

A quick history of Plymouth Music Zone - from cupboard to centre of excellence...

Plymouth Music Zone is something that arose from nothing - except an idea. An idea that happened back in 1999 in a cupboard in a local school building...

Two musicians wanted to give the city's primary school children access to high quality music. They ended up in 21 schools across the city. Now, 23 years on and Plymouth Music Zone has grown to become even more than music.



1999 "The Music Zone" starts in partnership with Plymouth Education Action Zone project and quickly expands to 21 Plymouth schools thanks to significant funding from an anonymous benefactor



2002 The National Foundation for Youth Music funding confirmed for 2 years



2003 Plymouth Music Zone becomes a registered charity and worked alongside the Education Action Zone project with a full-time staff of six



2004 Plymouth Music Zone Limited moves to its new community music centre 'The Music Zone' in Devonport, Plymouth, thanks to funding and support from Plymouth City Council and Sport England's Space for Sport and Arts programme



2006 Cornwall Learning Forum conduct Plymouth Music Zone's first independent evaluation



2009 Extensive independent evaluation of PMZ's work mapped against Every Child Matters Outcomes conducted by Annabel Jackson Associates



2009 Independent evaluation of the 'Devonport Legacy', a two year Plymouth Music Zone programme using music specifically in a regeneration area funded by Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

2014 Two evaluations of PMZ's work and associated reports delivered by Professor Jocey Quinn and Claudia Blandon from Plymouth University

The power of songs: An evaluation of Plymouth Music Zone's 'Keep singing, keepsake' project that went onto win a Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) award for innovation and excellence

Feeling their way: Women and children using music to navigate transitions from domestic violence

EDUCATION
RESEARCH
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

2015 Two year research project, **Beyond Words**, launched with the University of Plymouth to establish how the arts use the unspoken and how those who face problems communicating with words (such as those with dementia, stroke, autism and learning difficulties) are valued and included across communities. One of only 8 national Arts Council Funded research projects. Resulted in an international conference

BOP
Consulting

2016 Independent evaluation of Plymouth Music Zone's work by international firm BOP Consulting - **Reaching Out: the impact of music-making on individual and community development in Plymouth**

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER

2017 Researchers from Exeter University Medical School run a research programme with Plymouth Music Zone to explore benefits of singing for people with a communication disorder associated with strokes called Aphasia



2017 Plymouth Music Zone awarded Investors in People Gold status for its leadership and management approach



2018 Plymouth Music Zone becomes an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation

2019 Plymouth Music Zone celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Since 1999, PMZ has:

- Worked with over 70,000 children and 20,000 adults
- Delivered nearly 50,000 music workshops
- Held over 2,000 special events

Our youngest ever participant was 8 days old and our oldest was 104!





2020 Plymouth Music Zone wins national award for the 'Best Arts Initiative' in the UK *Hearts for the Arts Awards*. Also recognised partnership with Plymouth City Council

<https://www.campaignforthearts.org/hfta/nominee/plymouth-music-zone/>



2020 Plymouth Music Zone awarded Gold Investors in People for second time - achieving maximum possible score



2020 Plymouth Music Zone is winner of "Practising Well" award in the national inaugural *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Awards 2020* designed to "amplify the innovative, collaborative, generous work of the culture, health and wellbeing sector". Judges described PMZ as "leading the sector"

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/chwa-2020-practising-well-award>



2020-2022 Plymouth Music Zone becomes a key community partner in an innovative 2 year cross sectoral 'Knowledge Exchange' Partnership with Plymouth University. Funded by Research England to help broaden student perspectives on working with diverse communities

Builds on academic partnership work to date around evaluation and research, supporting student skills development and sitting on Advisory Board of Institute of Health and Community to expand knowledge of the positive social impact of music and the arts

<https://plymouthmusiczone.org.uk/knowledge-exchange-learning-partnership/>



2021 PMZ features as case study in report led by 'Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance' on how creativity & culture supported people in different ways through the Covid-19 pandemic. PMZ closed its building a week before national lockdown to protect its more medically vulnerable communities but continued to adapt & deliver to communities throughout. The report details PMZ's response to different needs at the time through our 'Extraordinary Times Programme'

<https://plymouthmusiczone.org.uk/chwa2021reportpmzcasestudy/>



2023 Despite considerable challenges resulting from the pandemic, Plymouth Music Zone is awarded GOLD Investors in People accreditation for third time. The GOLD hat trick had assessors highlighting the power of its "compassionate leadership" that impacts far & wide