

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

2010 Peter Whittingham Jazz Award Launched

- **Scott Stroman, Errollyn Wallen, Dave O'Higgins, Soweto Kinch, Gwilym Simcock, Empirical and 2009 Mercury Prize nominees Led Bib among previous recipients**
- **Leading audition panel includes John Cumming from Serious, jazz trumpeter Abram Wilson, jazz singer Liane Carroll and Steve Rubie from the 606 Club**
- **Recipient awarded £4,000 and career guidance from the Musicians Union**

The Musicians Benevolent Fund has launched its 2010 Peter Whittingham Jazz Award and invites talented, innovative solo and ensemble jazz musicians to apply.

Over the past twenty years, the award has established itself as one of the most prestigious in UK jazz with a roll call of leading jazz musicians to its name. Previous recipients include Scott Stroman, Errollyn Wallen, Dave O'Higgins, Soweto Kinch, Gwilym Simcock, Empirical and 2009 Mercury Prize nominees Led Bib.



Mark Holub from Led Bib credits the Whittingham award as opening doors for the band. He says: "The award was very important. It meant we could go out and be recognised as having something that other people didn't. It also came at a difficult time for new jazz acts and we didn't have the money to invest in a first recording. Having recorded the first record with funding from the award meant we were offered support for the second. It was the first step on the ladder."

The award is made following auditions to a leading panel of jazz experts. This year's panel includes John Cumming from Serious, jazz trumpeter Abram Wilson, jazz singer Liane Carroll and Steve Rubie from the renowned 606 Club.

They will be looking for talent, creativity and project proposals that have contemporary significance and relevance in today's changing music industry. Previously funded projects have included jazz festivals, education workshops, album recordings and tours. Successful recipients will be awarded £4,000 and will benefit from career guidance from the Musicians Union.

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday 5 November** and auditions will take place at The Premises Studios, Hackney Road, London on Friday 10 December 2010.

If you are an emerging individual or group and think you have got what it takes to impress the panel and follow in Led Bib's path, please apply by visiting the Musicians Benevolent Fund website: helpmusicians.org.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About the Musicians Benevolent Fund

The Musicians Benevolent Fund is a unique charity which provides essential help to musicians of all ages across a range of genres. The Fund supports music professionals throughout their working lives when a crisis such as an accident or illness can have a devastating impact and in later life, with the challenges that disability or growing older can bring. It also supports young aspiring musicians to help them enter the profession with the best chance of success.



Musicians Give is the new fundraising campaign of the Musicians Benevolent Fund. Musicians, music promoters and music lovers are asked to sign up to the campaign at musiciansgive.org.uk. The aim is to raise £10m over the next five years to guarantee support for musicians in need. The campaign has three strands.

Musicians in Crisis - providing working musicians with substantial and immediate intervention when they experience a major and sudden crisis, such as serious illness, accident or emotional breakdown

Musicians Staying Connected - A lifetime in music means just that. A lifetime. Staying Connected will give older musicians the support they need, when they need it most.

Musicians Launchpad - providing crucial support for today's rising musical stars to ensure they have the best possible chance to become tomorrow's professionals

About the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award

The Peter Whittingham Jazz Award is open to those who are studying full time on a recognised jazz course or in the first two years of entering a professional career. Peter Whittingham was an expert in survival medicine. He was a gifted pianist who particularly enjoyed the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, George Shearing, Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson. The Award was set up by Peter Whittingham's family in 1989 and is administered by the Musicians Benevolent Fund. Peter's son, Chris Whittingham, chairs the audition panel each year.

Please note that the Musicians Benevolent Fund is no longer using the acronym 'MBF' and should be referred to as 'the Musicians Benevolent Fund' or 'the Fund' thereafter.

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