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PRESS RELEASE

Friday 23 October 2009

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL MAJOR TROPHY AWARDED JOINTLY TO KINGSTON UPON HULL AND MANCHESTER

The National Music Council's (NMC) LEA Music Awards 2009 Major Trophy has been awarded jointly to Kingston upon Hull and Manchester Local Education Authorities. Diplomas of Special Merit have been awarded to: Portsmouth and Tower Hamlets, and Diplomas of Merit go to Blackpool, Bolton, Devon, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Oxfordshire, Redbridge and Southwark. The PRS Foundation will be awarding a Diploma of Special Merit to Bolton, and Diplomas of Merit to Devon, East Lothian, Redbridge and Southwark for their commitment to creative music making. Those Awards will be presented on Monday 9 November 2009 at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London.

The Major Trophy will be also be presented to Kingston upon Hull and Manchester on stage at the Royal Albert Hall, during Music for Youth's Schools Proms on Monday 9 November.

Jazz Services will be recognising a commitment to jazz education and presenting a Diploma of Special Merit to Devon and Diplomas of Merit to Bolton, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire and Redbridge. The Jazz Services Will Michael awards will be presented at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Sun Dial Court room on Monday 30 November in the course of performances by Guildhall School undergraduate small groups starting at 6.00pm.

Ivor Widdison, *Chair of the Awards Panel*, said: "The very splendid submissions we have had before us 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 and Wider Opportunities' Funds 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 in Scotland not to charge for tuition! It is all public money. So let us, again, salute the local and national politicians who authorise such worthy spends!"

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National Music Council Registered Charity No. 249178

Executive Committee Members

Association of British Orchestras, Association of Professional Recording Services, BPI, Jazz Services Ltd, Making Music, Music Education Council, Music Industries Association, Music Publishers Association, Musicians' Union, PRS for Music

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 music education provision. The high quality and standards of the submissions are demonstrated by the increased number of Awards being presented in 2009; the winners are to be congratulated on being the best of a very good bunch.”

The NMC (in association with the Music Education Council) LEA Music Awards Scheme (co-ordinated with the assistance of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Federation of Music Services) has been in existence for over 35 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 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, the Council seeks to provide recognition for those LEAs that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to music education 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 Monday 9 November, **no later than Thursday 5 November 2009**

NMC Partners

Music Education Council www.mec.org.uk/

Federation of Music Services www.thefms.org/

COSLA www.cosla.gov.uk/

PRS Foundation www.prsfoundation.co.uk/

Jazz Services www.jazzservices.org.uk/

Music for Youth www.mfy.org.uk/Schools-Prom.aspx

Austrian Cultural Forum London www.austria.org.uk/culture/about-the-austrian-cultural-forum/