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DEVON FOLK SENSATION SETH LAKEMAN BECOMES PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE'S FIRST EVER PATRON

Multi-award winning musician and singer songwriter Seth Lakeman is considered one of the hottest talents to have emerged from the British folk scene. He's famed for creating powerful music inspired by local folklore and legends around his Dartmoor home. Now Seth's making history of his own at Plymouth Music Zone with the launch of its new PMZ Patron Programme that aims to help highlight the impact of the work the charity does.

Seth Lakeman says:

"I'm really happy to be Plymouth Music Zone's first patron. The work the charity does to develop the confidence, skills and aspirations of its participants is fantastic and is clearly making a significant difference. Music education has always been really important to me and as someone from Devon, I'm delighted to be associated with Plymouth Music Zone and to offer my help where I can. I wish them continued success in the future."

Seth has already made a name for himself having won 2 BBC Folk awards and been a surprise Mercury Prize nominee in 2005. He's likely to be thrown back into the spotlight again following the release of his latest album only a few days ago. 'Tales from the Barrel' was recorded at the Victorian mining heritage site Morwhellam Quay in Devon and even includes a track that was recorded down a coppermine. The CD shows off his signature storytelling abilities, frenzied fiddle and guitar playing and a whole lot more besides. It is Seth's musical integrity and passion for his work that has gained him so many fans at Plymouth Music Zone.

PMZ's Executive Director Matt Griffiths says:

"We're delighted to have such an inspiring musician like Seth on board. We were really keen to develop a new Patron programme for PMZ because we love the idea that successful musicians in the industry can now have a real way of engaging with Plymouth Music Zone to see how music is transforming people's lives at a grassroots level. Seth really understands the work we do so it's wonderful to now have him advocating on our behalf."

Seth Lakeman is one of the few musicians in the folk scene who has managed to achieve mainstream success by mixing the disparate worlds of pop and folk. He was once described as the "pin up boy of 'nu folk'" and the Plymouth Music Zone team is excited Seth will now be using those well earned pin up credentials as the first face of the PMZ Patron programme.

For more information, please call Matt Griffiths or Debbie Geraghty on 01752 213690.

-ENDS. Notes to Editors, see below

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Company Number - 4653409 Registered Charity Number - 1100878



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Notes to Editors

For more information about Seth and further links please see his website www.sethlakeman.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 those considered most in need as well as delivering bespoke training for musicians, teachers and community leaders etc. 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 state-of-the-art education centre located in Devonport. 95% of PMZ's music provision targets children, young people and adults defined as being 'at risk' with more than a third of that delivery involving children and young people with disabilities, helped by the fact the charity houses one of the only specialist multi-sensory music studios of its kind in the country.

PMZ's slogan 'music making a difference' describes a passionate mission that focuses on transforming lives through music. As a charity, Plymouth Music Zone works with over 100 partner organisations annually using music as a tool to develop the emotional wellbeing and personal and social skills of the participants. It employs highly skilled Music Leaders who deliver a diverse range of interactive music-making workshops and high profile progression projects that engage people in their own musical and social development. 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.

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