



#MAKE SPACE FOR MUSIC

Get involved – 16 Feb 2024

The voice of our members

Who are our members?

- 4,000 member groups - 230,000 musicians
- Across the UK from Cornwall to the Shetland Isles; in cities, towns and villages
- 54% Vocal, 36% Instrumental, 10% Promoters
- Ave group size - 62
- Orchestras and choral societies, brass and samba bands, gospel choirs, barbershop groups, jazz or folk ensembles ...



#MakeSpaceForMusic – the message

Leisure-time music groups positively impact the health and prosperity of their communities. To do this, they need affordable and accessible community spaces. But it is now harder for them to find spaces to sing and play music. Our campaign aims to protect and support these essential community assets. #MakeSpaceForMusic

Campaign progress

17 March 23 - Event: Are our music making spaces under threat? (Fact finding)

June 23 - Consultation on Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2023

20 Oct 23 - Event: Understanding and influencing Parish and Town Councils

26 Oct 23 - Network: Community Spaces Forum

January 24 - Flier for member use in Highnotes

February 24 - Standard Tier consultation on Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act



How can you get involved?

- Connect with your elected representatives

- Speak to election candidates

2 May - for councils and mayors in England

Before January 2025 - UK General Election

- Support local campaigns to protect spaces under threat

Make the case – Briefing Paper

Top 3 types of spaces for music groups to meet regularly are

- 54% - churches/ church halls
- 21% - schools and other educational establishments
- 15% - community or village halls

These are used by 90% of groups

- 3% use a Local Authority venue
- 2% use a cultural venue not run by a Local Authority (e.g. arts centre)
- 1.5% use a private club / hall (e.g. scout hut, dance studio)

Make the case – Briefing Paper: Threats

High utility costs - In 2023, a third of community spaces had an increase in utility costs of 60% or higher > nearly 20% reducing the availability of their community space (Community Matters)

Church closures - Trend of closures across the UK: the National Churches Trust reports the number of churches open falling from 42,000 to 39,800 in ten years. Church of Scotland closing 700 churches by 2030

Make the case – Briefing Paper: Threats

Heavier regulation - Village, community and church halls often managed by volunteers and numbers of people engaged in volunteering are falling. The responsibilities volunteers have to take on increase e.g. Terrorism (Protection of Premises) legislation.

Local authority budget constraints - Councils in England face a funding gap of £4 billion in 2024/25 (LGA) Community Leisure UK report that Culture Trusts are at ‘crisis point’ with buildings closures inevitable



Make the case – Briefing Paper: Benefits of music making

Health and Wellbeing - Tangible health benefits, not just for those in music for health activity: singing, playing, and listening for enjoyment also has a positive impact. MM groups provide opportunities to do this weekly, locally, affordably and throughout people's lives.

Economic value - the sector is worth £180m annually (direct spend). In addition (indirect spend), groups hire venues, pay teachers, buy instruments and their concert attenders use public transport, eat in local restaurants...

Make the case – Briefing Paper: Benefits of music making

Place-making - Music creates places that people want to live in, work in and visit. Street carnivals, Christmas carolling, bandstands, concerts in small or large venues; to have these, communities need spaces for music to be rehearsed and performed.

Tell your own story - Be prepared with figures, case studies and your participants' stories that show your value to your community.

Make the case – Briefing Paper: What would make a difference?

Fund essential maintenance - the (often small) investment needed to maintain older buildings is becoming more difficult to find, but closure or sale creates a harder to solve long term problem.

Embed spaces for music in neighbourhood planning - Local Authority local plans can include spaces for music making in their vision for the future, prioritising upkeep and enabling new building.

Make the case – Briefing Paper: What would make a difference?

Support communities to manage and take on their buildings - Volunteers who manage buildings or take on more responsibility for buildings e.g. through community asset transfer need to be supported.

Ensure new legislation takes this sector into consideration - Regulation can sometimes have an inadvertent negative impact. New legislation must be proportionate.

Tell your own story - What would make a difference in your community?

Follow the national debate

House of Lords Debate on the contribution of the arts to the economy and society, 1 Feb 24

Nick Trench: [Highlights from the House of Lords' arts debate | Campaign for the Arts](#)

Lord Parkinson:

<https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkxqfe3MCsxfSzWjAOd87CmlHuOGEJJpwnK?si=yuQtOFndCuUzKk1g>

An alternative strategy - Open up new spaces for music making

- Flier - take to a space you already use or one you are looking to encourage hiring to community groups

[#MakeSpaceForMusic Digital Poster.pdf](#)
[\(makingmusic.org.uk\)](#)

- Case studies - [Pub is the Hub](#)
- Email us your examples of alternative spaces for future case studies

WHAT ARE LEISURE-TIME MUSIC GROUPS?

These hobby musicians come together in their leisure-time to make or present music. They also run these groups which are **EVERYWHERE**.



SINGING GROUPS



INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS



CONCERT PROMOTERS

WHO'S IN YOUR AREA?

Use the Find a Group Tool
makingmusic.org.uk/resources/find-a-group-list

THESE TENANTS ARE

LONG-TERM

Most music groups meet weekly, all year round, and operate for decades.

WORRY FREE

Reliable and well-run, most are small charities supported by Making Music to be compliant with regulations and financially resilient.

USEFUL

They are your local community, could attend other activity in the building, volunteer for you. They bring the skills and connections of their day jobs.

GOOD FOR YOUR REPUTATION

Evidence shows their health and wellbeing, place-making and economic benefits. Play your part by letting to a music group!

Is my **SPACE** right for **MUSIC**?



SIZE

Groups can be 20 to 140. Whatever your space, there's a music group to fit.



NOISE

Most groups are acoustic, and not all of them are loud!



STORAGE

Only half of groups need storage for instruments or equipment with easy access. So half don't!



ACCESSIBILITY

Many groups have participants with access needs and all strive to be inclusive. So highlight any accessibility of your facilities.



PRICE

Groups don't expect you to let at a loss. But do consider reduced rates for community groups, and they will repay you with the many benefits they bring.