**Report for Music Therapy Charity**

**Title:** Improvisation in music therapy: conversations, methods and meaning

**Names:** Dr. Philippa Derrington, Becky White and Nicky Haire

We are writing a book called *Improvisation in music therapy: conversations, methods and meaning* that Jessica Kingsley Publishers have agreed to publish.

This book begins an open-ended conversation around musical improvisation and expands on the seminal and core educational text by the late Professor Tony Wigram, *Improvisation; Methods and techniques for music therapy clinicians and students,* which Jessica Kingsley published in 2004.

We held conversations with various musicians who improvise, including music therapists, music educators, community musicians and music psychologists, with an aim to present and integrate multi-disciplinary perspectives on the subject of improvisation in the book. This important research took place in 2018-2019 and funding from the Music Therapy Charity covered the costs of travel expenses for participants. These conversations form the basis of the book

Drawing on phenomenological methods, we will report on these improvised encounters and conversations with musicians, music therapists, music psychologists, music educators and performers; drawing these together with our own experiences of developing improvisation skills with music therapy students. We hope that through this project, cross-disciplinary voices will be heard, to help us deliver a text that develops a clearly accessible language, broadens students’ learning, strengthens the development of music therapy and is a forward-looking reference for practitioners, students and all those working with music in health.

**Costs:**

Participant travel expenses total: over £1000