

## ***Impact Case Study***

### **UoA 35: Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts**

#### **Including Disabled Musicians Using Technology – Prof Frank Lyons**

This case study articulates impacts arising from Lyons' practice based and theoretical research into how creative application of developing accessible technologies can facilitate and enhance inclusive participation in music making (composition and performance) for artists with disabilities.

These impacts can be seen in the following areas:

**Influence on creative practice** – through application of his research findings in workshops and training events delivered nationally and internationally Lyons has directly influenced the creative practice of over five hundred disabled composers and performers and upwards of seventy graduate tutors working in the field. Key national and international organisations such as such Share Music Sweden and Drake Music Project have formulated practice and policy around approaches developed by Lyons in working creatively with artists with disabilities using new accessible technologies.

**Contribution to personal and professional development** – disabled musicians have commented that through working with Lyons on implementing his research findings in their own practice they achieved higher levels of creative expression as composers and performers, gaining new independence as artists and increased self-confidence in their personal and professional development.

**Influencing public understanding** - the increased levels of artistic accomplishment achieved by those musicians with disabilities who have worked with Lyons' technology-focused methodologies has resulted in greater visibility at mainstream music events and in wider public acceptance and understanding of, as well as respect for, their creative output.

**Influencing public policy** – the influence of Lyons' research on public policy is evidenced by invitations to work with the Culture Company, ACNI and the Stormont Assembly.