



Norwegian Music Council
Education Association of Music



Get involved!

The music scene wants to attract more active children, young people and adults. Here you can read more about what you can get involved with, and how to get involved!



Welcome to the music scene!

We welcome anyone who would like to get involved in the voluntary music scene. In Norway, there are around 10,000 music groups all over the country, in every municipality, at every level and in every genre. They are there for people who want to sing in a choir, play in a marching band, or join a class to learn to play an instrument. You will always be able to find a music group in your area that matches your interests, and you will always be very welcome. There is a place for everyone, no matter what their level of skill.

What is a music group?

A music group is made up of people who meet to sing or play music together. Music groups can be anything from choirs, big bands, accordion clubs to marching bands. A music group has a democratic structure, and it is the members who make decisions about their activities. Bigger groups like choirs, marching bands and orchestras are usually also led by a conductor.

Through their national organisations, the majority of music groups are members of the Council for Music Organisations in Norway and the Adult Education Association of Music in Norway. You can find a list of these member organisations at www.musikk.no/engasjer-deg



Run by volunteers

Activities for children and young people are generally organised by parents, and are based on voluntary work, which means that they do not get paid. The children experience a sense of achievement and have fun being part of a group. The parents do their bit for the benefit of their own children and other people's children – spending time with children in an amateur music group is full of positives. The adults also become part of a friendly community of fellow parents and spend more time with their children.

Activities for adults are organised by the members, who elect a board that runs the activities themselves, while the musical direction tends to be provided by a paid professional conductor.

The aim is for everyone to feel a sense of achievement and experience the joy of music.





Costs of participating

Music groups cannot provide a good service, either musically and socially, without the contributions from their members. Costs vary to some degree, depending on group and genre.

Participant/membership fee

Many groups have membership fees for those who want to be members and participate in their activities. This membership fee goes towards running the activity.

Communal activities and contributions

To keep costs down, parents and members volunteer in a range of different efforts. Fundraising activities could be anything from raffles or flea markets to selling waffles.

Instruments

For some activities, such as marching bands and orchestras, you need instruments if you want to participate; these costs are normally paid for by the group. For activities like singing in a choir, you only need yourself.

Financial support

For families that cannot afford to pay the membership fee, there is often an option to have all or part of the fee paid. Contact the leaders of the music group if this may apply to you. The Norwegian Music Council can provide groups with advice on how to set up grant schemes.

Why should you get involved?

It's fun!

Singing or playing music alongside other people is fun, and that's the main reason why so many people get involved in the voluntary music scene.

Being a member of a music group makes it easy to meet people; you will make lots of friends and become part of a wider social network!

Most music groups have weekly practices, where you meet and get to know other people from your local community in a friendly setting. Many of the people who participate in musical activities do it largely because of the social life to which it gives them access.





Learning and achievement

Music is a universal language that touches everyone. Learning to play and sing is a positive thing! Learning something new is an important part of an active and good life. In the musical community, you can learn an instrument, perhaps even more than one, learn new pieces or songs and develop your own singing voice.

You will learn individual skills, teamwork and singing alongside others. After a while, you will experience a great sense of achievement, and all the while you will continue to develop.

For adults, the pleasure of achievement is another of the most important aspects of being part of a music group. Learning throughout your life, lifelong learning, is both healthy and stimulating.

Safe and secure!

All music groups have a duty to provide children, young people and adults with a safe and secure environment. The music scene works actively to promote a diverse and inclusive environment, both musically and socially. We require a police certificate from all the instructors, conductors and leaders who hold a position of trust or responsibility towards young people under the age of 18 or people with learning disabilities.

It's healthy!

Being part of organised musical activities is good for your health. This has been increasingly well documented over the last few years. There are numerous studies showing that participation in musical activities has a positive effect on our mental health, memory and capacity to learn. For children and young people, music teaching aids them in the development of language, creativity and cognitive skills.



Numerous different people are involved in the music scene: Volunteers, the authorities, amateurs and professionals all make their contributions to experiences in local communities of all sizes, all over the country. We work to ensure that more people get the chance to experience music, and to ensure that the people who perform and present music get the opportunity to develop.

The Norwegian Music Council (NMC) is a special-interest, umbrella organisation for the music scene in Norway. NMC works to improve framework conditions for the voluntary music scene, distribute grants for musical activities and provide service and assistance to its member organisations and the music scene.

The Education Association of Music in Norway (EAM) is a voluntary music learning organisation and student association. AEAM distributes financial grants for organised training in its member organisations and local music groups, and awards grants for projects and activities in conductor development and other professional music training.

NMC and EAM have 43 nationwide member organisations in every music genre. The majority are organisations for voluntary amateur music groups but also include concert organisers, groups of professional musicians and organisations aimed at specific target groups.

Through our activities, we contribute to vibrant and inclusive local communities, music training, development and the preservation of cultural traditions.

CMON and EAM have regional departments and offices in every county in Norway.

The regional Councils for Music Organisations provide advice and support to music organisations and local music groups in their area, answer questions from the music scene and act as a common point of contact and a collaborative body for the music scene in their region.

Would you like to become part of the music scene?

www.musikk.no/blimed

