Blurb for PPMTA Conference 2018 Brochure – Anna-Marie Higgins

CREATIVE COMPOSING

Post-primary Music teachers usually feel quite confident when teaching exam-based composing tasks. However, we still have a lot of questions in relation to creative classroom-based composing. In this talk, we will address some of these questions: 'How do I get started?' 'What are the students meant to learn?' 'How do I recognise progress?' 'What is a rubric?' 'How do I organise a large group?' 'Where do I get ideas?' 'How do we record our compositions on paper?' 'Will I be able to teach this type of composing, as I am not a composer?' The aim of the talk is to consider and discuss some small steps that lead to more confident teaching in this area. Suggestions for classroom activities will be given.

EVERYDAY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY TASKS 1: NOTATION

This workshop focuses on the use of notation software in the technology option at the Leaving Cert practical. Common exam pitfalls concerning instruments and edits will be discussed. A brief comparison between *Sibelius 8*, *Sibelius 5, Musescore* and *Finale Notepad* will be made. The 'how-to' section will include the conversion of notation files into graphics for use in *Word* and *PowerPoint* and the creative use of notation software for arranging music. Towards the end of the session, there may be time to explore some of these points on your own laptop.

EVERYDAY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY TASKS 2: AUDIO

This workshop focuses on the practical uses of *Audacity* for general classroom use. These include the visual representation of the structure of a piece of music, the conversion of audio files into suitable formats and the embedding of audio into *PowerPoint* slides. On the creative side, 'found' sounds are manipulated to produce soundscapes. The most 'useful' sound effects and edits are applied and discussed e.g. Panning, EQ, Noise reduction and Compression. Towards the end of the session, there may be time to explore some of these points on your own laptop.