

## SYNOPSIS

During initial research carried out for the HYAH, the consortium identified a gap in arts provision for young people with additional support needs. Fèis Rois took the opportunity to pilot specialised approaches and work with new partners via the Highland Youth Arts Hub to widen the accessibility of music making opportunities in and around Ross-shire.



<https://vimeo.com/198973727>



## DIRECT LINKS WITH TIME TO SHINE:

Theme **PARTICIPATION** – Creating and sustaining engagement

Theme **PROVISION** – Developing infrastructure and quality

Principle 2 – Work within the context of the Curriculum for Excellence and the other policy frameworks that support young people

Principle 4 – Be proactive in the use of digital technology

Principle 6 – Tackle inequalities

Principle 7 – Continually strive for quality improvement

## Case Study: ACCESS TO MUSIC MAKING

### AIMS

- 1.To widen access to music making opportunities for young people with additional support needs, in Ross-shire and Inverness;
- 2.To explore new approaches in audience engagement which result in sustainable long term arts provision;
- 3.To establish and nourish new partnerships with organisations working with and for young people who may not already be engaged in creative activity.



*Gathering sounds in the aviary within the grounds of Cantraybridge to be used in the creation of electronic music tracks*

## FORMAT

There were two strands of new work developed by Fèis Rois during 2014-2016:

### 1) Partnership with Conrtraybridge College

Conrtraybridge is Scotland's first specialist college, established in 1994 as a rural skills college to provide learning and training opportunities for young people with a learning and/or physical disability or autism spectrum condition. Starting with taster sessions in dance and electronic music, Fèis Rois worked with students to create choreography and sound for the college Christmas Ball in 2014. Students were enthusiastic and went on to take part in subsequent projects, including *Lyrics from the North* (see separate case study). Since then, discussions focused on the development of a college band. Professional musicians continue to work with students on a one to one and the college band currently has 6 members playing piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums and vocals!

### 2) One-to-one music tuition

The core work of Fèis Rois includes weekly group classes in traditional music tuition for young people and adults across Ross-shire. Through providing a number of fully funded one-to-one sessions for young people with additional support needs, Fèis Rois looked to widen the accessibility of their regular programme through creating an introduction to music making with the appropriate tutors and environments to suit individual abilities, instrument interests and comfort levels. Participants learned about this opportunity through other projects, including the Highland Youth Arts Hub *Creative in Your Community* scheme and *SPL Music Box* sessions for looked after young people. Two young people have since taken part in *Fèis Rois Nan Deugairean*, a mainstream music residential for secondary aged pupils. The one-to-ones will continue past the initial HYAH funding period and will be sustained by the wider weekly class programme.



### **Case Study:** **ACCESS TO MUSIC MAKING**

*The one to one sessions for autistic young people have been extremely beneficial in increasing their confidence, attention span and ability to handle a social situation. One of our participants has recently felt more comfortable performing in front of a group...it has also brought two of our autistic learners together in their session. Those who are still only able to learn in a one to one environment will aim to integrate into a group over time. The HYAH has been key in enabling these young people to learn an instrument which in turn has led to a really positive impact on their self-esteem.*

*We are lucky that we have the opportunity to work so closely with the musicians; the band the students are putting together is a fabulous venture for the students involved. To have these opportunities of being supported, mentored and taught by such a fantastic team of people has been very much appreciated by everyone at the college.*

*Our young people have so much to give; to be able to have these opportunities in being themselves and being creative and then presenting their work not only to their families and friends but to the rest of the world via social media has taken them to another level.*

**KIM MACGILLIVRAY, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**Catriona Ramsay, Fèis Rois  
COMMUNITY CLASSES COORINATOR**