



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE'S YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE THE MIC!

The city's biggest music education charity has enlisted the help of some of the young people it engages in order to put their views centre stage. Plymouth Music Zone has gathered together a crack team of 10 to 16 year olds who work closely with the staff in order to voice their opinions on the work they do.

The Youth Forum, known as TEMPO, gets a chance to see behind the scenes of the organisation and talk about the things that PMZ does that they love, as well as what they think the charity could do better. Each session is also wrapped up with a dash of music making delivered in Plymouth Music Zone's signature style.

TEMPO is relaunching to attract new members to join the old guard. 10 year old James Gullis, one of TEMPO's youngest members has been with PMZ since Infant School so is using TEMPO as a chance to be an advocate for the charity:

"I've been involved with Plymouth Music Zone for 5 years, so I can definitely say that it's changed my life. I've had a chance to try lots of different things and I wouldn't be the person I am today without it."

Over the last few years, the youth forum has worked on a number of important projects. The biggest of which revolved around PMZ's 10th anniversary in 2009. TEMPO were behind a funding bid which netted the charity around £17,000, that allowed them to put on three massive events to celebrate the charity's achievements over the decade.

TEMPO is coordinated by Teri Perkins, one of PMZ's music leaders and Zoe Fell, PMZ's Media and Marketing Apprentice. Their role is to mentor the young people in the group, and feed their views to the rest of the PMZ staff, as well as the trustees at their quarterly meetings.

Zoe Fell has gone from participant to member of staff over the past 9 years and feels strongly about how young people are perceived:

"So often young people are seen as hooligans and they get so much negative press. But at Plymouth Music Zone we're listened to. The Youth Forum allows the young people to express themselves without feeling judged and we do it in ways that are exciting by using podcasting, videos and music to help get our views across. It also makes us realise our views really do matter, and that our actions have the ability to affect generations to come"

TEMPO meets every Wednesday between 5:30pm and 6:30pm and is always on the lookout for new young people to join – even if they haven't been previously engaged within the project.

For further details, please contact Teri Perkins or Zoe Fell at TEMPO@plymouthmusiczone.org.uk or call 01752 213690

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Plymouth Music Zone Ltd

Raglan Road, Devonport, Plymouth, PL1 4NQ

T - 01752 213690 **F** - 01752 509888 **E** - info@plymouthmusiczone.org.uk **W** - www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk

Company Number - 4653409 Registered Charity Number - 1100878