

PRESS RELEASE:

Venues Day 2016 Reveals Opening Panel UK Music presents “Building on Progress”



Music Venue Trust is delighted to announce details of the opening panel for Venues Day 2016. **UK Music presents “Building on Progress”** will kick off the debate at the national gathering of grassroots music venues which takes place on **Tuesday 18 October** at **The Roundhouse, London**.

UK Music has worked with Music Venue Trust to reconvene the much discussed Venues Day 2015 opening panel to assess what has been achieved in the last year and what needs to happen next. Most of last year’s panel will return, with **Steve Lamacq (BBC 6Music)**, **Jo Dipple (UK Music)**, **Rt Hon Ed Vaizey MP**, **Mark Davyd (Music Venue Trust)** being joined by **Laura Dyer (Arts Council England)** and **Lord Tim Clement-Jones** for a forthright discussion chaired by **Adam Sherwin (The Independent)**.

Last year’s opening panel provoked fierce debate around planning, development, licensing and the role of cultural funding. As a direct result of comments made during the debate, Music Venue Trust, UK Music and Musicians Union worked with government to change the Town & Country Planning Act to protect grassroots music venues. The review of licensing currently being undertaken by an all-party parliamentary group and how best to support music venues through the cultural funding mechanism are likely to be the hot topics this year.

Jo Dipple of UK Music said: *“The economic value of music to the UK is proven. It’s cultural value, to our communities and lives, needs more vocal national and local Government support. You cannot have a bigger night time economy without a strong cultural base to underpin it. Grassroots music venues create that cultural base in our towns and cities. UK Music is proud to sponsor Venues Day. It acts as a unique platform to work out what venues in the UK need and what bodies like UK Music must do in terms of lobbying Government and Parliament. We’ve changed a bit of planning law. We need to change more as well as influencing political hearts and minds.”*

Mark Davyd of MVT added: *“We’re delighted to be working closely with UK Music in a number of areas protecting, securing and improving grassroots music venues. The recent success with the change to UK law on permitted development rights shows just what can be achieved by collaboration, and it’s great to have Jo and her team on board again to help us bring together a panel which can genuinely take action to support grassroots music venues.”*

Venues Day 2016 is the only national event aimed specifically at the people who run small to medium scale independent music venues. Venues Day 2015 took place the Ministry of Sound and saw 400 delegates networking with representatives from leading music industry businesses, cultural organisations and advisors on issues such as accessing finance, insurance, licensing and legal issues. This year’s event has grown again, with over 500 delegates representing over 150 venues already confirmed and tickets close to selling out.

Venues Day 2016 is a one-day event, running from 10.30am - 6.00pm. General delegate passes are on sale now from <https://www.ticketweb.co.uk/event/245561>
Further event details are available at the MVT website <http://www.musicvenuetrust.com/>

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Notes to Editors

Music Venue Trust

Music Venue Trust, founded in 2014, is a registered charity that seeks to preserve, secure and improve the UK's network of small to medium scale, mostly independently run, grassroots music venues. We have a long term plan to protect that live music network which includes, where necessary, taking into charitable ownership freehold properties so they can be removed from commercial pressures and leased back to passionate music professionals to continue their operation.

For further information please visit <http://www.musicvenue trust.com/>

UK Music

UK Music is the umbrella body representing the collective interests of the UK's commercial music industry, from songwriters and composers to artists and musicians, studio producers, music managers, music publishers, major and independent record labels, music licensing companies and the live music sector.

UK Music exists to represent the UK's commercial music sector, to drive economic growth and promote the benefits of music to British society. The members of UK Music are AIM, BASCA, BPI, FAC, MMF, MPG, MPA, MU, PPL, *PRS for Music* and the UK Live Music Group.

For further information please visit <http://www.ukmusic.org/>