



Tips for contributing to *Sounding Board* journal

Sounding Board is the journal of community music, published quarterly by Sound Sense. For over 30 years *Sounding Board* has been the printed (now online) home of a diverse range of shared experiences, reflections, interviews, and research contributed by Sound Sense members and community musicians. *Sounding Board* is a key benefit of the Sound Sense membership scheme and is a rich source of information and inspiration from across our sector, helping to promote and support the development of community music practice in the UK and beyond.

We warmly welcome and encourage contributions from our members from the broad spectrum of community music settings they come from. This is what keeps *Sounding Board* interesting, fresh and appealing to our readership. We are very happy to support you in contributing in a way that is most comfortable for you.

Our Head of Communications, Amy Hill (also a community musician and Sound Sense member), has put some tips together to help with what can be a daunting prospect; communicating your brilliant community music work in writing and/or video!

What do you want to say?

Sounds obvious, but it's helpful to think about exactly what you want to get across in your piece. Is there a specific strand of work you'd like to share experiences of? Or your overall reflections on being a community musician in your town/city? Pinpointing the 'hook' of your piece will help in the flow of writing it and keep you on track.

Word count

Aim for 500-1500. Check back in with point 1. Have you communicated exactly what you wanted to say? That's how many words your piece should be.

A bit about you

Let the reader get to know you a little; who you are, where you work, who you work with, and a brief summary of your piece.

Format

It's important that you write in a format and style that you feel comfortable in and in a way that best communicates what you want to say. Here are some ideas:

- Article; shared experiences, reflections, and perspectives as a community musician/organisation working in a particular setting or with a specific group of people
- Case Study; e.g. explaining the steps you took putting together a new music-making group and the challenges, triumphs, and key learnings you took away
- Press release
- Blog post; e.g. Top tips for musical improvisation with people living with dementia
- Video interview; we can send you a set of questions and you can record the answers by video or voice memo on your phone and send us the files
- Written Interview; we can arrange a time to speak on the phone and can send you some interview-style questions, allowing you to explore and articulate your work in this way
- Top tips / top learnings from your work with X / in X setting
- Research project and its findings

Sub-headings

To help organise your ideas, and to assist in readability, sub-headings can be useful, breaking up large blocks of text and different segments of the piece.

Media

Photos, videos, and sound bites are all welcome in *Sounding Board* and can make pieces even more engaging. Our new online format supports YouTube and SoundCloud clips so feel free to bring your piece to life in this way.

TIP: Encouraging comments and conversation is one of the most important things you can do on social media, as well as prompting other interactions such as reactions, link clicks, @tags and shares. And that's because each platform uses automated rules called 'algorithms' to sort posts and decide which to show to your followers and their followers.

1351

HAROLD

Your contact details

Let readers know how they can connect with and contact you. Website links, social media links, email address; whichever way you are happy to be contacted.

Explore *Sounding Board*

Here is our latest issue for you to peruse, which may give you some further ideas and inspiration for putting your piece together:

<https://sway.office.com/v0hHCeyDcy8crP3M>

Share your wonderful work with us and fellow members

We hope this has given you some inspiration and confidence to contribute your brilliant community music work to *Sounding Board*. Please do get in touch with us to discuss your ideas and we will be only too happy to help support you in bringing them to life: share@soundsense.org

* **Kindly note** that we select contributions in line with our values of promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and reserve the right to refuse contributions should we believe them to conflict with these values.