



Media Release Events: 24 June 6.30pm/ 26 June 2-4pm / 27 June 2-4pm June 2009

PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE IS TUNING UP TO CELEBRATE ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE BIG 10.

The award winning charity began its life back in 1999 with just one musician working out of a cupboard delivering workshops to a handful of schools throughout Plymouth. 10 years on and the flagship organisation now has 25 members of staff and has become increasingly recognised as a Centre of Excellence for cutting edge community music both locally and on the national stage.

The Chief Executive of the National Foundation for Youth Music, Christina Coker, was one of the first top names in the music sector to stand in line to sing PMZ's praises: **'I would like to congratulate Plymouth Music Zone on all the magnificent work they have achieved over the past 10 years. As one of Youth Music's initial 'Action Zones', they have developed models of effective practice which have been shared across the national 'Youth Music Action Zone' network. Their work in Special Education Needs (SEN) is exemplary as is their commitment to providing high quality music making activities. I would like to wish Plymouth Music Zone a very happy birthday and to express my personal gratitude to Ben and his team for their huge contribution to helping young people achieve better lives through the power of music.'**

PMZ's Youth Forum, TEMPO, has just secured funding from the Youth Opportunities and Capital Fund to help put on the commemorative events to invite the community to celebrate the achievements of the last decade. TEMPO is hard at work setting up "3 in a row for the Big 10" ready to kick off the celebrations at the end of June.

19 year old Josh Le Marquand is one of PMZ's Music Leader Apprentices and has been involved with the project since he was 13. **"Until you've come down here and experienced it you wouldn't be able to put into words how brilliant this place is. I wouldn't be able to describe it to someone and do it justice. I mean it's incredible what PMZ does. I'm still here after 6 years and still saying it's that good so it's got to be doing something right!"**

Young people are at the heart of Plymouth Music Zone and the community music organisation has reached over 16,500 of them since 1999 and attracted over £3 million of external investment to enhance opportunities for them in the city. Project Director Ben Ballard says, **"We've come such a long way since the idea of PMZ was just a sparkle in one person's eye all those years ago. It's so much more than one person now and it's all down to having such an incredible team and some amazing partnerships with other people in the city. I just really hope everyone helps us build on that hard fought success for the next 10 years so we can keep using the power of music to make a difference."**

For full details of all the events please see the website www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk

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



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Notes to Editors:

Please see separate attachments for:

- (1) PMZ's BIG 10 - Top Ten Facts
- (2) PMZ's BIG 10 - 1999-2009 Timeline
- (3) PMZ's BIG 10 - Event Details

For any interviews/photos/filming opps or further information please call PMZ's Development Director, Debbie Geraghty, on 0787 579 9882 (mob) or the Project Administrator, Glyn Fuge, on 01752 213690



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