



MEDIA RELEASE: 24 April 2012

DIRECTOR OF LOCAL MUSIC ORGANISATION LEAVES ON A HIGH NOTE THROUGH SECURING TOP JOB AT A NATIONAL CHARITY.

The founding and current Director of award winning music charity Plymouth Music Zone has beaten off stiff competition to be appointed as Executive Director of the UK's leading music education charity, Youth Music. Matt Griffiths returned to PMZ 18 months ago for a second time having originally set up the organisation in 1999. Matt is delighted to now be heading to London based Youth Music but still intends to keep one foot firmly in the West Country:

“Leaving a wonderful organisation like Plymouth Music Zone is never easy for anyone. The South West region has been very good to me over the last 15 years both personally and professionally. The time has come to venture out to the big smoke with the family and family home remaining in Saltash where I'll be at weekends. This kind of opportunity with a national music education brief rarely comes up and I would be left wondering if I didn't grasp it. If I can take a small piece of the warmth, creativity and integrity of the great PMZ team to Youth Music, I'll be a happy man.”

PMZ trustees have asked the current management team to lead the organisation until a further decision is made in the autumn regarding longer term succession arrangements. PMZ's Development Director, Debbie Geraghty, Music Programme Manager, Karl Meyer, and the Admin and Finance Manager, Glyn Fuge, are all looking forward to driving PMZ forward in the coming months. Development Director, Debbie Geraghty says:

“We always joked that Matt was like a boomerang always ending up coming back to the place that he set up. We're so happy for him getting such a prestigious job with such a great organisation as Youth Music. The PMZ team will miss him and obviously wishes him a wonderful future and, in the nicest possible way, we hope he'll be gone for good this time!”

Matt begins his new job with Youth Music on June 6. Further information about the announcement by Youth Music can be found on their website at the link below.

<http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/musicispower/blog/new-executive-director-operations-director.html>

For any further information, please call 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

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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