



Developing, enabling & empowering  
young Londoners through music

# Annual Review 2016





**This has been another jam-packed year for Sound Connections. Our focus continued to be in three areas of music-making with young people – early years (ages 0 to 5), challenging circumstances (covering the broad range of barriers to music-making that many young Londoners face) and youth voice with young people up to the age of 25.**

Our *London Early Years Music Network* (LEYMN) continues to grow and provide a vital forum for practitioners, many of whom attended our *Raising the Baton* conference at the Royal Albert Hall to explore new thinking and share practice.

Likewise, our *Challenging Circumstances Music Network* (CCMN) attracted increased numbers and its annual conference, centring on the theme of musical progression, generated animated debate and practical support for individuals and organisations working in this sector.

*Wired4Music*, our network for Londoners aged 16-25 with a passion for music, sustained a membership of 501 young people from across every London borough. Members come together to learn about the music industry, and to discuss and act on what matters to them about music. *Wired* members have organised their own events with an eclectic mix of young musicians and a fantastic spirit of support from audiences and artists alike.

All three areas of work are supported by research and evaluation, excellent resources on our website, as well as briefing papers and opinion pieces from the Sound Connections team and other practitioners. Our fortnightly newsletter is

also an invaluable source of information, news and debate for people working in music education in London and beyond.

Our consultancy work has grown apace with the team completing 27 commissions in the year ranging from strategy, evaluations and research, to consultations on youth voice and bespoke training. We continue to deliver our own training courses and our ever popular networking event - *Would Like to Meet...* - which brings together organisations and individuals running and supporting music activities throughout London in settings such as youth clubs and schools, in arts venues and hospitals, on housing estates and in recording studios, with young people of all ages.

As I said – a jam-packed year.

My thanks, as always, to our skilled, dedicated and hard-working staff team who make this all happen; to our equally dedicated trustees who support the staff team and bring their varied and valued skills to Sound Connections; and to our funders and donors who make it all possible. And thanks to our members: the many practitioners and arts and cultural organisations who share our belief that high quality music-making opportunities should be available to all young Londoners. As our *Wired4Music* members frequently demonstrate, music has the power to bring people together, to develop their own sense of self and appreciate others'; a positive and uniting force in divisive times.

**Katrina Duncan**  
Chair, Sound Connections

Since 2002 Sound Connections has established itself as a leader in young people's music-making in London.

We deliver groundbreaking musical opportunities, quality sector and workforce development, and high-impact research and advocacy. We have directly impacted on the lives of over 60,000 young people in challenging circumstances across London, and supported over 15,000 musicians and teachers to improve their practice.



# SOUND CONNECTIONS 2015-16: THE HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past 14 years we have supported tens of thousands of children, young people and music practitioners through projects in Early Years, Challenging Circumstances, Sector and Workforce Development, and Youth Voice and Participation.

## Early Years

We equip the early years workforce with skills and confidence, and are committed to raising the awareness of early years music-making. We do this through research and by publishing resources, facilitating training, hosting our annual conference, and networking.

## Challenging Circumstances

We aim to ensure that no children and young people facing barriers to music miss out. We do this through hosting the *Challenging Circumstances Music Network*; research and mapping; incubating new projects; professional development; advocacy; and by hosting an annual conference.

## Youth Voice and Participation

We host *Wired4Music*, the music network for Londoners age 16-25. Through *Wired4Music* we empower youth voice; co-produce projects, events and gigs with young people; support youth enterprise; and involve young people in Sound Connections strategic planning. Based upon our experience with *Wired4Music*, and associated research, we work with other organisations to embed youth voice and participation within their provision and governance.

## Sector and Workforce Development

Our vision is to skill up, inform and connect the music education workforce, improving the quality of music activity for children and young people. We deliver needs-driven training activity, tailored professional development, one-to-one advice and networking opportunities.

## Consultancy

We connect, guide and support the wider music education sector through our consultancy service. We specialise in five areas of need: Youth Voice and Governance, Strategic Support, Mapping and Needs Analysis, CPD and Communications, ultimately making music education opportunities across the UK more inclusive and impactful.



Thank you so much for another fantastic event and for taking care of us so well.  
Would Like to Meet...



139 

Children and young people engaged through our Innovate funded projects

18 

Training events took place across London with

495 attendees

19 

New resources were published on our website



167 

Attendees to our two *Would Like to Meet...* networking events

9,395 

Members across London and the UK receive our newsletter

501+ 

*Wired4Music* members, an increase of 134 members from 2014-15, across every London borough



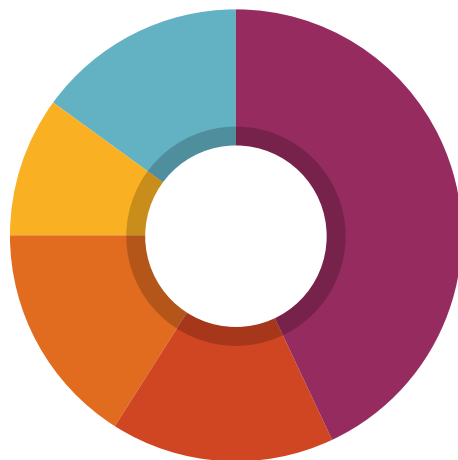
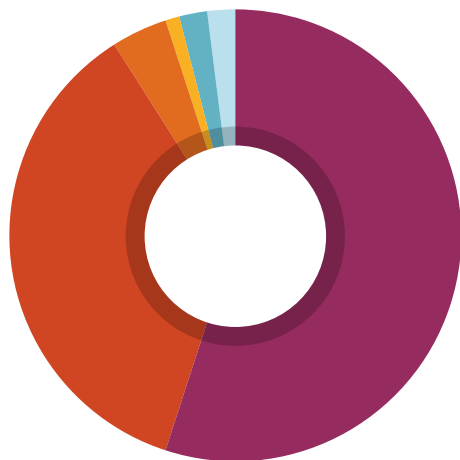
Thanks so much for a really inspiring day yesterday. It was thoughtprovoking, enjoyable, stimulating, engaging, and a great success!  
Conference attendee














98% 

of participant feedback from training events rated an increase in knowledge and acquisition of new skills as 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015-16



INCOME	£GBP	%
 National Foundation for Youth Music	191,175	55
 Consultancy	126,395	36
 Training	13,013	4
 Arts Council England	5,000	1
 Other Trusts & Foundations	5,500	2
 Other	5,555	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,638</b>	

EXPENDITURE	£GBP	%
 Sector & Workforce Development (inc. Consultancy)	148,557	43
 Youth Voice & Participation	56,965	16
 Challenging Circumstances	55,870	16
 Early Years	36,224	10
 Overheads	48,888	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,504</b>	

This section represents the condensed financial statements. The full financial statements are available upon request from Sound Connections.

## EXTENDING THE REACH: OUR AMBITIONS FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Sound Connections continues to lead and empower the music sector in London and beyond. Building on our growing consultancy work and funded programmes, we will continue to offer a range of services to help raise the standard of music education and increase music-making access and opportunity.

### INCLUSION

As strategic partner for *the National Foundation for Youth Music in London* we will continue to work with practitioners and organisations across the capital. Our *Innovate* programme incubates and tests new approaches to working with children and young people facing barriers to music opportunities and in the most deprived areas of London. Research, debate and workforce development will continue through our *Challenging Circumstances Music Network (CCMN)*, bringing together experts working on the frontline to deliver seminars, training and action research.

We will further diversify the membership of our *London Early Years Music Network (LEYMN)* to ensure all those working in early years have access to resources, guidance, advice, mentoring and networking opportunities. We will continue to grow *Wired4Music* and enable more opportunities for young people to shape and influence music opportunities, practice and policy. As a sector leader in youth voice and participation, we will continue to extend our national reach.



*Sound Connections is a safe pair of hands with regards to all round integrity in Music Education and for keeping children and young people at the heart of all you do.*



### CONNECTING LONDON

We will strengthen our alliance with London's 29 Music Education Hub lead organisations and in doing so reach and support more children and young people across the capital. Sound Connections will maintain and develop strategic partnerships with *A New Direction*, *Arts Council England*, *Greater London Authority* and *the National Foundation for Youth Music* as well as grassroots organisations, venues and other music education settings.





## Trustees

Katrina Duncan – Chair  
Shoubhik Bandopadhyay  
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Nick Rampley  
Richard Sheahan  
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Jessica Loveless (maternity leave)  
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## Supporters

A New Direction  
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Greater London Authority  
National Foundation for Youth Music  
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust  
and individual donors

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National Foundation for  
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