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PRESS RELEASE

Friday 2 November 2007

CAERPHELLY AND DEVON SHARE MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS MAJOR TROPHY 2007

The National Music Council's (NMC) LEA Music Awards 2007 Major Trophy has been awarded jointly to Caerphilly and Devon Local Education Authorities. Diplomas have been awarded to: Blackpool, East Ayrshire, Edinburgh, North Lanarkshire, Oxfordshire, Southwark, and Warwickshire. The PRS Foundation will be making awards to Caerphilly and East Lothian for their commitment to creative music making, and for the first time this year Jazz Services will be recognising a commitment to jazz education and making awards to Devon and Southampton. NMC President, Dame Cleo Laine, will formally present the Awards at a ceremony on Thursday 29 November 2007 at the MCPS-PRS Alliance, Copyright House, 29-33 Berners Street, London W1T 3AB.

Ivor Widdison, *Chair of the Awards Panel*, said: "Another very fine crop of submissions this year. Three particular points of interest. First, the number of instances where education authorities were continuing to make major contributions to music education budgets. Secondly, the size of the task of implementing whole class instrumental and vocal tuition. And thirdly, the almost palpable enthusiasm and joy associated with music making which characterises so many of the submissions."

Joshua Meggitt *Applications Manager, PRS Foundation* said "Each year the NMC LEA Music Awards draw attention to excellence in music education. The PRS Foundation is proud to be involved, awarding diplomas to those authorities demonstrating a particular commitment to creative music making and composition. The submissions for this year revealed the wealth of exciting activities taking place, with this year's winners, Caerphilly and East Lothian, proving that the future of new music is bright indeed."

Robin Osterley, *Chairman, NMC*, said "'Once again we have received a good number of exciting submissions from LEA music services about their many achievements; they are always heartening to

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National Music Council Registered Charity No. 249178

Executive Committee Members

Association of Professional Recording Services, British Academy of Composers and Songwriters, British Phonographic Industry, Jazz Services Ltd, Local Government Association, Making Music, MCPS-PRS Alliance, Music Education Council, Music Industries Association, Music Publishers Association, Musicians' Union.

read. We know how valuable these Awards are to music services and the local authorities to which they belong, and are again proud to be undertaking this important award scheme.”

Wearing his hat as chair of Jazz Services, Ivor Widdison said “The difference this year from last, is the extent to which some LEAs and their music services are approaching jazz education in a more systematic, developmental, rather than ad hoc, way. This, and the fact that an increasing number of music services are exploiting the rich potential represented by the readiness of many high quality jazz musicians to be involved in music education, augurs well for the future.”

The NMC LEA Music Awards Scheme (co-ordinated with the assistance of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) has been in existence for over 30 years. The Council is grateful to the PRS Foundation and Jazz Services for their commitment to music education through their awards for creative music-making and jazz respectively and to the Music Education Council for its formal association with this Awards Scheme.

For further information please contact Fiona Harvey, National Music Council

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Notes for Editors:

Founded in 1953 under the auspices of the International Music Council and UNESCO, the National Music Council sits at the centre of a complex network of national music organisations, and it is a key organisation that exists to promote the interests of the music industry in the UK as a whole.

Membership is drawn from all areas of the music business and is open to organisations with an interest in music and its development in the UK: professional, voluntary and amateur; subsidised and commercial; creative and educational.

Through the annual awarding of a major trophy and a variable number of diplomas (in the form of certificates), the Council seeks to provide recognition for those LEAs that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to music provision in a particular year. Reports from previous years can be found at: www.nationalmusiccouncil.org.uk

Please RSVP to Fiona Harvey, info@nationalmusiccouncil.org.uk if you would like to attend the presentation ceremony on Thursday 29 November, **no later than 22 November 2007**