



Coiste Gairmideachais Chontae Dhún na nGall  
County Donegal Vocational Education Committee

# Local Music Education Service Partnership

**Martin Gormley**  
**Adult Education Officer**  
**Co Donegal VEC**



# Introduction

- The success of the Local Music Education Service Partnership is due to the commitment from all partners particularly the strong voluntary commitment of the Donegal School of Music
- The work of the project is underpinned by the leadership of Mr Seán O Longáin, CEO Co Donegal VEC. I also acknowledge the work of the staff of the project led by Ms Evonne Fergusson and Ms Orsi Szabo
- My perspective on this topic is from the viewpoint of Management as Adult Education Officer of County Donegal VEC and a Member of the Donegal County Development Board

# The History

- Voluntary Donegal School of Music supported administratively by Co Donegal VEC – (Classical and South County)
- County Development Board – An Straitéis 2002 – 2012 Integrated County Strategy for Social, Cultural and Economic Development– Level 3 Action 'To establish a Donegal School of Music'
- Music Network Report – Submission hosted by CDB led by Donegal VEC
- Approval of pilot project
- Appointment of Music Development Manager and Resource Tutor
- Setting up of instrument Bank

# Local Music Education Service Partnership

**Lead partner: Co. Donegal VEC**

**Stakeholders in the Partnership:**

**Music Network**

**Donegal School of Music/ Donegal Youth Orchestra**

**Donegal Education Centre**

**Donegal County Council**

**Donegal County Development Board**

**Udaras na Gaeltachta**

**Community through CBD Community Fora**



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The primary strands of the service include:

- 1 After school Music education provision
  - 2 In school Music curriculum support – primary/post primary
  - 3 Music in the community
- The Donegal LMESP has implemented this provision in accordance with -  
'a National System of Local Music Education Services: Report of a feasibility study, 2003'

# Local Music Education Service Partnership

## 1. After school Music Education provision (ages 7-18)

- instrumental/vocal tuition.
- Individual/group tuition.
- In classical/jazz/rock/pop/trad Music.
- In 9 centres throughout the county (approx 600 students/32 part-time tutors, in VEC centres/schools)
- Instrument bank.
- Ensemble/choral activities (DYO,DYC,DCO)
- Workshops/seminars/summer camps – (fretwork, Music tech., tune up & dance, Donegal fiddle, Summer course for strings)
- Public performances (ar ais aris, school openings, carol services)
- Parent's nights/showcase evenings.

Centres	Students	Tuition Offered
<b>Instrumental Tuition</b>		
Árainn Mhór Island	51	Piano Accordion, Fiddle, Whistle, Banjo, Mandolin, acoustic guitar
Buncrana	132	Vocal, Choir, Violin, Cello, Flute, Piano, Keyboard, Classical Guitar, Button Accordion, Bodhrán
Carndonagh	125	Strings, Vocal, Piano, Acoustic Guitar, Drums, Choir
Donegal Town	119	Flute, Clarinet, Recorder, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, Cello, Classical Guitar
Gort a' Choirce	32	Keyboard, Acoustic Guitar, electric guitar, Fiddle, Traditional Flute, Whistle, Uilleann Pipes
Gaoth Dobhair	23	Traditional Fiddle
Letterkenny	127	Flute, Clarinet, Recorder, Saxophone, Violin, Cello, Brass, Acoustic Guitar
Moville	101	Violin, Woodwind, Choir Acoustic Guitar, Whistle/Traditional Flute, Button Accordion, Bodhrán
Loch an Iúir	29	Piano Accordion, whistle, Guitar
Stranorlar	25	Vocal, fiddle and drum workshops during school hours in collaboration with school completion board

Current Enrolment April 2007

Fretwork Classical Guitar Summer Camp	20	Cross-border classical guitar workshop weekend initiative to develop ensemble playing among classical guitar students from Buncrana, Donegal Town and Derry. The weekend featured seminar on the history of classical guitar and various workshops. There was an ensemble performance to conclude the Summer camp.
Music Technology Workshops	10	Provided in Buncrana and Letterkenny. For pupils between the ages of 12 – 17. Basic skills in sound editing and recording using music technology kits of the LMESP. Culminated in the recording and production of a CD at the end of the five-week course.
“Tune Up & Dance” Gort a ‘Choirce	20	Students of traditional instruments came together to develop accompaniment skills for traditional Irish dance tunes. This is a most important skill in terms of the development of rhythm etc. and places the tunes in context for the players.
Donegal fiddle tradition with Tommy Peoples. Gort a ‘Choirce	20	Tommy Peoples renowned Donegal Fiddler gave masterclass to LMES students and Local Comhltais students presented in collaboration with the Balor Theatre’s Musician in residence project, Ballybofey.
Strings Summer Course	35	Run over a three week period in June 2006. Developed for string players in Donegal Town and Letterkenny to enhance the Donegal Chamber Orchestra and solo string performances of younger students. The programme resulted in the debut performance of the Donegal Chamber Orchestra at the end of the course.



# Local Music Education Service Partnership

## 2. In school Music Curriculum support: potential 2008

Primary –performing/composing/listening

- LMESP tutor can support work of class teacher
  - **Percussion workshops**
  - **Instrumental/vocal tuition**
  - **Introduction to classical Music**
  - **Vocal workshops**
  - **Introduction to traditional music and instruments**
- Advise and Assist the school in providing in school instrumental/vocal tuition, (with parental support)
- Offer training programmes for class teachers in support of the curriculum in partnership with the Education Centre.
- LMESP tutor can help up-skill class teacher in aspects of the Music Curriculum with support of the Donegal Education centre: September 2007 possibilities:
  - **Using technology to compose Music**
  - **Vocal training**
- To date: duo pizzicato – Letterkenny and Inishowen and open orchestra in Tory Island.

# Local Music Education Service Partnership

## In school Music Curriculum support: post-primary.

Potential activities for 2008:

- Instrumental/vocal tuition to enable those interested to pursue this module for the Leaving Certificate
- Music technology workshop programmes (8 weeks min)
- Vocal training programme
- Seminar on classical guitar – history and short performance
- Introduction to classical strings – violin and cello with Q&A and performance
- Partnership with RTÉ lyric fm outreach programme
- "Routes of Rhythm" – percussion/drumming workshop

To date:

- Duo pizzicato – almost countywide.
- Classical guitar seminar – Donegal Town and Bunclara.
- RTÉ lyric fm outreach programme – almost countywide.
- Train the trainer programme – violin – Letterkenny.
- Open orchestra in Tory Island will involve post-primary sector.



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## 3. Music in the community

- **tutor concerts**
- **Students/tutor concerts**
- **Expressing through Music performance – confidence**
- **Primary school children visit the post-primary for their lesson after school – positive impression of second level schooling**
- **Community is enhanced by cultural activities of those within the community**

# The Challenges

- **Consolidate existing provision**
- **Expand curriculum support**
- **Ensure sustainability of project**
- **Increase access through social inclusion**
- **Access complimentary funding opportunities**

resources, resources, resources, resources, resources.....

# Local Music Education Service Partnership

## Contacts

### Donegal Local Music Education Service Partnership

**25-27 Celtic Apts.**

**Pearse Rd.**

**Letterkenny**

**Co. Donegal**

**Tel: 074 9176293**

**Email: [musiceducation@donegalvec.ie](mailto:musiceducation@donegalvec.ie)**



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*Find your own voice.....  
Play your own tune.....  
Blow your own trumpet,  
clarinet, trombone.....*

*with the Donegal Local Music  
Education Service Partnership.*

