

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Music?

Music at Southampton aims “to inspire the next generation of musicians, provide more opportunities for music-making in the community and enable people to benefit from the therapeutic effects of music.” (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/music/outreach/index.page?>)

Music has been linked with personal expression, community enjoyment, societal reflection and change for centuries. Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Music curriculum include:

- **Understanding other cultures:** expanding understanding of other cultures, beliefs, experiences and foster human empathy.
- **Inequality:** class, gender, sexuality, race, disability; representation of equality and inequality within music; representation within the industries themselves; equality of access to the arts.
- **Understanding human emotions and behaviours:** understanding how humans relate to each other, as individuals, in society; reconnecting humankind and nature.
- **Changing lives:** the joy and personal wellbeing that art and design can bring, through the act of creating as well as through interacting with the created; changing lives and society insight into and sharing of socio-political messages, influencing hearts and minds towards sustainable behaviour; the role of the arts in activism and protest.
- **Representing the world:** the role of music in showing the world as it is; as a way to maintain or change the status quo; the role of music in helping to inform and shape opinions on social, economic, cultural, political, environmental issues.
- **Globalisation:** power and colonialism; World Music.
- **Wellbeing:** music as a tool in health and education; use of music to develop people’s emotional, personal and social skills.
- **Community and music:** the role of communities in making music in society; community access to and enjoyment of music; cultural norms around community music.

Key skills for musicians which sustainability teaching cultivates: interdisciplinary working; innovation and creativity; teamwork; leadership; problem-solving; oral and written communication skills; self-management; time-management; analysis and critical thinking.

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.