

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

18 year old Londoner Sherika Sherard receives coveted Songwriting Award

- Sherika Sherard from the University of Westminster received the Musicians Benevolent Fund's Songwriting Award of £5,000 on Thursday
- Jessica Staveley-Taylor from Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) also received a Development Award of £2,500
- Guy Chambers, Alison Clarkson (Betty Boo), Tony Moore, David Stark and Eg White formed the judging panel



L-R: Tony Moore, Eg White, Alison Clarkson, Guy Chambers, Sherika Sherard, Jessica Staveley-Taylor and David Stark

Born and raised in South London, singer-songwriter Sherika Sherard walked away with the main award of £5,000 at the Musicians Benevolent Fund's annual Songwriting Awards Final. Sherika has been songwriting from the age of 14 and will use the award to buy new songwriting equipment and tour the UK next year.

Sherika said, "I just want to say a big thank you for Thursday night - it was amazing! I am so happy to be part of such a great award and to be linked to your charity as an artist".

Jessica Staveley-Taylor performing with her two sisters, who are collectively 'The Staves', was delighted to receive a development award of £2,500, which she will put towards recording an EP and a 15 date UK tour.

This year's high profile panel was chaired by songwriting legend, Guy Chambers, best known for his collaboration as a songwriter/producer with Robbie Williams on five hugely successful albums. Guy was joined by Alison Clarkson (Betty Boo), whose debut album Boomania secured her a Brit in 1990 for Best New Artist and Eg White who, last year, co-wrote two of the biggest and most loved pop hits: Duffy's 'Warwick Avenue' and Adele's 'Chasing Pavements' and this year, was named Ivor Novello Songwriter of the Year. Also on the panel were Tony Moore, the man responsible for creating the Kashmir Klub and the Bedford, where the showcase was held, and David Stark, founder of Songlink International.

The evening also featured a special guest performance from last year's award recipients 'Fables' from LIPA. The band, who were the unanimous choice at the 2008 awards, are using the award to produce an EP prior to a UK tour in Dec 2009/Jan 2010. Other past recipients include RnB singer, Hannah Rei and 'The Wombats', both of whom have helped firmly establish the Musicians Benevolent Fund Songwriting Awards in the UK Songwriting Industry.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The Musicians Benevolent Fund has been providing essential help and support to musicians and their families for nearly 90 years and has grown to be the largest charity of its kind in the UK. Each year the Fund gives nearly £2 million to help some 1,500 music professionals, and their dependants, who struggle because of accident, illness or age related challenges. In addition, more than £400,000 is awarded to help support over 200 outstanding young musicians in developing a professional career. The Fund also supports a wide range of music organisations which help it achieve its strategic goals.

The Songwriting Awards are available to young songwriters who are studying on an undergraduate or postgraduate popular/commercial music course in the UK and applicants are nominated by their Head of course. The annual Awards seek to promote new songwriting talent.

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.

For further press information, high resolution images and footage of panel members, finalists and past winners please contact:

Christine Brown
Media and Communications Officer
Musicians Benevolent Fund
7-11 Britannia Street
London WC1X 9JS
T: 020 7239 9116
F: 020 7637 4307
E: cbrown@mbf.org.uk
