



MEDIA RELEASE

Event: Fri 18 November 2011 10am-1pm at Plymouth Music Zone

## PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE PARTICIPANTS TO GET RED CARPET TREATMENT FROM FORMER OFFICIAL HARPIST TO THE ROYAL FAMILY

The music education charity has invited the Welsh harpist Claire Jones to take part in special workshops with its participants. Claire is more used to personal invitations to play at the Royal Palaces than places like Plymouth Music Zone. She was invited earlier this year to play at the Royal Wedding at Buckingham Palace for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, but the children from a local Devonport school are all set to give her a reception at PMZ to rival any other.

PMZ Music leader, Teri Perkins, who's joining the children at the workshop says experiencing the harp from such an accomplished musician will be a real musical treat:

**"Children always get really excited to see instruments they've never seen before, especially one as huge as a harp. They usually associate the harp with angels and fluffy clouds but I bet they'll be on cloud nine after they've heard it and seen it face to face!"**

Claire Jones's journey to becoming the official harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales began at the age of seven with the start of her musical education. Claire soon excelled in three instruments Harp, Violin, and Piano and achieved three grade 8 distinctions at the age of 14. Claire then studied harp and entered the Royal College of Music at 18 years old graduating with 1st class honours in 2007 before further graduating as an M.A. scholar from the Royal Academy of Music in 2009. Claire is certainly used to playing larger audiences than PMZ. The opening of the international rugby game, Wales V South Africa, Prince William Cup, saw Claire play to a sell out crowd of 75,000 fans and 4 million viewers on BBC. But Claire also hugely values the education work she does in many schools through organisations like "Superact!" that joins up talented musicians with local communities.

Executive Director, Matt Griffiths, says these kind of chances are precious:

**"Great harpists like Claire are actually very rare, all the ones I know just happen to be Welsh, possibly since it's the national instrument, so we're really lucky to have her here. PMZ is all about providing excellent musical opportunities like this to really raise children's aspirations and expose them to new and sometimes unusual musical experiences that they'll hopefully remember for some time to come".**

Local children from Mount Wise Primary school and adults from the Life Skills programme at City College will be taking part in the workshops at PMZ on Fri 18 Sept from 10am-1pm.

**For further information or filming opportunities please call Matt Griffiths on 01752 213690.**

**-ENDS. Notes to Editors, see below**

**Plymouth Music Zone Ltd**

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Company Number - 4653409 Registered Charity Number - 1100878



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## **Notes to Editors**



For more information about Claire Jones and further links please see her website [www.clairejones.co.uk](http://www.clairejones.co.uk)

## **Information about Plymouth Music Zone**

Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ) is an award winning community music organisation that provides high quality tailored music workshops for young people and training for adults. PMZ works with some of the most disadvantaged people in Plymouth, reaching nearly 1000 children, young people and vulnerable adults every week through the delivery of up to 70 music activities across the city and at their bespoke education centre located in Devonport. 95% of the PMZ's music provision targets children and young people defined as being 'at risk' with more than a third of that delivery involving children and young people with disabilities.

As a charity, Plymouth Music Zone works with over 100 partner organisations annually using music as a tool to develop emotional wellbeing and the personal and social skills of those participants identified as being most in need. It employs highly skilled Music Leaders who deliver a diverse range of interactive music-making workshops that engage young people in their own musical and social development. PMZ's slogan 'music making a difference' describes a passionate mission that focuses on transforming lives through music. PMZ has won awards recognising the innovative nature of its work and in its last 12 years, Independent Evaluations have provided powerful evidence of the deep impact of what it does in developing and improving a broad range of areas such as self-confidence/self-esteem, self-expression, communication and interpersonal skills.

### **Media Contact:**

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