

WHO WOULD WORK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? – PMZ Staff biographies.

Ben Ballard, Project Director

Ben has been working in community music for the last 12 years in a wide variety of settings both in London and Devon. Ben studied music at City University London, where he won the universities award for outstanding achievement for research into practical approaches to group facilitation.

Ben has a life long interest in percussion and has travelled to West Africa to study traditional music. Ben has performed with numerous community groups at carnivals and community events and is passionate about the power of music to make a difference to people's lives.

As well as managing the organisation, Ben continues to deliver workshops and training on a regular basis including percussion, music technology, primary and secondary curriculum, special needs music, early years, group composition, improvisation, INSET training and team building events.

Debbie Geraghty, Development Director

Debbie joined Plymouth Music Zone following the successful completion of her contract as Development Manager for the Plymouth Spaces for Sport and Arts programme. She had been responsible for developing the community use of the four Space for Sport and Arts facilities in the city – of which PMZ is one. Previous to that post, Debbie had worked at Plymouth Music Zone on a freelance basis as a Music Leader while also producing video documentation of our work and managing large scale events.

Debbie is also a qualified broadcast journalist who worked in television as an award winning political reporter and producer. Before that she lived and taught in Japan for 6 years where she ended up as Head of International Relations at a large American Company.

She has a Masters degree in Sociology from Edinburgh University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from Plymouth University/Falmouth College of Art and Design. She also has a counselling qualification in the Development of Learning and was one of the first round of Music Leaders to complete PMZ's inhouse training programme, "Soundskills – the Music Leader".

Karl Meyer, Music Programme Manager

You'll be amazed at what Karl gets up to. He has been leading the music programme for PMZ for the past year having been a Music Leader for 2 ½ years before that. But as well as organising 80-100 activities every week he also leads many of them, as one of PMZ's most skilled facilitators. He plays guitar, bass, drums and sings. He's also part of an upcoming local punk outfit called Koala Attack – who have not only just finished a sell-out tour of Europe but are also set to release their debut album this autumn. He gained a BA in Music from Dartington College of Arts and eats, sleeps and breathes music.

Glyn Fuge, Project Administrator

Glyn is our Project Administrator and the true mother of Plymouth Music Zone. She is the longest surviving fossil of a staff member who's been around since PMZ was first born back in 1999. She's a dark horse. She is a fully qualified bilingual secretary (French, Spanish, German) so we have to watch our language when she's around. She has an extensive background in business as well as the voluntary sector and has even taken minutes on top of a cherry picker. She's surfed for 20 years and secretly wants to sell motorbikes, bake bread and write a book. For the moment, though, we're chuffed she's still with us.

Simon Hackworthy, House technician and Music Leader

Simon has a varied background which has included precision engineering, teaching at the PCFE and being a working musician. Simon continues the variation with his duties at PMZ. Alongside the technical duties of maintaining the instrument and equipment inventory, his classes include Music Tech, Special Needs, Multi-Cultural projects and running the in house studio. Simon can also be found at weekends performing with his 3-piece band 'the wireless' at venues across the South West.

Emma Glynn, Finance Officer

Freelance Finance Officer has her own company called Indigo Solutions and works for a variety of business and charities in and around the Plymouth area. My work here has been an invaluable experience and I thank PMZ for the opportunity to be involved with such a rewarding and worthwhile organisation. Although not musical at all, PMZ makes me feel very much part of the team and I am glad my financial experience can make a necessary contribution to the project.