



Increasing high quality music opportunities for young Londoners

Sound Connections develops, supports and empowers individuals and organisations to deliver high quality music making with children and young people across London.

We achieve this through three interconnected strands of activity:

Music programmes

We are uniquely placed to manage meaningful partnerships and programmes providing music making activities for 0-24 year olds across London. In partnership, we provide music making, mentoring and work experience opportunities to develop young people and improve their opportunities in life. We also bring young people into decision-making, enabling them to engage and contribute more fully to the debate around their provision.

Information & training

We provide a wide range of courses, bespoke advice and support to those delivering and managing activity to ensure higher quality music provision for young people. We also offer extensive information on job roles and work within the sector and signpost to a broad range of training and networking provision.

Research & development

By using the knowledge and evidence gathered from our activities, training programmes and relationships with over 2,500 members and regional and national decision makers, we continue to inform and improve the music education sector.

Our current projects include:

London Youth Music Action Zone

Sound Connections has been managing the London Youth Music Action Zone since 2003. The aim of the action zones, of which there are 20 across England, is to provide music making activities for 0-18 year olds who might otherwise lack opportunity. Successful partnerships have been formed with a range of organisations across London with projects engaging early years, special educational needs, digital and studio music and young people in challenging circumstances.

Over the last 12 months Sound Connections has worked with more than 30 partners to pioneer new ways of working, establish new partnerships with referral agencies and explore new musical activities enabling ideas to be tested and important lessons to be shared with others.

MusicLeader London

MusicLeader London is part of a national programme that supports the development of the music-leading workforce, equipping it with the knowledge and skills required by employers. This is achieved by providing one-to-one support and guidance, training and networking opportunities, and online information and resources. Employers value MusicLeader because it advocates the Music Education Code of Practice, encouraging all practitioners to commit to providing high quality music making and learning experiences for the people they work with. The Jobs Board also allows employers to advertise vacancies for free to an audience of 4,300 members across London via the website and a fortnightly e-bulletin.

Wired4Music – Young Londoners Music Council

Our unique pan-London music council for young people represents the capital's diverse cultures and feeds into national and international youth structures. The role of the council is to consult, advocate, challenge and create activities and understanding around music and the role it plays in young Londoners' lives. Their website also provides a signposting service, 'Musical Opportunities' for all young Londoners to access high quality music provision near them. <http://www.wired4music.co.uk/>



Sing Up

Sing Up began as the Music Manifesto's National Singing Programme. Its overall aim is to raise the status of singing and increase opportunities for primary-age children throughout the country to enjoy singing as part of their everyday lives. Sound Connections continues to manage the workforce development strand of the London programme and administers a localised training offer through five clusters of London Boroughs.

Sound Connections additionally has an important and ongoing strategic role through representation on a number of regional and national bodies including:

- The Greater London Authority Music Education Steering Group
- National Campaign for the Arts
- English National Youth Arts Network (London Regional Panel Chair)
- Music Education Council
- National Association of Music Educators
- National Youth Music Action Zone network (Co-Chair)
- National MusicLeader network

Recent partnerships have included projects with Arts Inform, Barbican, Drake Music, GLA, The Institute, Kinetika, Local Authority Music Services, Rich Mix, Serious, Sing Up, Sound Sense, Trinity Laban and Youth Music.

From April 2010 to March 2011:

- Over 1,367 young people participated in activity of which 427 were through the Music Action Zone and 940 through the Sounds in the City project. 926 of these had not previously participated in music-making activities
- Partner organisations delivered 452 workshops, 61 performances and created 138 new pieces of music
- 537 people signed up to MusicLeader London bringing the current membership to over 4,000
- Over 1,000 teachers and singing leaders attended Sing Up London training events
- 40 people received 1-2-1 Information, Advice and Guidance on their professional development as a music leader in the form of a DNA Session. A further 62 attended MusicLeader London Start Up, introducing London's music education sector and the MusicLeader offer.
- The Wired4Music website received 994 unique visits per month and over 36,500 (3,000 hits per month), as well as 856 YouTube Channel views and 48 Facebook fans.
- We engaged 64 Wired4Music council members from 30 of the 33 London Boroughs who participated in four council meetings and 24 events, performances and workshops
- Sound Connections supported 23 partner organisations over 26 London Boroughs, many of them just starting out in the sector
- The Youth Music Mentors programme worked with seven delivery partners and engaged a total of 92 mentees, 24 female (26%) and 68 (74%) male. Half of the mentees were of Black Caribbean (30%) and Black African (20%) origin

What people say about us:

- "I learned a lot during my time with Fluent Music and gained new skills as well as made new friends. I would like to pass on the things I now know to other people like me." (*Participant on Music Mentor programme, Mar 2011*).
- "Creating small informal networking opportunities is something we don't do enough of as a sector, so it was good to see Sound Connections taking a lead in this." (*Attendee, Would Like to Meet... networking event, Nov 2010*)
- "I just wanted to email to say I really enjoyed the session, which was full of useful information and really well presented." (*Start Up attendee, Feb 2011*)
- "There was practical learning with lots of repertoire, backed up with theory and methodology, which put everything into context" (*Attendee from the 'Magic Box for Early Years' course, June 2010*)

For further information about how you could become involved with or support Sound Connections contact Philip Flood, Director, on 020 7729 7220 or email philip@sound-connections.org.uk