience focus, through consultation with partner promoters and other parties and personnel involved, will be a prerequisite throughout.

It is our ambition, building on achievements to date, to assert Music Network's position as the expert music touring agency in Ireland, and carve out a leading role in audience, musician and partner development, in pursuit of our vision.

Key achievements at the end of the 3 year period will include:

- positioning of Music Network as Ireland's expert music touring agency
- consolidation of all Music Network's Performance Programmes into a single touring programme
- audience development/outreach activity becoming an integral component of touring activity
- a stronger touring infrastructure as a result of partner development supports provided, including establishment of a Brokerage Programme for National Touring Partners
- provision of a range of musician development initiatives and supports that serve to enhance career development in music performance
- specific provision for emerging musicians
- increased numbers of musicians benefiting from our programmes
- establishment of a dedicated management and delivery unit for love:live music
- a new, enhanced website, and implementation of a comprehensive, integrated digital marketing programme.

6. The Music Network touring programme will include:

- both international and Irish/Ireland-based musicians
- higher profile musicians
- emerging musicians
- larger ensembles
- a range of genres, corresponding to promoter demand
- tours that run in a consecutive block of dates, or alternatively as a series over a season
- projects with an emphasis on artist-led/thematic programming
- projects brokered on behalf of National Touring Partners
- bespoke, integrated audience development/outreach components, as appropriate.

3.2 Mission Statement

Music Network's mission is to make high quality live music available and accessible to people throughout Ireland, regardless of their location or circumstance, while supporting the career development of musicians

3.3 Guiding Principles

Over the next three years, our work will be guided by the following principles:

Access: working to make live music experiences accessible to as many people as possible, regardless of individual circumstance or geographic location

Audiences: supporting partner promoters to be pro-active in developing audiences for their concerts through a combined focus on programming, outreach and marketing

Musicians: promoting music performance as a viable and rewarding career option, and actively supporting musicians who are committed to this goal, at every stage of their development

Partnership: deepening relationships with existing partner promoters who share our vision, to build local capacity and continuously develop audiences and raise standards of concert promotion; developing existing and forging new strategic partnerships as appropriate with other regional and national arts/music organisations, 3rd level performance music education providers, Arts and Health organisations, etc

Advocacy: working strategically with and through our subsidiary company Music Generation towards the establishment of a structured, comprehensive, accessible and sustainable national system of local music education services throughout Ireland, and collaborating strategically with Music Generation to ensure a joined-up approach to local music development; promoting the value of music in communities across the country through our entire range of activities and love:live music/National Music Day.

04.

Key stakeholders

- 4.1 Audiences
- 4.2 Musicians
- 4.3 Partners

4.1 Audiences

Music Network was established to provide audiences across the country with access to quality live music experiences.

To date, the organisation's access remit has been addressed primarily through the development and servicing of an extensive network of partner promoters across the country. Whilst retaining its focus on access, Music Network acknowledges the need for deeper engagement with audiences, and will work with and through its partner promoters in achieving this, as well as building its Dublin audience base through its annual series of self-promoted events.

Music Network will aim to raise the quality and diversity of music it offers to audiences (both directly and indirectly), combining opportunities to hear higher profile musicians with musicians that are new to Irish audiences, across a range of genres and nationalities⁷. Tours will be designed from an audience perspective, whilst retaining artistic excellence as the primary consideration, and will aim to strike a balance between challenging as well as responding to audience needs. From 2014, current sub-divisions within Music Network's Performance Programmes will no longer apply, with a view to transitioning towards a single, flexible touring programme, which is artistically/thematically driven, and which features both Irish/Ireland-based and international musicians/ensembles. Current restrictions regarding genres will be replaced by a more open and flexible approach to programming, which enables musicians from different musical backgrounds to collaborate and experiment, thus enriching the audience experience.⁸

7. Partner promoter feedback contained both within the Arts Council Report Music Touring: Supplement to the Touring Experiment and Eve O'Kelly's Independent Review of Music Network, 2012, indicates a desire to have access to both higher profile artists and artists not previously known to them, through Music Network tour offers.

8. This corresponds with the view of its partner promoters that segregating music into different genres is no longer particularly relevant. Similarly, Music Network does not view the distinction between Irish and international musicians of relevance in artistic programming considerations, although it will strive to achieve a balance between these, in the interests of giving promoters and audiences maximum choice.

In addition, Music Network will seek to further increase choice for audiences, by creating access to new touring product through partnership with other music touring groups and arts/music organisations. This will include the creation of a new programming strand specifically for child/family audiences, in partnership with The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children. Linkage programmes delivered in partnership with our subsidiary company Music Generation, in the form of outreach-based activities, tailored to the needs of local Music Education Partnerships, will also integrate with Music Network's Touring Programme. love:live music/National Music Day, designed to raise awareness of the value of music throughout Ireland, will serve as a key vehicle for audience development, introducing new audiences to live music in a universally accessible way.

Key objectives include:

- Creating a greater emphasis on audience-focused programming
- Maximising access to high quality touring product for audiences
- Identifying new ways for audiences to engage with live music
- Developing new audiences for live music
- Broadening public engagement with live music through use of new performance settings
- Advocating the value of live music in society.

4.2 Musicians **Central to Music Network's mission is support for the career development of musicians.⁹**

As per its vision, Music Network views the evolution of the professional musician as a life-long continuum, from children and young people discovering music, to emerging musicians embarking on performance careers, and more established musicians seeking enhanced performance opportunities both in Ireland and internationally. A focus on supporting performance careers, whether prospective or existing, will predominate. Music Network will aim to create synergies between its supports for musicians, including touring opportunities, direct funding schemes, audience development/outreach initiatives etc, in order to add value and maximise impact. Complementary opportunities such as curatorial, creation of new work, creative collaborations/other art forms will also be cultivated and harnessed in working towards this goal, as resources allow.

New developments will include a Musician/curator Residency Scheme, providing selected musicians with access to resources to create a year-long concert programme in dialogue with Music Network and a local venue/promoter, and positively intersecting with local authority arts plans and the work of Music Generation. Subject to promoter demand, elements of the programme may be toured to other regions under Music Network's Touring Programme. Benefits of this scheme will include:

- provision of bespoke, artist-led concert programmes that respond to identified audience needs, develop a particular musical genre, include the potential for integrated outreach elements, and enrich the concert experience for audiences

9. Music Network includes composers in its definition of musicians.

- musician development opportunities, including artistic curation, new creative collaborations, commissioning of new work, increased performance opportunities
- promoter development opportunities, enabling capacity-building in music programming and audience development.

A discretionary fund for musician development, linked to and in support of Music Network’s Touring Programme will also be initiated, providing a range of tailored supports, for example, Tyrone Guthrie Centre bursaries for development of touring concepts, visual styling/photoshoots, website development, commissioning of new work, production of digital promotional films and/or branding materials, CD production and launches, training in stage craft skills etc. Support for emerging musicians will be ring fenced within this fund, and within the Music Network Touring Programme, exceeding the scope of the former Young Musicwide Scheme and enabling Music Network to provide more targeted supports to emerging (and established) musicians in response to identified needs as and when they arise. The net result will be a more diverse range of supports on offer, delivered in a more flexible, responsive manner, and greater numbers of musicians benefitting.

Mirroring Music Network’s own shift towards a more audience-focused approach, musicians will be encouraged to consider ‘audience’ to a greater extent within artistic considerations, through all of the above support strands, and be actively supported in developing a more audience-focused approach to their work. High standards of artist care and the upholding of good working conditions will be pro-actively promoted by Music Network, both in its direct dealings with musicians, and via its agreements with its partners. The cultivation of international performance platforms for musicians is a natural and vital extension of this work, given the limitations of the domestic market, and Music Network will work in partnership with key agencies to create opportunities to this end, within available resources.

Key objectives include:

- Provision of professional performance opportunities (in Ireland and internationally) and associated outreach/audience development initiatives
- Promotion of the work of contemporary Irish composers
- Provision of supports for emerging musicians
- Creation of curatorial opportunities for musicians
- Provision of direct funding supports to musicians.

4.3 Partners

Partnership has always been fundamental to Music Network’s ethos, and the majority of its services are delivered in partnership with national, regional and local organisations throughout Ireland.

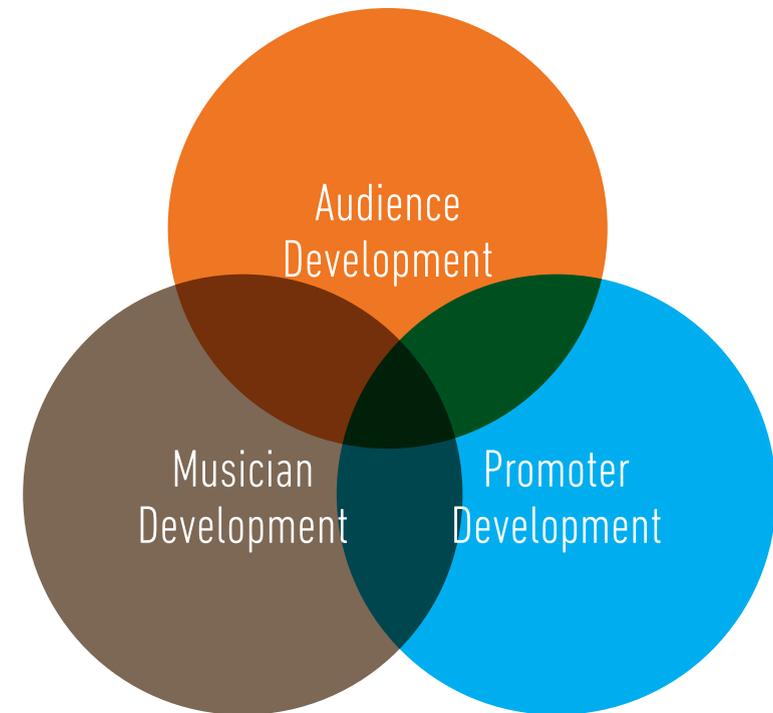
This partnership approach is designed to develop the capacity of local agencies to provide musical activity within their area, thereby enhancing local music development in the longer term. Over the period of this plan, Music Network will work with a smaller group of promoters, providing more intensive supports to those who share its artistic and developmental goals most closely, and who have demonstrated clear need and desire for, and ability to benefit from, such supports. In turn, Music Network will require greater input and commitment from its partners, in the interests of developing audiences for live music and supporting the performance careers of musicians. Music Network will also seek to deepen its relations with other key organisations within the music sector, and to extend its partnership model to form new strategic alliances in the interests of audience development, and as appropriate to the needs of musicians.

New developments will include a Brokerage Programme for National Touring Partners. Music Network will seek to develop its role in this area, in the interests of further developing touring infrastructure and maximising choice for music audiences across Ireland. Market research will be undertaken by Music Network in 2014 into international models and with selected partner promoters and potential touring partners to establish the level of demand for such a service, with a resulting pilot scheme envisaged for 2015. The research will also inform the categories of support that the service might include, for example, provision of advice on venue specification including technical equipment, staging, lighting, access for piano, acoustics, capacity etc, assistance in matching musicians/ensembles with suitable promoters/venues, fee/contract negotiation, logistical support, e.g. travel, accommodation, piano hire, and assistance with the design/delivery of integrated outreach activities in connection with performances.

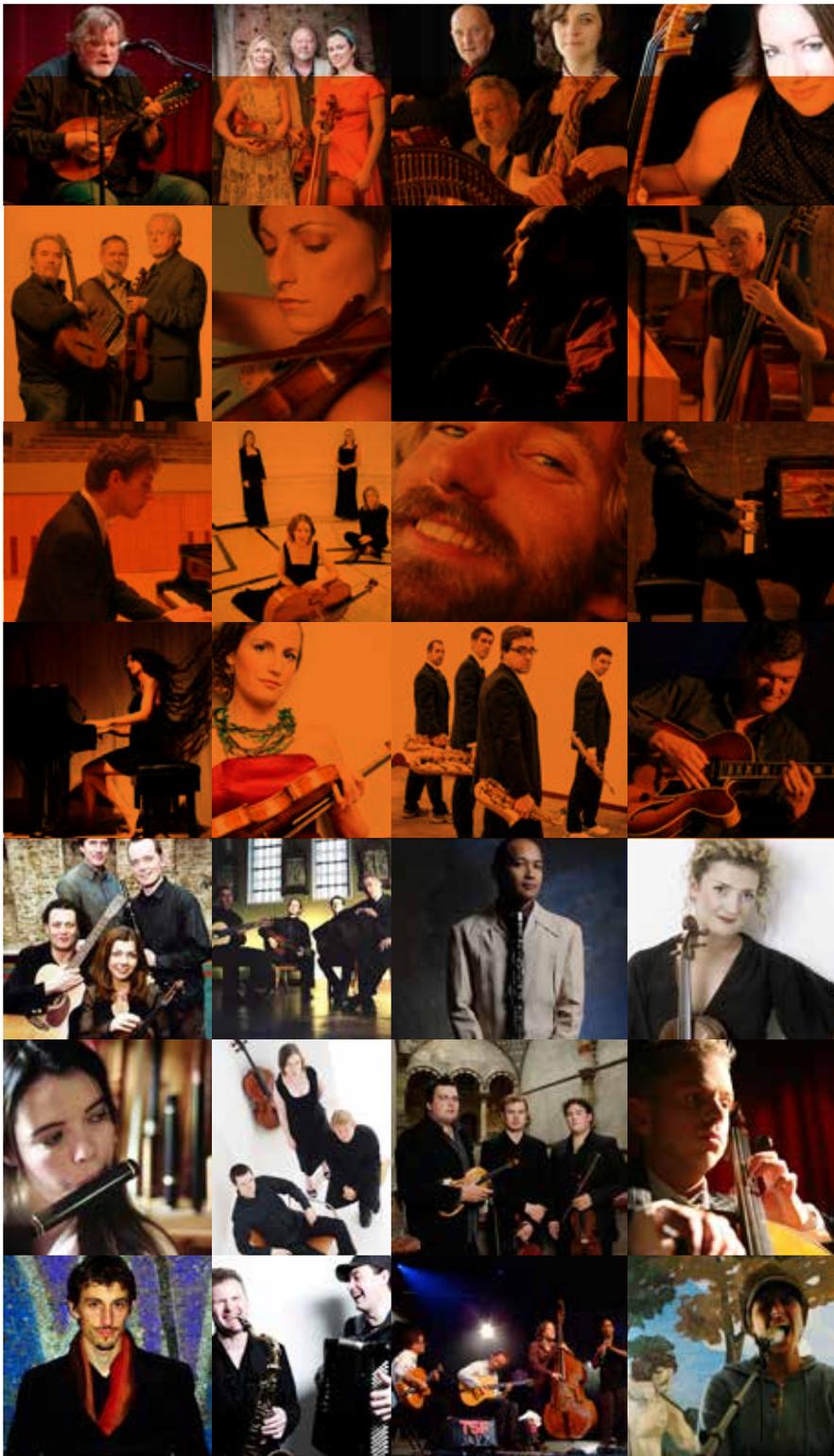
Key objectives include:

- Engaging with the Arts Council and other music touring groups/organisations, to generate ideas that further develop infrastructure for music touring in Ireland, and as a leading agency for music, develop our role in the area of brokering tours
- Deepening engagement with key promoters, working together to raise standards of concert promotion and foster greater audience focus, leading to increased audiences
- Working with and through our subsidiary Music Generation and local Music Education Partnerships towards full implementation of the National Music Education Programme and an integrated strategy for joined up local music development
- Strengthening existing strategic partnerships and initiating new partnerships, in pursuit of our goals.

Key Strategic Themes



Audience development is central to Music Network's new strategic direction and will permeate every area of its activities. All **musician development** activity will be designed to support career development in music performance, and be almost exclusively linked to touring opportunities. **Partnership development** activity will focus on audience and by extension musician development, as both are intrinsically linked.



05.

**Portfolio of
activity**

- A. Audience Development**
- B. Musician Development**
- C. Partnership Development**

TABLE A - Strategy Area: Audience Development

Objective	→	Realisation
1. Create a greater emphasis on audience-focused programming		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. create a flexible consultation group, representative of the range of promoters Music Network works with, to consult with on a regular basis on its artistic programming plans 2. new policy for artist selection, focusing on quality/profile, relevance, creative programmes, ability to engage with audiences, etc 3. tours more flexible and varied in scale introduced, corresponding to level of demand from promoters & audiences; these will feature artistically-driven & thematic programming and both Irish/Ireland-based and international musicians/ensembles
2. Maximise access to high quality touring product for audiences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work with National Touring Partners to diversify touring product through establishment of the new Brokerage Programme
3. Identify new ways for audiences to engage with live music		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. revise Music Network's audience development strategy document, in consultation with partner promoters 2. design and deliver bespoke audience development/outreach initiatives in partnership with key promoters

Objective	→	Realisation
4. Develop new audiences for live music		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. focus Music Network touring circuits on areas where Music Education Partnerships are active, to add value to work of Music Generation and MEPS in developing young audiences 2. create a new music programming strand specifically for child/family audiences via our partnership with The Ark and, potentially, other programming 3. facilitate linkage projects between Music Network's touring programme, active MEPS, Music Capital scheme awardees etc, and partner promoters in their areas
5. Broaden public engagement with live music through use of new performance settings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. promote use of alternative spaces by partners where necessary to improve concert experience for audiences 2. establish regular 'Music Network' performance spaces for Dublin concert series 3. investigate non-traditional/unusual settings for special Music Network concerts/events
6. Advocate the value of live music in society		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establish love:live music/National Music Day as a key event in the cultural calendar

TABLE B - Strategy Area: Musician Development

Objective	Realisation
1. Provision of professional performance opportunities (in Ireland and internationally) and associated outreach/ audience development initiatives as appropriate	1. consolidation of performance programmes into a single touring programme and recalibration to align with new audience-focus policy 2. delivery of Touring Programme with more flexible, creative design & delivery model (see Table A, objective 1, realisation point 3) 3. continuation/extension of International performance opportunities through Culture Ireland/Dept of Foreign Affairs, and other key international partners (see Table C. objective 4, realisation point 2)
2. Promotion of the work of contemporary Irish composers	1. inclusion of contemporary Irish works in all relevant touring programmes 2. development of Contemporary Music Centre partnership vis-à-vis Composers Voice initiative, which funds Irish composers to attend concerts which feature their works and introduce them to audiences 3. commission of new works by Irish composers as appropriate
3. Provision of supports for emerging musicians	1. inclusion of tours by emerging Irish artists within overall touring programme, with tour-related artist supports provided and marketing tools developed 2. strengthened linkages with 3rd level Performance Music Education Departments to this end
4. Creation of curatorial opportunities for musicians	1. establishment of Musician/curator Residencies in association with partner promoters and/or local authority arts officers, to enable creative collaborations, commissioning of new work, special performances with international guest musicians, etc
5. Provision of direct funding supports to musicians	1. continued management of Music Capital Scheme 2. continued management of Arts Council Music Recording Scheme 3. establishment of National Musical Instrument Scheme

TABLE C - Strategy Area: Partnership Development

Objective	Realisation
1. Engage with the Arts Council and other potential National Touring Partners, to generate ideas that further develop infrastructure for music touring in Ireland and, as the leading agency in music, develop our role in the area of brokering tours	1. discussions/market research with key parties undertaken; proposed structure agreed, programme piloted and established
2. Deepen engagement with key promoters, working together to raise standards of concert promotion and foster greater audience focus, leading to increased audiences	1. redefinition of Music Network/Partner Promoter partnership in consultation with promoters, & revision of the Partner Promoter Agreement 2. regular meetings with promoters/attendance at their Music Network concerts 3. consultative group, (see Table A, objective 1, realisation point 1) 4. within our audience development strategy (see Table A, page 30-31): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop promoters' music programming expertise via advice & support on artist selection, repertoire etc • develop musician/curator residencies (see Table B, objective 4) • provide/co-develop thematic programmes • provide access to new touring product via brokerage programme, as outlined above • develop promoters' marketing capacity via provision of tailored advice and support on marketing-related issues, in partnership with Arts Audiences • Partner on design/delivery of audience development programmes run in conjunction with Music Network tours, providing access to musicians skilled in this area of work • link partners with MEPs, Music Capital Scheme Awardees, love:live music participants etc in their locale, on the delivery of the above.

TABLE C - Strategy Area: Partnership Development

Objective	→	Realisation
<p>3. Work with and through our subsidiary company Music Generation on:</p> <p>i. full implementation of the National Music Education Programme;</p> <p>ii. an integrated strategy for joined-up local music development</p>		<p>1. Subject to funding, review of implementation of Music Network's 2003 Report of a Feasibility Study: a National System of Local Music Education Services, in order to develop a joint strategy that defines how Music Network and Music Generation will work towards achieving the vision articulated in the report</p> <hr/> <p>2. working directly with MEPs on integration of Music Network tours with their music development and outreach programmes</p>
<p>4. Strengthen existing strategic partnerships, and initiate new partnerships in pursuit of our goals</p>		<p>1. extension of our partnership with Moving on Music in co-promoting tours, hence maximising access for audiences, and increasing work opportunities for musicians</p> <hr/> <p>2. working with Culture Ireland and other partners to ensure that new, curated touring product provides maximum value for investment & extended performance opportunities for musicians involved through international tours/concert series</p> <hr/> <p>3. taking advantage of Music Network's new base in the National Concert Hall building to explore the potential for creative collaboration with resident musicians/organisations that supports our promoter and audience development goals</p> <hr/> <p>4. liaising with the Improvised Music Company and Note Productions to ensure complementarity of services and that the needs of the Irish jazz sector are best served</p> <hr/> <p>5. working in partnership with Arts Audiences in provision of tailored promoter, and potentially, artist development supports, specific to the needs of the music sector.</p>

Music Network operates on an annual turnover of €1.2 m and currently employs 1 part-time and 6 full-time members of staff. Subject to available resources, the organisation will seek to roll out this programme of music services and complementary supports. However, the level of funding achievable over the term of this plan will directly impact on the scale of, and timeframe for, its delivery. While most of our objectives are listed under a single strategic theme, they will often feed into one or both other themes, as the proposed programme is extremely integrated in its approach.

Our intention is to implement this plan over a three year period. To this end, we have created an Implementation Plan to guide our activities, with specific actions, timelines and budgets. This plan will be reviewed on a regular basis, and recalibrated where necessary.

We look forward to the next exciting phase in the organisation's evolution as we continue to make live music happen.

06.

Appendices

**Music Network Key
Achievements and
Milestones 1986 - 2013**

**Music Network Tours
1986 – 2013**

Music Network Key Achievements and Milestones 1986 - 2013

1986

- ~ Music Network is established by the Arts Council as a subsidising concert touring agency

1990

- ~ Music Network is incorporated as a limited company without share capital

1992

- ~ Music Network achieves charitable status

1994

- ~ Music Network launches its first published policy document

1996

- ~ Musicwide programme is initiated, giving Irish and Ireland-based musicians regular concert opportunities with Music Network partner promoters
- ~ Music Network enters into a sponsorship partnership with ESB. This successful partnership runs until 2002
- ~ Music County pilot regional development initiative established in counties Kerry and Waterford. This results in the publication of the Kerry Music Report in 1999 and the Waterford Music Report in 2000
- ~ Irish Music Handbook first edition published

1997

- ~ Music Network publishes the Boydell Papers, a series of essays on music and music education policy, in honour of composer Brian Boydell's 80th birthday

1998

- ~ Directory of Musicians in Ireland book published and launched
- ~ 'Concerts in Healthcare Environments' run as a once-off project in 22 hospitals and care settings

1999

- ~ Vogler Quartet in Sligo residency is initiated, with Music Network a key partner in the establishment of the residency. Pilot year runs from 1999 – 2000. 3-year residency runs from 2000 – 2002; residency is extended by a further 2 years from 2002 – 2004. Residency includes the establishment of the Vogler Spring Festival in 2000

2000

- ~ Music Network's revised policy document is launched
- ~ establishment of a long-term partnership with the Midland Health Board, with the 'Music in Healthcare' pilot initiative for older people and care staff in residential care and day-care environments, which runs from 2000 to 2004

- ~ 'Music in the Classroom' pilot projects run in South Dublin and Dingle Peninsula
- ~ Young Musicwide programme is initiated
- ~ Irish Music Handbook 2nd edition published

2001

- ~ 'Musicwide International' launched as a partnership programme between Music Network and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Cultural Relations Committee takes over responsibility for its funding in 2003, followed by the CRC's successor, Culture Ireland

2003

- ~ Music Network publishes its report A National System of Local Music Education Services – Report of a Feasibility Study 2003 and makes a presentation of the report's findings to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Sport and Tourism. The following year, proposals piloting the model are made to the Department of Education and Science, and funding of €100,000 per annum per location made available to pilot schemes in County Donegal and City of Dublin

2004

- ~ Music Network organises a number of performances by Irish musicians in various acceding states to the EU as part of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism's Cultural Celebration Programme

2006

- ~ Music Recording Scheme established by The Arts Council and managed by Music Network. To date almost €500,000 in funding has resulted in 67 recordings, benefitting approximately 400 professional musicians
- ~ Performance & Touring Award established – a total of €491,317 funds 83 projects resulting in 404 concerts/performances involving approximately 278 professional musicians from 2006 to 2011

2007

- ~ With funding from the Arts Council, Music Network establishes a Music Education Working Group, to raise awareness of the value of music education. The group presents a proposal to the Special Committee on Arts and Education outlining the key recommendations of the 2003 report. A seminar is held in Dublin on 18th April to focus on issues relating to the development of music education services at local level, to raise awareness of current local music education initiatives, and to provide a platform for the music sector to present a cohesive voice in relation to future developments for music education services

2008

- ~ Music Capital Scheme established by The Arts Council, The IRMA Trust and Music Network as an action-research initiative designed to provide support for the purchase of musical instruments. In response to the success of the initial pilot scheme, funding has been made available for the scheme since 2011 by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. To date 45 professional musicians and 103 non-professional groups (whose beneficiaries run into the thousands) have benefited to the tune of €1,060,911

2009

- ~ An independent evaluation of the pilot projects in Donegal and Dublin, (published in April), concludes, 'this partnership model provides a workable and replicable framework for development of music education services on a wider scale throughout Ireland'
- ~ following an approach from Music Network, U2 and the Ireland funds pledge €7 million to allow the roll out of the report's recommendations on a phased basis between 2010 and 2015

2010

- ~ National Music Day/love:live music established. To date 845 free live music events have taken place reaching an estimated audience of over 100,000.
- ~ Music Network moves to establish a subsidiary company, Music Generation, as the most effective and efficient means to disburse the U2 and The Ireland Funds donation, from a governance and operational perspective

2011

- ~ Music Generation, the dedicated organisation charged with responsibility for the effective expenditure of the philanthropic gift as per the 2003 Feasibility Study model, officially unveiled

2012

- ~ Sharon Rollston appointed as CEO
- ~ Music Network seminar 'The Wealth of Music and Health' held, based on findings from the European Music in Healthcare Settings: Training Trainers Programme. The seminar examines how the skills and competences acquired through this training programme affect the arts and health landscape in Ireland

2013

- ~ Under Music Generation's roll out of the National Music Education Programme, 9 Music Education Partnerships have been established to date, benefiting 10,000 children and young people and creating employment opportunities for 120 tutors nationally
- ~ Development of Music Network's new Strategic Policy 2014 – 2017

Music Network Tours 1986 – 2013

1986 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Degani Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Echoes of Spain: Simon Taylor (guitar) with Neil O'Shea (narrator) Classical Tour
- ~ Prelude Brass Quintet Classical Tour
- ~ Four in One Jazz Session Tour

1987 Spring/Summer

- ~ Una Hunt (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Lontano String Trio with Flute and Harp Classical Tour
- ~ Malcolm Proud (harpsichord) and Rachel Beckett (flute and recorder) Early Music Tour
- ~ Carolann Lowe (mezzo-soprano) and Anthony Byrne (piano) Classical Tour

1987 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Len Graham (vocals), Gay McKeon (uilleann pipes), Paul McGrattan (flute), Dónal O'Connor (fiddle), Denis Doody (accordion) Traditional Tour
- ~ Fintan Vallely (flute), Mick O'Brien (uilleann pipes), Mary MacNamara (concertina) John Campbell (story-teller) Denis Ryan (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Virginia Kerr (soprano) and Nigel Williams (bass) with Jimmy Vaughan (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet Classical Tour

1988 Spring/Summer

- ~ Hugh Tinney (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Desi Wilkinson (flute), Tony Linnane (fiddle), Sharon Shannon (accordion), Ronan Browne (uilleann pipes) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Greasan Ensemble Oboe Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Frankie Kennedy (flute), Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (fiddle), Seán Óg Potts (uilleann pipes) Michelle O'Sullivan (concertina) Johnny O'Leary (accordion) Traditional Tour

1988 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Mary Bergin (flute), Matt Cranitch (fiddle), Con Ó Drisceoil (accordion), Eithne Ní Uallacháin (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Jan Cap (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Turina Guitar Trio Classical Tour
- ~ The Word with special guests Do the Do

1989 Spring/Summer

- ~ Bernadette McGreevy (soprano) with Jimmy Vaughan (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Liam O'Flynn (uilleann pipes), James Cullinan (fiddle), Pip and John Murphy (harmonica), Seán Keane (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Philippe Cassard (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Paddy Keenan (uilleann pipes), Dermot Diamond (fiddle), Charlie Harris (accordion), John Lyons (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Degani String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Entr'acte: An Evening of Music and Silent Film Classical Tour

1989 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Davy Spillane (uilleann pipes), Dermot Byrne (accordion), Patsy Hanley (flute), Mico Russell (whistle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Gabriel McArdle (vocals), Seán Ryan (whistle), Terry Tully (uilleann pipes), Jim McGrath (accordion), Máire Bhreatnach (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Testore String Trio Classical Tour

1990 Spring/Summer

- ~ Philip Martin (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Mary Hegarty (soprano) with Jimmy Vaughan (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ PJ Herson (accordion), Máire Ní Ghráda (uilleann pipes), Rosie Stewart (vocals), Eamonn Cotter (flute), Kevin Glackin (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ John Feeley (guitar) Classical Tour
- ~ Máirtín O'Connor (accordion), John Murphy (uilleann pipes), Edel McWeeney (fiddle), John Kennedy (tin whistle) Traditional Tour

1990 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Schubert Ensemble Classical Tour
- ~ LCO Brass Soloists Classical Tour
- ~ Enrique Pérez de Guzman (piano) Classical Tour

1991 Spring/Summer

- ~ Geraldine O'Grady (violin) and Veronica McSwiney (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Diarmuid Ó Suilleabháin (vocals), PJ Crotty (flute), Paddy Glackin (fiddle), Sharon Shannon (accordion), Robbie Hannan (uilleann pipes) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Martinu String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Ruth Slenczynska (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Romancas: Traditional Music from Portugal Traditional Tour

1991 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Allegri Quartet Classical Tour

1992 Spring/Summer

- ~ Martin Nolan (pipes), John Lyons (vocals), Eoin O'Neill (bouzouki), Mary Custy (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Pavel Nerseeisan (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Smith Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ The Bulgarian Connection Traditional Tour
- ~ John O'Connor (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Dordán Traditional Tour

1992 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Madeleine Mitchell (violin) with John Lenehan (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Cara O'Sullivan (soprano) with Patrick Zuk (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Guitar Masters: John Feely (guitar) and Louis Stewart (guitar) Classical/Jazz Tour

1994 Spring/Summer

- ~ Arty McGlynn (guitar), Nollaig Casey (fiddle), Ronan Browne (pipes), Desi Wilkinson (vocals and flute) Traditional Tour
- ~ Ensemble Contrasts Vienna Classical Tour
- ~ The Jim Doherty Trio with Len McCarthy Jazz Tour
- ~ Crawford Piano Trio Classical Tour
- ~ Phoenix Trio, Niall Morris (tenor) and Trilogy Classical Tour
- ~ Brendan McGlinchey (fiddle), Neilidh Mulligan (pipes), Joe Stewart (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Regina Nathan (soprano) with Malcom Martineau (piano) Classical Tour

1994 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Aurelia Saxophone Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ The Best of Irish: Joe Burke (accordion), Anne Burke (guitar), Gay McKeon (uilleann pipes), Rosie Stewart (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Kodaly String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Guy Barker (trumpet) and the Mike Nielsen Trio Jazz Tour

1995 Spring/Summer

- ~ The Best of Irish: Fintan Vallely (flute), Maighréad Ní Dhomhnaill (vocals), Con Ó Drisceoil (accordion), Dermot Diamond (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Kammervereinigung Berlin Classical Tour
- ~ Honor Heffernan Trio Jazz Tour
- ~ David Franceschetti (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Hill-Wiltschinsky Guitar Duo Classical Tour
- ~ Chandos Baroque Players Classical Tour
- ~ Kathleen Tynan (soprano), Colette McGahon (mezzo-soprano) and Dearbhla Collins (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Tony MacMahon (accordion), Iarla Ó Lionáird (vocals), Séamus Tansey (flute), Seán McKiernan (pipes) Traditional Tour

1995 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Barra MacNeils Traditional Tour
- ~ John O'Connor (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Louis Stewart Trio Jazz Tour
- ~ The Stuttgart Wind Octet Classical Tour
- ~ Máire Breathnach (fiddle), Steve Dunford (bodhran), Conor Byrne (flute and tin whistle), Niall Ó Callanain (bouzouki) Traditional Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Jackie Daly (accordion), Máire O'Keefe (fiddle), Cathal McConnell (flute), Mick O'Brien (uilleann pipes) Traditional Tour
- ~ RTÉ Vanbrugh String Quartet with John Finucane (clarinet) Classical Tour

1996 Spring/Summer

- ~ Amsterdam Guitar Trio Classical Tour
- ~ Christine Tobin Band Jazz Tour
- ~ Danish String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Aurelia Saxophone Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Matt Cranitch (fiddle), Donal Murphy (accordion), Tommy O'Sullivan (guitar), Johnny McCarthy (flute) Traditional Tour

1996 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Tommy Peoples (fiddle), Siobhan Peoples (fiddle), Paddy O'Donoghue (flute), Cyril O'Donoghue (bouzouki/guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Peter Katin (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Julian Arguelles (saxophone), Steve Arguelles (drums), Micu Narunsky (piano), Ronan Guilfoyle (acoustic bass guitar) Jazz Tour
- ~ Royal Danish Brass Classical Tour
- ~ Lachrimae Consort with Emer Buckley (harpsichord) Classical Tour

1997 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Paddy Glackin (fiddle), Emer Mayock (flute), Seán Óg Potts (pipes), Micheál Ó Domhnaill (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Schubert Ensemble of London Classical Tour
- ~ Rory McGuinness (saxophone), Myles Drennan (piano), Dave Fleming (bass), John Wadham (drums) Jazz Tour
- ~ Schubertiad Evening: Lynda Lee (mezzo-soprano), Michael Seaver (clarinet), Patrick Zuk (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Offenburger String Trio Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Máirtín O'Connor (accordion), Kevin Burke (fiddle), Áine Uí Cheallaigh (vocals), Brendan O'Regan (guitar) Traditional Tour

1997 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Liz Doherty (fiddle), Tommy Keane (uilleann pipes), Josephine Marsh (accordion), Lillis Ó Laoire (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Arion Ensemble Classical
- ~ Anthony Kerr Quartet Jazz Tour
- ~ Danish Wind Quintet Classical Tour
- ~ RTÉ Vanbrugh String Quartet with Hugh Tinney (piano) Classical Tour

1998 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Breannán Ó Beaglaoich (accordion), Cormac Breatnach (flute, whistles), Kevin Glackin (fiddle), Seán Tyrell (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Parisii String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Max Levinson (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Barcelona Guitar Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Joe Burke (accordion), Anne Burke (accordion, guitar), Michael Cooney (pipes), Tim Lyons (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Anthony Goldstone (piano) and Caroline Clemmow (piano) Classical Tour

1998 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Niall Vallely (concertina), Niall Keegan (flute), Mel Mercier (percussion), John Spillane (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Joseph Haydn Trio of Eisenstadt Classical Tour
- ~ Tommy Halferty (guitar), Nigel Flegg (congas), Kieran Phillips (drums), Ricardo dos Fantos (bass) Jazz Tour
- ~ Catherine Leonard (violin), Franzita Whelan (soprano), Andrew West (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ London Brass Classical Tour

1999 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Michael McGoldrick (flute and uilleann pipes), Cathal Hayden (fiddle), Alan Kelly (accordion), Karan Casey (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Groningen Guitar Duo Classical Tour
- ~ Julian Arguelles (saxophone), Tom Rainey (drums), Ronan Guilfoyle (bass), Rick Peckham, (guitar) Jazz Tour
- ~ Kontra String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Calefax Reed Quintet Classical Tour
- ~ Joanna MacGregor (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Mary Bergin (tin whistle), Joe McKenna (uilleann pipes), Mick Conneely (fiddle), Noel Shine (vocals, guitar) Traditional Tour

1999 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Cran Traditional Tour
- ~ Yggdrasil String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Matt Penman (bass), Greg Touhey (guitar), Jerome Sabbagh (saxophone), Darren Beckett (drums) Jazz Tour
- ~ Mícheál O'Rourke (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Endillion String Quartet with Thomas Carroll (cello) Classical Tour

2000 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich (vocals), Peter Browne (uilleann pipes), Gerry Harrington (fiddle), Charlie Pigott (accordion) Traditional Tour
- ~ Skampa String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Jan zum Vohrde (alto sax, flute and alto flute), Mike Nielsen (guitar), Jesper Lundgaard (double bass), Kieran Phillips (drums) Jazz Tour
- ~ Red Priest Classical Tour
- ~ Quartz Saxophone Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Judith Mok and the Irish Piano Trio: Michael d'Arcy (violin), Annette Cleary (cello), Dearbhla Collins (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Tommy Hayes (bodhrán and percussion), Mary Staunton (vocals and accordion), Kieran Hanrahan (banjo), Micheal Rooney (harp and concertina) Traditional Tour

2000 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Laoise Kelly (harp), Mirella Murray (piano accordion), Jarlath McTernan (uilleann pipes, whistles), John Joe Kelly (bodhran) Traditional Irish Tour
- ~ Lotus String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Juan Martin and Arte Flamenco Pura World Music Tour
- ~ Priya Mitchell (violin) and Robert Kulek (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Barry Douglas (piano) Classical Tour

2001 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Martin Hayes (fiddle), Helen Hayes (vocals), Mary MacNamara (concertina), Patrick Marsh (bouzouki) Traditional Tour
- ~ Fretwork with Julia Gooding (soprano) Classical Tour
- ~ Windows on Jazz: Louis Stewart (guitar), Gordon Beck (piano), Stephen Keogh (drums), Mark Hodgson (double bass) Jazz Tour
- ~ Joanna MacGregor (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Trio Mats Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Tony McManus (guitar), John McSherry (uilleann pipes), Donal O'Connor (fiddle), Gabriel McArdle (vocals) Traditional Tour

2001 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin (piano) and Mel Mercier (percussion) Traditional Tour
- ~ Nikolai Demidenko (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Jacob Karlzon Trio with Richie Buckley (saxophone) Jazz Tour
- ~ New Helsinki Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Ib Hausmann (clarinet), Matthias Lingenfelder (violin), Andreas Arndt (cello), Peter Orth (piano) Classical Tour

2002 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: Conor Byrne (flute and whistles), Meabh O'Hare (fiddle), Gavin Ralston (guitar), Andrew Murray (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Seamus Blake Quartet Jazz Tour
- ~ The Katona Twins guitar duo Classical Tour
- ~ The Hugo Wolf Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Alison Browner (soprano) with members of the Akademie für Alte Musik Early Music Tour
- ~ Vienna Piano Trio Classical Tour
- ~ Colm O'Donnell (flute, whistles and vocals), Declan Payne (accordion), Shane McGowan (guitar), Mick Conneely/Declan Folan (fiddle) Traditional Tour

2002 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: John Wynne (flute), Alan Kelly (accordion), John Carty (fiddle), Aileen O'Connor (vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Michael Buckley Quartet featuring Kurt Rosenwinkel (guitar) Jazz Tour
- ~ Alexei Nabioulin (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Aviv Quartet with Finghin Collins (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Paolo Pandolfo - Le Labyrinthe Classical Tour

2003 Spring/Summer

- ~ Benjamin Schmid (violin) and Alfredo Perl (piano) Early Music Tour
- ~ The Castagneri String Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Lynne Arriale Trio Jazz Tour
- ~ Capriccio Stravagante: The Purcell Quartet with Clara Sanabras (vocals and guitar) Classical Tour
- ~ Daniel Muller-Schott (cello) and Robert Kulek (piano) Classical Tour

2003 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Ronald Van Spaendonck (clarinet) and Alexandre Tharaud (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Gabriele Mirabassi Trio Jazz Tour
- ~ 4-Mality Percussion Quartet Classical Tour

2004 Spring/Summer

- ~ Best of Irish: The Music of Dublin with Kevin Glackin (fiddle), Sean Potts (uilleann pipes), Paul McGrattan (flute), Sean Tyrrell (guitar and vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Leopold String Trio Classical Tour
- ~ Hille Perl (viola da gamba) and Lee Santana (lute and baroque guitar) Early Music Tour
- ~ Isabelle Faust (violin) and Florent Boffard (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: The Next Generation with Gavin Whelan (whistles), Zoe Conway (fiddle), Aogan Lynch (concertina), Donnacha Moynihan (guitar) Traditional Tour

2004 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Best of Irish: The Music of West Kerry and the Dingle Peninsula with Breannán Ó Beaghlaóich (button accordion), Eoin Duignan (uilleann pipes and low whistle), Eilis Kennedy (vocals and whistles), Jon Sanders (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Babatunde Lea Quartet: Babatunde Lea (drums and percussion), Geoff Brennan (bass), Hilton Ruiz (piano), Richard (tenor saxophone) Jazz Tour
- ~ Craig Ogden (guitar) Classical Tour
- ~ Trio Turner Classical Tour

2005 Spring/Summer

- ~ The Best of Irish: Roots and Relations with Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (fiddle), Dermot Byrne (accordion), Ciarán Ó Maonaigh (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble Classical Tour
- ~ Virelai: Catherine King (mezzo-soprano), William Lyons (renaissance flute), Susanna Pell (viol) and Jacob Heringman (lute and viol) Early Music Tour
- ~ Torleif Thedéen (solo cello) Classical Tour
- ~ Best of Irish: Around the World in 80 Riffs with Desi Wilkinson (flute), Máirtín O'Connor (accordion) and Brendan O'Regan (bouzouki) Traditional Tour

2005 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Celtic Connections with Josephine Marsh (accordion), Declan Corey (bouzouki and mandolin), Guto Dafis (melodeon), Gareth Westacott (fiddle) Traditional Tour
- ~ Trio Résistances Jazz Tour
- ~ Ensemble Nordlys Classical Tour
- ~ Aron Quartet Classical Tour

2006 Spring/Summer

- ~ The Music and Song of South Ulster with Gerry O'Connor (fiddle), Cathal McConnell (flute, whistle and vocals), Martin Quinn (accordion) Traditional Tour
- ~ Kadin sarkilari Early Music Tour
- ~ The Yukawa-Chan piano duo Classical Tour
- ~ Pedro Carneiro, solo percussionist Classical Tour
- ~ Emigrant Music - Lost and Found with Máire Breatnach (fiddle), Garry Walsh (flute), Dave Hennessy (melodeon), Dónal Clancy (guitar) Traditional Tour

2006 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Songs of Donegal with Maighrhead Ní Dhomhnaill (vocals), Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill (vocals and keyboard) Tony McManus (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Nils Wogram and Root 70 Jazz Tour
- ~ Laura Mitchell (soprano), Morgan Szymanski (guitar) Classical Tour
- ~ Miceál O'Rourke, (piano) and the Stravinsky Quartet Classical Tour

2007 Spring/Summer

- ~ 'And to Land's End...' with Niamh de Búrca (vocals), Michael Rooney (harp), June McCormac (flute) Traditional Tour
- ~ Ingrid Laubrock Quintet Jazz Tour
- ~ Catherine Leonard (violin), Guy Johnston (cello), Charles Owen, (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Armoniosi Concerti Classical Tour
- ~ Music and Song from Coast to Coast with Maeve Donnelly (fiddle), Peadar O'Loughlin (flute and fiddle), Ronan Browne (pipes), Seán Corcoran (vocals) Traditional Tour

2007 Autumn/Winter

- ~ To Brittany and Beyond, Traditional and New Music from Ireland and Brittany with Emer Mayock (flute), Jean-Michel Veillon (flute), Donal Siggins (guitar, bouzouki and mandolin) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Bester Quartet Jazz Tour
- ~ Hans Pålsson (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The London Conchord Ensemble and Daniel Norman (tenor) Classical Tour

2008 Spring/Summer

- ~ Horsehair, Wind and Reeds with Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh (fiddle), Catherine McEvoy (flute) and Micheál Ó Raghallaigh (concertina) Traditional Tour
- ~ Ferenc Snétberger Trio NOMAD Jazz Tour
- ~ Mairéad Buicke (soprano), Seung-Wook Seong (baritone), Lada Valešová (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ The Smith Quartet with Gerard McChrystal (saxophone) Contemporary Classical Tour
- ~ Tobar an Cheoil with Brian McNamara (uilleann pipes), Gráinne Hambly (concertina, harp), Éamon Ó Donnchadha (vocals, flute) Traditional Tour

2008 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The West Awake with Cora Smyth (fiddle), Breda Smyth (fiddle/whistles), Pauline Scanlon (vocals), Donogh Hennessy (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ The Elio Villafranca Quartet Jazz Tour
- ~ Quartet New Generation Early Music/Contemporary Tour
- ~ Antti Siirala (solo piano) Classical Tour

2009 Spring/Summer

- ~ Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part with Len Graham (vocals), Cormac Breatnach (whistles), Brian Fleming (percussion) Traditional Tour
- ~ Gyan Riley Trio Jazz Tour
- ~ The Badke Quartet Classical tour
- ~ Rastrelli Cello Quartet Classical tour
- ~ The Long Note with Tony MacMahon (button accordion), Angelina Carberry (banjo) and Allan MacDonald (Scottish small pipes/vocals) Traditional Tour

2009 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Ó Euskadi go hÉirinn – The Basque Irish Connection with Niamh Ní Charra (fiddle, concertina), Ibon Koteron (alboka, dultzaina) and Gavin Ralston (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Ragnhild Furebotten and Tore Bruvoll's Hekla Stålstrenga, Traditional Tour
- ~ Celine Byrne (soprano), Tara Erraught (mezzo-soprano), Dearbhla Collins (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Tasmin Little (violin) Classical Tour

2010 Spring/Summer

- ~ The Homecoming with Susan McKeown (vocals), Paddy O'Brien (accordion), Cillian Vallely (uilleann pipes, low whistle), Aidan Brennan (guitar) Traditional Tour
- ~ Portico Quartet Jazz Tour
- ~ Ariadne Daskalakis (violin) and Trio Vintage Baroque Tour
- ~ Xuefei Yang (guitar) and Natalie Clein (cello) Classical tour
- ~ Do Bhiosa Lá i bPortlairge – Music from the South East with David Power (uilleann pipes), Fionn Mac Goillachuda (fiddle), Ciarán Somers (flute) Traditional Tour

2010 Autumn/Winter

- ~ The Living Stream with Matt Cranitch (fiddle), Jackie Daly (accordion), John Faulkner (guitar, bouzouki, vocals) Traditional Tour
- ~ Greg Felton Trio and Isa Wiss Jazz Tour
- ~ Cappa Ensemble Classical Tour
- ~ Cara O'Sullivan (soprano), Ciara Moroney (piano) Classical Tour

2011 Spring/Summer

- ~ Crossing the Shannon with Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh (vocals, flute), John Wynne (flute), John McEvoy (fiddle), John Blake (guitar, flute, bouzouki) Traditional Tour
- ~ Zoe Rahman Trio with Idris Rahman Jazz Tour
- ~ Terpsycordes Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Calmus Ensemble Classical Tour
- ~ From Polka to Polska with Olov Johansson (nyckelharpa), Tom Morrow (fiddle, viola), Gerry O'Beirne (guitars, ukulele, vocals), Conor Byrne (flutes, guitar, vocals) Traditional Tour

2011 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Fonn Aniar / Tune from the West with Breannán Ó Beaghlaoich (vocals, button accordion), Tommy Peoples (fiddle), Laoise Kelly (harp) Traditional Tour
- ~ Lauren Kinsella's Thought-Fox Jazz Tour
- ~ Netnakisum folk/contemporary tour
- ~ Alexej Gorlatch (solo piano) Classical tour

2012 Spring/Summer

- ~ The Teetotallers: Martin Hayes (fiddle, viola), Kevin Crawford (flute, whistles, bodhrán), John Doyle (vocals, guitar, bouzouki, mandola) Traditional Tour
- ~ CAN Percussion Trio Contemporary Tour
- ~ Fidelio Trio with Carol McGonnell Contemporary Classical Tour
- ~ Onyx Brass Classical Tour
- ~ Triúr * Tair * Triúgh * Three with Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaoich (vocals), Siân James (harp, vocals), Jenna Cumming (vocals) Traditional Tour

2012 Autumn/Winter

- ~ We Banjo 3 Traditional tour
- ~ Evan Christopher's Django à la Créole Jazz Tour
- ~ sonic art saxophone quartet Classical Tour
- ~ RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet with Nobuko Imai (viola) Classical Tour

2013 Spring/Summer

- ~ Patricia Rozario (soprano) with Michael McHale (piano) Classical Tour
- ~ Get The Blessing Jazz Tour
- ~ Ghost Trio: Iarla Ó Lionáird (vocals/harmonium), Cleek Schrey (fiddle), Ivan Goff (uilleann pipes) Traditional Tour
- ~ Trio Mediaeval Classical Tour
- ~ Máirtín O'Connor (button accordion), Zoë Conway (fiddle), Donal Lunny (guitar and bouzouki) Traditional Tour

2013 Autumn/Winter

- ~ Bellows, Bridge and Bow with Liam O'Connor (fiddle, viola), Caoimhín Ó Fearghail (uilleann pipes, flute, guitar, vocals), Noel Hill (concertina) Traditional Tour
- ~ Edmar Castañeda (solo harp) Jazz/World Tour
- ~ Chatham Saxophone Quartet Classical Tour
- ~ Nikolay Khozyainov (solo piano) Classical Tour



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