

## Mission Statement

Stepping into Music (SiM) is a flexible Early Years workshop and accredited training programme, delivered by The Dalcroze Society in partnership with local authorities and arts agencies. It seeks to provide under-fives from all sections of society with access to the proven developmental benefits of integrated music and movement sessions. By equipping Early Years, music and dance practitioners with the skills to develop their own practice, SiM aims to provide a legacy of embedded activity, responsive to local need, which places music and movement at the heart of the Early Years agenda.

## Programme Aims

- To deliver a qualification in Early Years music and movement based on Dalcroze principles and practice, and accredited by a recognised partner in the HEI sector.
- To provide high quality and specialist training, equipping trainees with an understanding of Early Years development and the skills to deliver music and movement sessions to under-fives in a variety of settings.
- To support trainees in developing their own practice, ensuring that they are able to use / apply skills learnt beyond the framework of the programme.
- To develop training options which are accessible to all regardless of geographical location or musical experience.
- To develop and deliver other flexible professional development opportunities which will provide information about SiM and Dalcroze principles, and practical examples of how they can be incorporated into the day-to-day life of an Early Years setting, or into the practice of a music / dance practitioner.
- To work in partnership with local Arts, Early Years, and Public Sector agencies in order to ensure that SiM activity is responsive to local need and provides a legacy of sustainable and embedded activity.
- To provide creative music and movement sessions based on Dalcroze, for children in Early Years settings across the UK.
- To ensure that parents and staff from participating Early Years settings are involved and informed about SiM and the benefits of Dalcroze-based activity.
- To act as an advocate for the use of music and movement in Early Years contexts, disseminating information as widely as possible and working to raise the profile of SiM and the Dalcroze Society.
- To contribute to national debates and agendas regarding Early Years development and provision.

## Programme Objectives

- Deliver x2 year-long accredited National Training Programmes for up to 30 participants each from across the UK, ensuring expectations of trainees are clear and that they are supported.
- Provide a bespoke regionally-based course with the same demands and outcome as the National Training Programme where requested.
- Deliver x20 Development Days, providing a direct learning and professional development opportunity for Music and Early Years practitioners, as well as a means by which the Arts, Early Years and Public Sectors can find out more about SiM and the benefits which involvement in the wider programme will provide.
- Develop and deliver other flexible training and professional development opportunities including short courses, taster sessions and INSET.
- Deliver workshops in Early Years settings, which provide an opportunity for trainees to observe experienced practitioners at work, as well as participating children with access to the proven developmental benefits of music and movement work.
- Maintain high artistic and educational standards by employing experienced Dalcroze practitioners as Creative Directors of the programme and as trainers / mentors etc.
- Create high quality teaching, marketing and strategic materials, which serve to support the development of the programme, raise the profile of Dalcroze-based activity and provide a positive and coherent learning experience for trainees.
- Work with and support trainees and participating Early Years settings in finding the necessary funds to access SiM training opportunities.
- Raise sufficient funds through corporate, arts, charitable trusts and foundations and Public Sector sources to ensure the short-term delivery of objectives and long-term sustainability of the programmes.
- Undertake effective research to establish positive and useful contacts, which are responsive to local need. Maintain local networks by means of an ongoing and constructive dialogue.
- Monitor and evaluate all SiM activity effectively and share this information with partners and with the wider Early Years, Arts and Public Sectors.
- Ensure that key national funding and strategy organisations have a positive impression of SiM and the Dalcroze Society by means of effective and regular communication and by contributing to the national conversation regarding Early Years provision.