

Kirsty Williams AM  
Minister for Education  
Welsh Government  
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Music Partnership Forum Wales  
c/o Michael Garvey  
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Also by email to: [Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)  
Cc: Bethan Sayed, AM

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Ms Williams,

I am writing on behalf of Music Partnership Forum Wales, an informal collective of organisations and music services from across Wales working collaboratively to nurture and support young people's music education and development.

Following the announcement that a feasibility study into the future of music services in Wales and the interviews and consultations that many of us had in the research phase of that feasibility study, we are writing to ask that the results of that study be published as soon as possible. On the assumption that the results of the study will be listened to and acted upon by the Welsh Government and Wales' local authorities, the impact and the future direction of Wales' music services and the music education of all young people in Wales as a result rest on this important piece of work.

We are aware that budget planning and funding decisions for future years are being held at the moment and have evidence to suggest that in the light of the feasibility study and the delay in its publication that some local authorities are not committing to funding for current provision for the coming financial year. This is not only disheartening for those working in this sector, but it jeopardises the education of Wales' young people – something that we all know no one wants to see. Ideally the provision of more funding for music education would be one of the recommendations of the report together with a clear outline of how instrumental music teaching will dovetail with and enhance the expressive arts requirement in the new curriculum that is currently being consulted upon. But we must not pre-empt the feasibility study's findings, which is why we are asking that those findings be published immediately and the good work that music educators in Wales provide day in, day out can continue and be well planned and delivered.

If you would be interested to meet with Music Partnership Forum Wales to discuss this letter or to hear directly from the sector for yourself on this subject, we would be only too happy to find a mutually convenient time to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Garvey  
Executive Director  
The Benedetti Foundation  
On behalf of Music Partnership Forum Wales together with these other signatories

Tim Rhys Evans	Artistic Director	Aloud Charity
Llinos Williams	Project Manager - South Wales	Aloud Charity
Bryony Harris	Network Coordinator	Arts Active Trust - A2: Connect
Rhian Jones	Executive Project Officer	Arts & Education Network: Mid and West
Ruth Lloyd	Network Coordinator	Arts & Education Network: South East
Suzanne Hay	Head of Partnerships and Learning	BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales
Osian Rowlands	Chorus Manager/Learning Coordinator	BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales
Peggy Holder	Coordinator Partnerships & Learning	BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales
Simon Gray	Head of Music	Bridgend Music Service
Paul Warren	Strategic Lead for School Improvement	Caerphilly Music Service
Colin Rees		Caerphilly Music Service
Emma Archer	Chair	CAGAC
Meinir Llwyd Roberts	Director	Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias
Suzanne Barnes	Director	CânSing
Emma Coulthard	Head of Music Service	Cardiff County & Vale of Glamorgan Music Service
Gareth Kirby	Head of Service	Carmarthenshire Music Service
Wayne Pedrick	Head of Service	Cerdd NPT Music
Geraint Evans	Head of Service	Ceredigion Music Service
Phil Castang	Director of Creative Learning & Engagement	Colston Hall
Heather Powell	Director	Denbighshire Music Cooperative
Mari Prichard	Network Coordinator	Edau - Arts and Education Network: North Wales
Peryn Clement Evans	Artistic Director	Ensemble Cymru
Aled Marshman	Head of Service	Flintshire Music Service
Ann P Jones	Head of Service	Gwasanaeth Ysgolion William Mathias
Ken Bailey	Business Support Manager	Gwent Music
Alyson Jones	Head of Department	Gwent Music
Simon Linton	Business Manager	Gwent Music Support Service
Sarah Jones	Head of Music	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Catrin Slater	Executive Director	Mid Wales Music Trust
Mike Penny		Mid Wales Opera
Fiona Pendreigh	Chair	Music Education Council
Bridget Whyte	Chief Executive Officer	Music Mark
Sophie Lewis	Managing Director	National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain
Matthew Jones	Senior Producer	National Youth Arts Wales
Gillian Mitchell	Chief Executive Officer	National Youth Arts Wales
Rhian Hutchings	Creative Director	Operasonic
Philippa Roberts	Music Service Coordinator	Pembrokeshire County Music Service
Ben Field	Manager	Pembrokeshire County Music Service
Sarah Benbow	Music Service Coordinator	Pembrokeshire Music Service
Huw Rees	Advisor	Powys Music
Mark Wells	Head	Rhondda Cynon Taf Music Service
Patricia Keir	Head of Junior Conservatoire	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Andrea Jones	Head of Undergraduate studies	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Kevin Price	Interim Director of Music	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Peter Bellingham	Chief Executive	Sinfonia Cymru
Tim Cronin	Director	South Powys Youth Music
Karin Jenkins	Head of Service	Swansea Music Service
Michael Garvey	Executive Director	The Benedetti Foundation
Danny KilBride	Director	trac: Music Tradition Wales
Shakira Mahabir	Office Manager	Ty Cerdd

Deborah Keyser	Director	Tŷ Cerdd
Elinor Bennett	Artistic Director	Wales Harp Festival
Catherine Porteus	Music Department Administrator	Welsh National Opera
Matthew Downes	Orchestra and Concerts Manager	Welsh National Opera
Imogen Llewellyn	Producer	Welsh National Opera
Emma Flatley	Director of Engagement and Partnerships	Welsh National Opera
Morgana Warren-Jones	North Wales Project Manager	Welsh National Opera
Branwen Jones	Youth and Community Producer	Welsh National Opera
Rebeka Peake	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	Welsh National Opera