



# About the Youth Music Initiative



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**The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) is a Scottish Government music education programme with a vision to put music at the heart of children and young people's lives and learning, contributing to Scotland becoming the best place to grow up and learn.**

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YMI focusses on working with children and young people from birth to 25 who would otherwise have little or no access to music making activities. The programme includes song and rhyme for babies and toddlers through to whole class tuition for school children as well as professional development for young people ready to start their career in the music industry.

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the Youth Music  
Initiative was  
established in

**2003**

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YMI supports  
projects for  
children and young  
people aged

**0-25**

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over **320** projects  
happen  
each year

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over **£134** million has been  
spent supporting  
activities since  
2007

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Each of Scotland's 32 local authorities receives funding through the YMI to allow children and young people across Scotland, to take their first steps in their musical journey through an eclectic range of inclusive music making activities in school settings. From whole class African Drumming workshops in Shetland and a Hip Hop project in Aberdeenshire to North Lanarkshire's Rock Fest the fund supports children to develop new skills, their imaginations, self-expression, and confidence, offering new experiences and helping us all learn more about ourselves and others.

Across the country, extra-curricular activities are delivered in everything from village halls to prisons and from forests to festivals, covering all musical genres and age groups. Encompassing group tuition, singing workshops, performance opportunities and digital music making, these projects offer lots of different ways to make music. In addition, children and young people are supported in developing skills like sound engineering, tour management and record production, giving them a broader experience of the music industry. Through one off sessions to multi-year programmes, these projects create spaces for children and young people to feel heard, to lead and shape the activities that they take part in.

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at least

**244,000**  
participants

at least **199,000**  
in school

at least **44,000**  
outwith school

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**32** Local  
Authorities

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almost  
**1,200** jobs

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All activities are accessible and affordable, and run by highly skilled staff, including artists, tutors and industry experts. And to ensure children and young people continue to gain access to high quality music activities, the talented tutors and practitioners are also supported with their professional development. Funding covers training for staff, as well as assistance for networks and organisations. The sustained nature of the YMI programme creates a range of paid employment for artists and organisations as well as strengthening the youth music sector, for the benefit of children and young people.

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Over

**350** volunteering opportunities

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Over

**300** traineeships

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Over

**5,000** individuals in continuing professional development

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Our dedicated YMI newsletter. features information about funding, projects, events and other youth music activities taking place across Scotland. Sign up [here](#).

## Creative Scotland

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