

Irish Jazz Forum Charter

This charter defines our structure, values, and operating principles as we work together to build a unified, national platform for Ireland's jazz and improvised music sector.

irishjazzforum.com

1

Purpose

The Irish Jazz Forum exists to provide a unified, national platform for Ireland's jazz and improvised music sector.

Its purpose is to coordinate the sector's needs, strengthen advocacy, develop shared infrastructure, and represent the interests of artists, promoters, educators, festivals, and organisations across the island.

2

Values and Principles

Collaboration

— sector-first, not organisation-first

Transparency

— open communication and shared information

Inclusion

— representation of diverse voices, regions, and identities

Integrity

— artistic independence and fair representation of Irish artists

Sustainability

— long-term thinking, environmental responsibility, and fair working conditions

3

Membership

The Forum is open to:

Independent musicians

Promoters and venues

Festivals

Educators and institutions

Jazz/improvised music organisations

Sector-support bodies

Individuals contributing to the ecosystem

Membership is voluntary and free during the development stage.

4

Structure

4.1 Plenary Forum

- Full-group meeting of all members
- Meets 3–4 times per year
- Approves major positions, recommendations, and sector submissions

4.2 Steering Group

- 6–8 members
- Balanced across geography (North/South/East/West) and roles (artist/promoter/org/education)
- Term length: 18 months, renewable once
- Role: coordinate meetings, oversee working groups, communicate with funders, and consolidate sector feedback

4.3 Working Groups

- Advocacy
- Data & Research
- Education & Youth
- Inclusion & EDI
- Festival & Events Development
- Cross-Border Collaboration

Each group has a coordinator, meets as needed, and reports back at every plenary.

5

Decision-Making

- The plenary approves sector positions by simple majority (50%+1)
- The steering group handles operational decisions between plenaries
- Working groups make recommendations but do not set Forum-wide policy

6

Communication

- One official communication channel for all members
- Monthly sector update: deadlines, opportunities, advocacy alerts
- Shared document repository for minutes, data, templates, and policy files

7

Data & Evidence-Sharing

The Forum will coordinate:

- Collection of national sector data
- Shared tools (e.g., Looker Studio)
- Annual review of key statistics to support advocacy
- Anonymised reporting where appropriate (e.g. Arts Council feedback)

8

External Relations

The Forum acts as a unified voice in dealings with:

Arts Council

Culture Ireland

Local Authorities

Media

International Partners

Art-form Networks

Submissions, briefings, and position papers are approved by the plenary or, when time-sensitive, by the steering group.

9

Accountability

The Forum commits to:

- Publishing an annual summary of sector activity and priorities
- Sharing outcomes of meetings with funders
- Transparent reporting on working group outputs

1

Amendments

This Charter can be updated by majority vote at any plenary meeting.