



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ85160

Heledd Fychan MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central
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1 July 2022

Dear Heledd,

Thank you for your Written Question tabled on 18 May relating to the National Plan for Music Education. I apologise for the delay in providing a substantive reply to you; my officials have been liaising with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), in their capacity as lead body for the National Music Service. The Question asked:

- *What funding has been put in place under the new Plan for Music Education, for National Youth Arts Wales to ensure a sustainable future for the six national ensembles, and to support their work around widening access to training and development opportunities for young people of all backgrounds?*

The new National Music Service will be supported with a significant investment of £13.5 million funding over the next three years to provide a sustainable future for music education in Wales.

Supporting youth and national music ensembles is an important part of our National Plan for Music Education. WLGA, as lead body of the National Music Service, will work with National Youth Arts Wales and ensembles in our communities to widen opportunities for children and young people, of all backgrounds. It is important that we develop their performing skills and in doing so, achieve our aim of increasing the numbers of those who progress to perform at a national level.

Through the National Plan's 'Music outside schools' programme, the National Music Service will work with local authorities and National Youth Arts Wales, as well as a wide range of music organisations, to support access for learners to play in a group, band or ensemble, appropriate to their level and accessible to them locally or regionally. It is important that we all work together to ensure fair and equitable representation and engagement for children and young people across Wales to access opportunities at a national level. Working with funding providers is also key, to identify areas of financial support and overcome barriers due to disadvantage or geographic location, enabling access to youth and national ensembles and activities.

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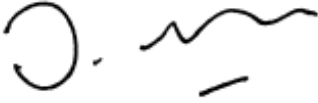
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

WLGA will be allocating the £4.5 million funding for 2022-23 to local authorities and other key partners to deliver the Plan's programme activities, from September onwards. I am aware that a part of this funding will support music ensembles, and that there are positive discussions underway between WLGA, the Arts Council of Wales and National Youth Arts Wales to determine the level of funding required to support our youth and national music ensembles.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language