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PRESS RELEASE

Friday 7 November 2008

HAMPSHIRE IS AWARDED MAJOR TROPHY BY NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL

The National Music Council's (NMC) LEA Music Awards 2008 Major Trophy has been awarded to Hampshire Local Education Authority. Diplomas have been awarded to: East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Redbridge, Southwark, and West Lothian. The PRS Foundation will be making awards to Blackpool, East Lothian, and Oxfordshire for their commitment to creative music making, and Jazz Services will be recognising a commitment to jazz education and making awards to City of Edinburgh, Devon, Lincolnshire, and West Lothian. The Awards will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday 20 November 2008 at the BPI in London.

Ivor Widdison, *Chair of the Awards Panel*, said: "The splendid submissions we had before us this time are, of course, representative of best practice. We do well to remember that so far as England is concerned, without the Government's Music Standards Fund a lot of that best practice would not survive. North of the Border, though the Scottish Arts Council's Youth Music Initiative grants are very welcome icing on the cake, the education authorities themselves provide virtually all the funding and, of course, it is common practice not to charge for tuition! It is all public money. So let us, for once, salute the local and national politicians who authorise such worthy spends!"

Robin Osterley, *Chairman, NMC*, said "This has been yet another good year for the NMC Awards scheme, which is one of the most prestigious awards that Local Authorities can obtain for their arts activity. It is indicative of the renewed strength of music education that the application standard is so high and the winners are to be congratulated on being the best of a very good bunch."

The NMC LEA Music Awards Scheme (co-ordinated with the assistance of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Federation of Music Services and Music Education Council) has been in existence for over 30 years. The Council is grateful to the PRS Foundation and Jazz Services for their

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National Music Council Registered Charity No. 249178

Executive Committee Members

Association of British Orchestras, Association of Professional Recording Services, 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.

commitment to music education through their awards for creative music-making and jazz education respectively.

For further information please contact Fiona Harvey, National Music Council

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Or: Ivor Widdison, mobile: 07984 180137

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 many with their own extensive memberships. 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.

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 20 November, **no later than 13 November 2008**