



Music Network **Policy** 2000

*The **mission** statement of Music Network lays down the principles on which it operates.*

*The **policy** of Music Network interprets the mission and sets out the priorities.*

*The **programme of activities** gives life to the mission and to the policy.*



Music Network Policy 2000


music network
DEVELOPING MUSIC NATIONWIDE


The Arts Council
An Chomhairle Ealaíon



St Joseph's NS
Clondalkin
Music Education

Mission statement

Music Network is designed to give everyone in Ireland access to musical activity of the highest quality.

Access to music affords people the opportunity of a positive experience from which they may have previously been excluded. This exclusion may be due to many factors, including geographical location, economic or educational disadvantage, disability, age, or lack of any previous musical experience.

Music Network provides access to music through the delivery of a range of high quality music services. The delivery of services is linked to a commitment to work with local partnerships to develop their capacity to provide music for the people of their community.



Martin Hayes
fiddle

Best of Irish tour

Placing policy in context

Music Network aims to complement and assist the Arts Council, An Chomhairle Ealaíon, in achieving its developmental objectives.

Locally-based development cannot be delivered by a single agency. Music Network can exploit its existing range of partnerships and encourage co-operation with other bodies and agencies throughout the country.

The scale of the need for sustainable musical development across Ireland is very great; many of the obstacles are structural in nature.

A policy of providing access to music of the highest quality requires a high level of secure funding

Music Network has acquired a substantial range of experience and must fully exploit its strengths, while acknowledging its limitations.

The current evolution of new structures to develop North-South partnerships will be used to strengthen the existing scope of Music Network's island-wide activities.

The social and cultural environment is changing and Music Network must be in a position to respond to such changes.



Joanna McGregor
piano
Touring
Programme



Teresa Lynch
Mullingar
Music in
Healthcare

Policy objectives

The primary policy objectives of Music Network are:

- to develop the provision of live music and promote the appreciation of music in local communities
- to provide opportunities for Irish musicians and composers to reach a wide audience

These policies are supported by two additional priorities:

- the creation of a research and development framework to explore new and appropriate models for local musical development
- the advocacy of co-operative and broadly-based music initiatives, involving other agencies as partners



Catherine Leonard
violin
Musicwide

Julian Argüelles
saxophone
Touring Programme



Programme of activities

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

This consists of a series of high quality music services which are delivered throughout Ireland, through a network of locally based partnerships. The range of services includes concerts, education and involvement across a wide range of musical activity and varies according to local and national needs and resources.

The Performance Programme has three aspects:

- **activities in operation:** these include Touring, Musicwide and Regional Ensembles-in-Residence – all of which are "mature", well-established features
- **more recent initiatives:** these activities are in research phase and include Promoter Support, Music Education, Music in Healthcare, Continuing Professional Development
- **future developments:** these are opportunities which may arise as the result of changing circumstances

Music Network's policy is translated into action through its *Programme of activities*, the main elements of which are the *Performance Programme* and the *Information Service*.

INFORMATION SERVICE

Access to accurate, up-to-date information about the range of musical activity in Ireland is useful to a potentially very large number of people at local, national and international levels, including promoters, musicians and potential audiences. The Information Service offered by Music Network provides such access in a number of different forms and not only serves the users but also enhances Music Network's ability to deliver its Performance Programme most effectively.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The standard models used to provide access to music in Ireland have fallen short of the ideal in some important respects. Music Network has, therefore, adopted the policy aim of constituting a research and development framework with which a range of innovative models for local music development can be initiated.

This approach allows Music Network to evaluate new activities before committing resources to an entire programme. Equally important, it affords other national and local bodies the opportunity to observe the results and provides a context in which potential funders may be persuaded to commit resources which would effect lasting and beneficial structural change. All programmes, including those which have been long established, are subject to regular monitoring and evaluation.



Irish Music
Handbook
(2nd Edition)



Vogler Quartet

Regional
Ensemble-in-
Residence
Co Sligo

Music Network as an advocate for access to music

As an organisation which works through partnerships at every level, Music Network sees the need to stimulate and encourage active co-operation between, on the one hand, publicly funded bodies such as the Arts Council, Government Departments, local government, educational institutions, RTÉ and, on the other hand, a range of commercial entities, private organisations, professional music and arts bodies and national and local voluntary groups.

Such a combination of informed opinion, collective energy and commitment to action would represent an invaluable resource with the potential to transform the provision of music-making in Ireland.

The tone of Music Network's **Policy 2000** may be slightly different from that of its predecessor of 1994 but the emphasis on access, quality and continuity remains.

Music Network was and is

"...an organisation for the development and implementation of policies and programmes to optimise the development of music in all the regions of Ireland"

(1994 Policy Document)

Music Network's policies manifest a

"...belief in the right of the individual and the community to access to music as a vitally important and integral part of their cultural heritage in its broadest sense".

(1994 Policy Document)

*Music Network
Coach House
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2*

*Tel: 01 6719429
01 6719430
Fax: 01 6719430*

*Email: info@musicnetwork.ie
Web: www.musicnetwork.ie*