**Music Generation is Coming to Wexford!**

**The Arts Department of Wexford County Council are delighted to announce that** County Wexford will receive €600,000 over three years to enable access to high quality subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people throughout the county through Music Generation. A corresponding €600,000 in locally-generated matched funding will be raised by Wexford Music Education Partnership, which is among 9 new areas of the country selected for participation in Music Generation’s second phase.

Ireland’s national music education programme, Music Generation was initiated by Music Network in 2010, and is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships. Already, the programme creates access for more than 41,000 children and young people annually across 12 counties, with today’s announcement bringing the total number of areas reached to 21.

The 9 new Music Education Partnerships selected for participation in Music Generation ‘Phase 2’ will be established on a phased basis over the next five years. Planning for the Wexford set-up process will commence over the coming months, with programming expected to get underway later in 2018.

Wexford Music Education Partnership’s (MEP) goal is to develop a range of affordable and accessible performance music programmes for children and young people age 0 to 18. This will include the coordination of music tuition services within the county, working in partnership with schools, community music groups and tuition centres in the formation of choirs, ensembles, access programmes, composition and songwriting projects, and more, across a range of musical genres and styles.

WWETB will partner with Wexford County Council on the successful delivery of the Music Generation in Wexford. John Hegarty, Chairman of Wexford County Council commented: ‘*Wexford County Council sees this as an exciting opportunity to nurture and support the development of quality performance education for children in the county of Wexford in the coming years. Wexford has a very rich musical landscape, and we are delighted to build on this over the coming years with Music Generation’*.

Tom Enright, Chief Executive of Wexford County Council noted that: *‘We see this as a long term strategic investment in the lives of children and young people in our county, and an exciting opportunity to work with our fellow partners in Wexford Wexford Music Education Partnership and Music Generation. Immense gratitude to U2, The Ireland Funds and the Department of Education and Skills for making such a wonderful music education programme possible’.*

Responding to this great news for music education in Wexford, Kevin Lewis, Chief Executive of Wexford Waterford Education and Training Board, Lead Partner in Wexford MEP said: *‘We are delighted to have been awarded this terrific opportunity and to have obtained funding to develop the infrastructure for performance music education in Wexford’. We are enthused about the next steps that we will take as part of Music Generation, and look forward to creating new opportunities for the children and young people of Wexford to develop their musical creativity. Our enormous gratitude to U2, The Ireland Funds and the Department of Education and Skills, without whose support this would not be possible.’*

Expansion of the Music Generation initiative into Wexford was made possible as a result of philanthropic donations by U2 and The Ireland Funds, which will seed fund 50% of the costs of developing the programme during its set-up phase. This matched funding will be sustained on a long-term basis by the Department of Education and Skills once the philanthropic donations cease.

U2’ celebrated the announcement, stating: *‘We are so proud that Music Generation’s reach will now extend to a total of 21 areas of Ireland. The programme is a brilliant example of what can happen when the visions of Philanthropy, Government and Local Partners align. As a band, access to music tuition made a huge difference in our lives. For Music Generation to have come so far in just seven years is a mark of the collective commitment of all partners to provide that same opportunity for the children and young people of Ireland.’*

National Director of Music Generation, Rosaleen Molloy remarked ‘*We are thrilled that Wexford is joining the next phase of Music Generation, and we would like to acknowledge the ambition and vision of Wexford MEP in seeking truly transformative outcomes for the children and young people with whom it will engage. Music Generation looks forward to working with Wexford MEP to progress their plans for development, building upon the remarkable success of Music Generation’s story so far.’*

Music Generation Wexford is currently recruiting a Music Development Officer which will enable programme planning to commence. For more details and how to apply, please see <http://waterfordwexford.etb.ie/vacancies/>