

Youth Music Initiative



“From Nappies to Napster”

May 17/18th 2005

Conference Report

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**'From Nappies to Napster'
17th and 18th May 2005**

Conference report – Emily Foulkes & Nicola Killean

Introduction

Youth Music UK, with support from the Scottish Arts Council, organised a unique two-day event to take place in Glasgow as part of the youth music initiative in Scotland.

Tuesday 17th May was entitled Rock Connections, taking place at Glasgow's famous rock venue, The Barrowlands. Early Connections took place on Wednesday 18th May at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The aim of both events was to bring together practitioners, project managers and others involved with young people and music, in order to network and share ideas.

The events were an opportunity to advocate the two funding streams that have been launched in Scotland as part of the youth music initiative, the 0-5years funding scheme, and the 5-25years funding scheme. Both events offered delegates the opportunity to workshop ideas for applying to these funding streams, and ask questions.

The events both had a line-up of speakers, practitioners and workshop leaders who offered a variety of breakout activities. The aim was to provide case studies, encourage networking activities and encourage the sharing of effective practice. The plan was that each day should involve elements of participation as well as speeches.

The delegates were given an evaluation form to complete after each day. This report seeks to pull together all feedback and comments gathered in these forms. It will also look to provide conclusions and suggestions for building on the success of these events for future planning and seminars.

Rock Connections – Tuesday 17th May. Barrowlands, Glasgow

The following questions were asked on the evaluation form. The data has been analysed to give the results shown below.

How would you rate the keynote speeches?

Very Informative	Informative	Unsure	Not Informative
8	15	0	0

Any useful comments

Overall the keynote speeches were thought to have been informative and inspiring.

Did you know much about Youth Music UK prior to the event?

A lot	Some	A Little	Nothing
5	11	4	3

Do you feel information provided at the event explained YMUK's role in Scotland?

Very much	Yes	A Little	No
4	12	6	1

Any useful comments: Generally information was good however possibly more explanation needed as to Youth Music UK's role and remit. (Possibly included in extended opening introduction.

Did you know any of the other delegates present?

Most	A substantial amount	A Few	No
0	4	15	3

Any useful comments A full list of delegates would have been very useful. This will be provided after the event, enabling people to follow up on contacts made during the event.

How useful do you feel it is to network with the people who were at the event?

Essential	Important	Not Important	Not Useful
15	8	0	0

Any useful comments This was felt to be essential and more free time could have been devoted to this. It is thought that networking should be happening at a local and national level, and that Youth Music UK could be the driving force behind this.

Overall, do you think you have benefited from the day?

Greatly Benefited	Benefited	Not Sure	Not Benefited
6	11	4	1

Any useful comments: Delegates felt they had gained ideas, contacts and possible partners. It was commented that music organisations are constantly evolving, with youth workers and musicians coming and going, however networking must be sustained, therefore this must happen centrally by a national organisation like Youth Music UK.

How many organisations do you currently know of which deliver rock/pop music activity?

9 +	5-8	1-4	0
3	5	12	3

Venue and Catering

Delegates were asked to rate the standard of the venue and the catering on a scale of 1-5. A scoring of 1 indicated the most suitable whereas 5 signified the least suitable.

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
VENUE					
No of Delegates	8	7	3	0	2
CATERING					
No of Delegates	3	3	8	1	0

Points to note

This data is difficult to analyse correctly due to conflicting scales for rating between the workshops section and venue and catering section.

For the workshops section 1 = NOT AT ALL USEFUL and 5 = EXTREMELY USEFUL, but in the Venue and Catering section 1 = MOST SUITABLE, and 5 = LEAST SUITABLE.

It is also difficult to analyse the catering data accurately as not all delegates stayed for the evening meal, and some may be rating the small amount of

catering which was offered throughout the afternoon breaks : tea / coffee / biscuits.

Any Useful Comments: There were mixed feelings regarding the venue, but overall it is felt that the majority of delegates agreed that it encompassed the overall atmosphere we had hoped to create for the day, with some commenting that it was "very rock and roll", "inspiring" , "Ideal venue for a rock conference".

It was noted on several forms that some areas of the venue were cold and slightly dingy, so greater care will be taken in the future to ensure the temperature is correct, and that workshops are scheduled in appropriate spaces. Overall the venue was a successful choice.

Catering provided for the evening meal seemed to be well received. Tea and coffee was provided as a last minute thought, however this proved to be an essential.

Possibly some light snacks on arrival would be beneficial, and also a healthy option for tea breaks should be provided in future , as opposed to only offering biscuits.

The Workshops

Delegates were asked to rate the sessions that they attended and to add comments. Below is a table displaying how the delegates rated each speaker on how useful their session was.

1 = not at all useful

5 = extremely useful

Speaker	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Arts	0	0	4	2	2
Kevin McDermott	0	3	0	0	0
Ted McKenna	2	3	3	1	0
Murray Buchanan	0	0	1	2	0
Horse	0	0	0	1	3
Funding Advice Workshop	1	1	7	0	0
Panel of YMUK Funded Projects	0	0	1	1	3
Panel of YMUK funded projects	1	0	1	0	5

Any Useful Comments:

There was very mixed feedback regarding workshops, from Horse's workshop which was thought of as "A gift of a personal concert in a dressing room" to less enthusiastic remarks regarding other speakers.

This is thought to be the possible result of two reasons, firstly, lack of information regarding the content of the workshops (workshops were given names however no further information was provided), and secondly some workshop leaders not fully understanding the purpose of their session.

This can hopefully be combated in the future by further joint planning with the workshop leaders, and having more information readily available at an earlier stage to be included in the booking forms.

Conclusions by Organisers

Overall the Rock Connections day was hugely successful, and highlighted a great need for this type of event for people working in this sector in Scotland. It was very apparent that delegates present saw this day as the first step on the ladder towards increasing networking at a local and national level for those working within rock and pop education.

There was also an apparent want for some national organisation- possibly Youth Music UK – to be the driving force towards making this happen, and also to ensure that the conference is a yearly event to bring together rock and pop education providers.

It is still thought that there were many possible delegates who were not aware of the event, however if the conference is to be repeated next year, it is hoped through local information sessions, media coverage and word of mouth there will be an even higher demand and interest. We were very lucky to have media interest from the BBC, which resulted in a 15 minute slot on the early evening news in Scotland.

The ultimate aim of the conference appeared to be met, to encourage awareness of Youth Music UK, to increase networking between people working in the sector and to promote partnership working and "joined-up" working, and appeared to be what most delegates found the most important and useful part of the day. More time will be allocated in future to ensure networking is not rushed.

Recommendations for future events:

- More time for networking
- Explore the possibility of full day event
- Delegate list provided at event
- Workshop leader's included in extensive discussion and planning regarding sessions.
- More information provided at booking stage regarding the content of the day and individual's sessions.

- Tea / Coffee and snacks are essential
- Healthy options should also be provided
- Ensure temperature and lighting of venue is appropriate
- Stage Crew essential
- Van for transporting equipment
- More care taken to ensure all diets are catered for

Early Connections – Wednesday 18th May. Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

The following questions were asked on the evaluation form. The data has been analysed to give the results shown below.

How would you rate the keynote speeches?

Very Informative	Informative	Unsure	Not Informative
15	8	0	0

Did you know much about Youth Music UK prior to the event?

A Lot	Some	A Little	Nothing
7	10	2	4

Do you feel information provided at the event explained YMUK's role in Scotland?

Very Much	Yes	A Little	No
6	14	2	

Did you know any of the other delegates present?

Most	A substantial amount	A Few	No
1	8	9	5

Any useful comments A full list of delegates would have been very useful. This will be provided after the event, enabling people to follow up on contacts made during the day.

How useful do you feel it is to network with the people who were at the event?

Essential	Important	Not Important	Not Useful
12	11	0	0

Any useful comments This was felt to be essential and the event had started contacts, which will hopefully be continued after distribution of the delegate list

Overall, do you think you have benefited from the day?

Greatly Benefited	Benefited	Not sure	Not benefited
12	10	1	0

Venue and Catering

1 = Most suitable

5 = least suitable

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
VENUE					
No of delegates	14	5	2	0	0
CATERING					
No of delegates	9	8	3	0	1

Points to Note

This data is difficult to analyse correctly due to conflicting scales for rating between the workshops section and venue and catering section.

For the workshops section 1 = NOT AT ALL USEFUL and 5 = EXTREMELY USEFUL, but in the Venue and Catering section 1 = MOST SUITABLE, and 5 = LEAST SUITABLE.

Any Useful Comments: Overall delegates were very happy with the venue and catering. This was a large spacious venue with workshops happening in various spaces therefore more signage was needed to ensure there was minimal confusion.

Extra care should also be taken in the future to ensure all diets are catered for.

The sessions

Delegates were asked to rate the sessions that they attended and to add comments. Below is a table showing how delegates rated the usefulness of the speaker's sessions.

1 = not at all useful

5 = extremely useful

Speaker	1	2	3	4	5
Paul Rissmann	0	0	0	3	10
Naheed Cruickshank	0	0	0	1	5
Tom Bancroft	0	0	0	0	3
Christopher Bell	0	0	0	3	8
Karen MacIver	0	0	0	1	3
Funding Advice Workshop	0	1	0	0	0
Panel Of YMUK Projects (a.m)	0	0	1	1	1
Panel of YMUK projects (p.m)	0	0	1	1	2

Any Useful Comments: Speakers were of an exceptional standard, all were highly experienced, prepared and delivered workshops which inspired, educated, instilled confidence in non-music specialists and stimulated debate.

Almost all speakers and workshop leaders were from a western classical musical background, therefore more emphasis needs to be placed on different styles and more diverse organisations or individuals offering music opportunities for children in this age group.

Conclusions and observations from the organisers:

Overall a highly successful, and smoothly run day!

A huge emphasis was placed on practical involvement and fun, which worked effectively and enabled delegates to loose inhibitions and fully engage in workshops, which ultimately resulted in increased networking. The venue was very suitable and catering was adequate.

The presence of a stage crew and technical support was hugely beneficial and help to ensure the smooth running of the day.

The day was very intense and quite tiring due to the amount of participation, so one section was cut to allow for an earlier finish. This seemed to be well received.

It was possibly not the best planning to have such an exciting feedback session after lunch, then straight into a workshop, then back for a formal presentation, as by this time the delegates were tired, however this was a

minor fault, which will be addressed for future events, and all delegates seemed to leave content and happy with the day.

Delegates seemed to leave the day on a high, had increased awareness and knowledge of Youth Music UK, and had made many new connections.

A follow on event would be worthwhile, with the possibility of a yearly Early Connections event.

Recommendations for future events:

- More diverse range of speakers and styles of music
- Delegate list provided at event
- Careful planning to ensure appropriate timings, balance and placing of participatory and “formal listening” sections of the day.
- Ensure all diets are catered for
- Ensure workshops are clearly signposted (Minimise walking distance between workshops)

Overall conclusions and recommendations

Overall the two days proved to be highly challenging but hugely beneficial and successful.

To organise two very different events, at different venues, on two consecutive days, was a huge logistical challenge and not something that is necessarily recommended. Much time was spent transporting equipment in taxis from one venue to the other, meaning that we had to miss some of the gig at the Barrowlands. It may have been useful to rent a van for the few days, in order to transport items more effectively. There were some large items that did not easily fit into a normal sized car. The positive thing about holding the events so close together is that it gave delegates the opportunity to stay in Glasgow overnight and attend both days, and therefore experience the contrast between the events. It would have made more sense to hold the Early Years conference on the first day and finish with the Rock and Pop event on the following day, but this was not possible due to venue availability.

There appeared to be more difficulties surrounding the rock and pop day, however this was due to the decision to use an innovative venue, and it is felt that the resulting atmosphere created out-weighed any negatives.

Both days were thought to be highly beneficial and it is hoped that both could become established yearly networking events for these particular areas of music, however the rock and pop day seemed to be the most exciting and representatives from this sector, most desperate for this to continue, as this seems to have been the first time all of the people working in this sector have had an opportunity to come together.

There were many calls for the event to continue and for Youth Music UK to be the driving force behind this, and encouraging the development of networks.

It is thought that there are still many possible delegates who were unaware of the events and who would have like to be involved, so more promotion and marketing is required for any future events.

The participatory style of the early years day was very popular and it is recommended that this be expanded for future events.

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