



Press Release

Plymouth celebrates Youth Music Week 2009 with 80 FREE Youth Music Workshops

Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ) is celebrating Youth Music Week by using the Music is Power message to really push boundaries and pioneer new paths in the city. Plymouth Music Zone delivers up to 80 workshops per week to school and community settings. Some of these are open access activities that anyone can join, as long as you're aged 6 to 18 years.

Performances, workshops, showcases and taster sessions for children and young people of all ages take place across the nation to celebrate Youth Music Week each year.

The activities are led by Youth Music's network of 22 Youth Music Action Zones who partner with local venues and professional musicians, dancers, and young musicians to celebrate their hard work and successes. From beat boxing to playing the oboe, there's something to see, hear and try out at each and every Action Zone. More details on Youth Music Week activities in Plymouth are available at: <http://musicispower.youthmusic.org.uk/events/>.

Myleene Klass, Youth Music Ambassador comments:

"All children love music - and with their annual Youth Music Week, Youth Music has found a unique way to engage with more children to explore, develop and realise their musical potential. Over 3000 youngsters participated in activities for 2008 Youth Music Week and this year we are aiming to double that figure, encouraging even more children across the UK to take part in music activities regardless of location of circumstance."

For more information:

On Workshops & Plymouth Music Zone's work:

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Youth Music Week

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Tune In, The Year Of Music

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The National Foundation For Youth Music

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www.youthmusic.org.uk
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Notes to Editors

Plymouth Music Zone is a dynamic community music organisation increasingly recognised as a model of excellence both locally and nationally. PMZ believes in a vibrant approach to music based education and training that's flexible, adaptable and expertly led by Music Leaders. The work is all about quality and innovation as well as fun and inspiration and PMZ's dedicated to working with others to use music as a powerful agent for personal, social and educational development - by putting children and young people at the very heart of what we do.

PMZ is part of a network of 22 Youth Music Action Zones set up in areas of social and economic need by national charity Youth Music.

PMZ passionately believes in the power of music to change people's lives - Music Making a Difference.

Youth Music was set up in 1999 with a remit to support music-making activities for some of the UK's most disadvantaged young people, encouraging their talents, building their confidence and transforming the landscape of musical opportunity throughout the UK. Every year more than 150,000 children take part in Youth Music programmes of the broadest variety imaginable; from hip-hop and dj-ing to classical and jazz. Youth Music's work is targeted at young people who ordinarily would never have the chance to create music, encouraging involvement from a very early age.

Youth Music has an unprecedented track record in effecting positive change in young people through music but there is still much more work to be done. Youth Music aspires to reach out to ever increasing numbers of young people across the country. The vision is to create a sustainable environment to channel young peoples' creativity, enabling them to express themselves and develop their skills through music. The aim is to reach 3 million young people by 2010.

This year Youth Music will be concentrating on encouraging teenage girls to pick up an instrument, learn to dj, MC or just to sing up for Youth Music Week. Research recently conducted by the charity shows that while 56% of 7-10 year old girls had engaged in music-making in the last 3 months, only 27% of 15-19 year olds had done so, while in contrast, boys continue to participate in music-making activities throughout their teenage years.

Tune In, The Year of Music is a new national initiative that will run throughout the 2009/10 academic year. Launched in September 2009 by Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the ambition is to bring together and showcase the wide range of music-related experiences available to children and young people across England, and to encourage each one of them - whatever their talent - to get involved in music.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, through its ongoing commitment to providing access to quality music and culture opportunities for children and young people, is committed to supporting music programmes including Sing Up, In Harmony and the Music Manifesto.

The National Year of Music aims to celebrate the diverse opportunities available to children and young people across the country, and to continue to engage them through new and interesting music-related opportunities. By the end of the year there should be no doubt that music should be central to every child's experience.

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Taking part in music and associated cultural activity can positively affect a child or young person's development in various ways – in terms of numeracy, literacy, emotional wellbeing, social inclusion and confidence-building, as well as being a fulfilling and enjoyable pursuit.

England is a world leader in music education and the number of children learning about with, and through music is always growing. The percentage of children at Key Stage 2 learning a musical instrument through large group or whole class tuition will have increased from 8 percent in 2003 to around 34 percent in 2009.

A campaign which unites everyone in celebrating, extending and developing participation in music and other forms of cultural activity will provide a national spotlight for all the superb work schools are already doing. It will also provide a and inspire national direction, leadership and commitment, bringing schools, communities and families together to further enjoy the magic of new and diverse types of music.

The Year of Music campaign will launch on 10th September with a week's worth of activity across the country. The ambition for the year is to open up unprecedented opportunities for the Department and young people themselves, to work with a diverse mix of professional musicians, DJ's, orchestras and performance artists.

For more details of the launch activities and what's coming up in the Year of Music please log on to www.direct.gov.uk/tunein

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