

## Resources for supporting disabled students in gaining access to and succeeding in music in higher education.

These resources link to organisations, projects, assistive technology and research in specific areas relating to music education and disabled people. There is no shortage of research and development work in music therapy; there is less research on the disabled person as a musician. Music as therapy is not covered in these resources, except in its widest sense. There are also resources about making music performance more accessible to disabled audience members.

The resources are aimed at those who teach music, those who support disabled music students, disabled students of music and those who organise music events and performance.

The resources are arranged so that users can find material about:

- a. Disability and music education;
- b. Specific disabilities and music education;
- c. Technology, assistive software and equipment which may be useful in particular learning and teaching situations;
- d. Teaching and learning issues for disabled students in higher education, not specific to music;
- e. Legal and quality frameworks.

### **a. All disabilities and music education**

- The **National Disability Arts Forum** has several strands which may be relevant to disabled musicians and music staff. It is run by disabled people and includes a directory of disabled artists and a mentoring scheme.

<http://www.ndaf.org>

- **Living my Song** is an organisation set up to make music accessible to all. It has a very useful links page to relevant organisations and has articles on issues like choosing an instrument for disabled players.

<http://www.livingmysong.org.uk/choosinginstruments.htm>

- **Palatine LTSN Music**  
Includes a directory on disability and music in higher education.

[www.palatine.org.uk/directory/index.php/Music/MusDis](http://www.palatine.org.uk/directory/index.php/Music/MusDis)

### **b. Specific disabilities and music** **Music and visually impaired students**

- **Accessible music**

Based in the Netherlands, Accessible Music is a subject guide to providing technological solutions for the print-impaired musician. It includes an introduction to the subject and sections on: technologies; Braille music; talking music; modified print music; downloads; links to related websites; and online newsletters.

The website is a comprehensive resource for those interested in the future of accessible music and emerging multimedia technologies. It aims to cover some of the more technical aspects of music notation and music coding, but also gives practical information on making music accessible for everyone.

The **Music Network Accessibility Workgroup** is part of the Accessible Music work. The aims of this Workgroup are to:

- Encourage the integration of production, consumption and distribution for Braille Music, Talking Music and Modified Print Music.
- Contribute to international standards and guidelines (especially for Braille Music and Modified Print).
- Encourage organisations and individuals to work together.
- Contribute to copyright, IPR and legal standards and legislation at national and European levels.
- Advise others on accessibility issues.

<http://projects.fnb.nl/am/home.html>

- An extremely helpful and practical guide to music education with blind and partially sighted students. It provides context and suggestions for making teaching and learning in music more accessible. It grew out of a Musicians in Focus project.

<http://www.ecu.ac.uk/resources/goodtalking/assets/VIBook.pdf>

- **Musicians in Focus**

The organisation responsible for the publication above. Its work is focused on music education for blind musicians – but with awareness of applications for other disabled people. Includes music for Braille users; e-learning including for people ‘isolated by disability’; assistive technology.

<http://www.musiciansinfocus.org/aims.htm>

- **Enabling for Music** (a charitable organisation)

Sound processing and technology to enable people with limited or no use of their hands, or with partial sight, to create their own music, and produce a recording.

<http://www.zen59695.zen.co.uk/etsam/efmc.htm>

## Music and d/Deaf students

- **Music and the Deaf**

<http://www.matd.org.uk/>

This organisation works in many different ways to enable d/Deaf people to participate in music. There are several strands to its work:

- **Project 1 – Frequalize**

The Keys to Music Project highlighted the problems that deaf people encounter with music technology. MATD have undertaken further research to identify the problems more clearly, assess existing resources and see how things could be improved.

There are issues of sound quality, headphones, hardware and software to be addressed, among others. We plan to take our findings to various manufacturers over the next few months and encourage them to find ways round these problems.

- **Project 2 - When I could hear**

Deafened people - those who lose their hearing later in life or through illness or accident - make up the largest proportion of deaf and hearing-impaired people in the UK.

Music and the Deaf is setting up a new project to help deafened people continue enjoying music.

- **Project 3 – Music leader**

MusicLeader is a regional network that offers information, advice and guidance on training and professional development to music leaders in their area. There are currently five networks covering London, North East, North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire.

They are to set up a training scheme for musicians who wish to work with deaf people, in conjunction with MusicLeader North West and MusicLeader Yorkshire.

- **ETSAM** (Enabling Through Sound and Music) aims to use technology to enable people who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen to music more clearly with a system called Tailored Sound ©

<http://www.etsam.org.uk/>

## Music education and dyslexic students

- Abstract of paper on **research into dyslexia** – a pilot study of dyslexia and music in a conservatoire setting by Paula Bishop-Liebler. The exercise was undertaken in conjunction with the BDA (British Dyslexia Association).

[http://www.bdainternationalconference.org/2004/presentations/mon\\_p2\\_c\\_28.shtml](http://www.bdainternationalconference.org/2004/presentations/mon_p2_c_28.shtml)

- **Music and dyslexia:** How dyslexia can affect musicians – how music can also help. A paper by Sue Wrigglesworth AMBDA (2005)  
<http://www.ditt-online.org/Archives/MusicandDyslexia.doc>
- Oglethorpe, Sheila *Instrumental music for dyslexics: A teaching handbook* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2002 Whurr Publishers Ltd.
- **Music and dyslexia:** the teaching-learning process by Ros Carver. The link leads to this article in the ABSRM.  
<http://www.abstrm.org/?page=newsArticles/item.html&id=253>
- A practical article by Peter Lia on accessibility issues in **sight-reading assessment**.  
<http://www.lr.mdx.ac.uk/ells/docs/dyslexic%20music%20students.pdf>
- **Music and dyslexia – and how Suzuki helps** – an article by Jenny Macmillan  
[http://www.europeansuzuki.org/web\\_journal/Music\\_and\\_dyslexia.pdf](http://www.europeansuzuki.org/web_journal/Music_and_dyslexia.pdf)
- **Music and dyslexia: opening new doors** by Tim Miles and John Westcombe. This book is based on the case studies of dyslexic musicians. The link takes you to a synopsis of the book on the BDA (British Dyslexia Association) website.  
<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/extra335.html>
- A practical article by Peter Lia on accessibility issues in **sight-reading assessment**.  
<http://www.lr.mdx.ac.uk/ells/docs/dyslexic%20music%20students.pdf>
- The ABRSM's guidelines for examining dyslexic candidates. Although the guidelines are not related to music in higher education, it may be useful to have this perspective and precedent.  
<http://www.abrsm.org/?page=exams/specialNeeds/ukIre/index.htm>

### c. Assistive technology in music

- A website about **music technology and curriculum access**. It has a section about access for disabled music students.  
[http://www.musicedutech.com/disabled\\_access.htm](http://www.musicedutech.com/disabled_access.htm)

- The **Drake Project** has information about assistive technology and E-Scape software.

<http://www.drakemusicproject.org/makepage.asp?page=4d>

- **TechDis** is a national organisation which works with the higher education sector to use technology within teaching and learning to improve access to the curriculum. Their website, while not specific to any academic discipline, has a wealth of materials relevant to all subjects.

[www.techdis.ac.uk](http://www.techdis.ac.uk)

- **ESP** (Expressive Software Projects Ltd) specialises in music software which makes music more accessible.

<http://www.espmusic.co.uk/>

- **MidiCreator** was designed originally at the University of York. It enables movement to be turned into sound.

<http://www.experia-innovations.co.uk/index.php?cPath=75>

- **Click to Go** is a company which specialises in the design of assistive electronic equipment

<http://www.click2go.ie/>

#### d. Inclusive teaching and learning

- The Open University has designed a comprehensive website **Inclusive Teaching in Higher Education**.

[www.open.ac.uk/inclusiveteaching/index.php](http://www.open.ac.uk/inclusiveteaching/index.php)

- **Premia** – making **research education** accessible – is an on-line resource for research staff and disabled PGR students. It aims to provide information, advice, practical suggestions and best practice in supporting disabled research students.

[www.premia.ac.uk](http://www.premia.ac.uk)

- The SDT (Scottish Disability Team) has published an on-line guide containing very helpful scenarios for **reasonable adjustments**.

[www.sdt.ac.uk/auxguide.asp](http://www.sdt.ac.uk/auxguide.asp)

- The SDT has also published *Guidelines for **Creating an Accessible Environment***  
[www.sdt.ac.uk/acc\\_environment](http://www.sdt.ac.uk/acc_environment)
- A good practice guide to **accessible curricula** (UWIC, TechDis, LTSN)  
<http://www.techdis.ac.uk/resources/files/curricula.pdf>
- **Learning and Teaching Good Practice Guide** published by the DRC in partnership with Skill, Universities UK and others.  
[www.skill.org.uk/info/drc\\_guides/learning\\_and\\_teaching.doc](http://www.skill.org.uk/info/drc_guides/learning_and_teaching.doc)
- **Teachability**, an initiative in Scottish universities, has produced a series of guides on aspects of teaching and learning, including:
  - Creating accessible course or programme design and structure for disabled students  
[www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter\\_2/tableofcontents2.html](http://www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter_2/tableofcontents2.html)
  - Creating accessible lectures for disabled students  
[www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter\\_3/tableofcontents3.html](http://www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter_3/tableofcontents3.html)
  - Creating accessible seminars and tutorials for disabled students  
[www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter\\_4/tableofcontents4.html](http://www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter_4/tableofcontents4.html)
  - Creating accessible e-learning resources for disabled students  
[www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter\\_7/tableofcontents7.html](http://www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/chapter_7/tableofcontents7.html)
- Nottingham University 's guides: Inclusive Teaching Strategies cover issues for students with particular disabilities: Asperger's syndrome, dyslexia, epilepsy, hearing impairment, mobility impairment, visual impairment.  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/disability/ITS%20leaflets.htm](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/disability/ITS%20leaflets.htm)
- Loughborough University 's guides for staff include working with students with specific disabilities, including mental health difficulties.  
[www.lboro.ac.uk/disabilities/pages/staff-information.html](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/disabilities/pages/staff-information.html)
- Information about funding for learning support for disabled students in higher education.

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG\\_10034898](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898)

### **Teaching and learning with d/Deaf students**

- Wolverhampton University has produced guides on teaching d/Deaf students.  
[www2.wlv.ac.uk/teachingdeafstudents/](http://www2.wlv.ac.uk/teachingdeafstudents/)
- RNID strategies for teaching deaf and hard of hearing students  
[http://www.rnid.org.uk/information\\_resources/factsheets/education/factsheets\\_leaflets/?ciid=269663](http://www.rnid.org.uk/information_resources/factsheets/education/factsheets_leaflets/?ciid=269663)

### **Teaching and learning with dyslexic students**

On the British Dyslexia Association website there is an advice sheet for FE and HE lecturers.

[www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/extra330.html](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/extra330.html)

The Civil Service Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Toolkit.

[www.civilservice.gov.uk/diversity/toolkits/dyslexia\\_kit/index.asp](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/diversity/toolkits/dyslexia_kit/index.asp)

A study guide for dyslexic students from Newcastle University

[www.ncl.ac.uk/disability&dash;support/dyslexia/studyskills.pdf](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/disability&dash;support/dyslexia/studyskills.pdf)

### **Funding of learning support for disabled students in higher education**

Information about funding for learning support for disabled students in higher education.

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG\\_10034898](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898)

### **e. Legal and quality frameworks**

- A comprehensive briefing about disability legislation as it affects post-16 Education written by SKILL: the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. It gives an overview of the DDA and the relevant amendments.

<http://jarmin.com/demos/course/send/index.html>

- The DRC (Disability Rights Commission) website has a detailed analysis of the latest legislation, the **Disability Equality Duty** (December 2006) and its implications for higher education and guidelines for senior managers.

[http://www.drc.org.uk/employers\\_and\\_service\\_provider/disability\\_equality\\_duty/sectoral\\_guidance/further\\_and\\_higher\\_education.aspx](http://www.drc.org.uk/employers_and_service_provider/disability_equality_duty/sectoral_guidance/further_and_higher_education.aspx)

- Information sheets about the **duties of HE staff** under Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act produced by SKILL.

[http://www.skill.org.uk/info/drc\\_guides/index.asp](http://www.skill.org.uk/info/drc_guides/index.asp)

- **The QAA Code of Practice** Section 3: Students with disabilities

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/codeOfPractice/section3/default.asp>