

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

World Service Project clinch Peter Whittingham Jazz Award

- Emerging jazz group World Service Project has received the Musicians Benevolent Fund Peter Whittingham Jazz Award
- Previous recipients include Scott Stroman, Errollyn Wallen, Dave O'Higgins, Soweto Kinch, Gwilym Simcock, 2009 Mercury Prize nominees Led Bib and 2010 MOBO award winners Empirical
- Musicians Benevolent Fund Development Awards made to Peter Edwards Trio and JWJM Duo

Emerging jazz group World Service Project (WSP) has received the prestigious Musicians Benevolent Fund Peter Whittingham Jazz Award. The group, made up of Dave Morecroft (piano/keyboard), Tim Ower (saxophone), Raphael Clarkson (trombone), Conor Chaplin (bass) and Neil Blandford (drums) impressed the panel of leading jazz experts to clinch the award and join an impressive roll call of previous recipients including Scott Stroman, Errollyn Wallen, Dave O'Higgins, Soweto Kinch, Gwilym Simcock, 2009 Mercury Prize nominees Led Bib and 2010 MOBO award winners Empirical.

Formed in 2009, WSP has quickly laid down impressive live credentials at some of the UK's most renowned festivals and venues and debut album *Relentless*, released at the end of 2010, was followed up by a hugely successful ten date nationwide tour. 2011 looks set to be an equally busy and exciting year with the award of £4,000 enabling the group to lead a cultural exchange programme with Norwegian band *Synkoke* which will see both groups touring the UK and Norway.

The panel, including John Cumming from Serious, jazz trumpeter Abram Wilson, jazz singer Liane Carroll and Steve Rubie from the 606 Club, also made Musicians Benevolent Fund Development Awards to the Peter Edwards Trio and JWJM Duo. The Peter Edwards Trio, led by pianist Peter Edwards and featuring Nick Walsh (bass) and Saleem Raman (drums) will use their award to produce a short fifteen minute promotional film whilst the JWJM Duo, saxophonist Joe Wright and drummer James Maddren will be touring in Summer and late Autumn 2011, including the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

For more information about the Peter Whittingham Award and the Musicians Benevolent Fund, visit helpmusicians.org.uk

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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. £4,000 is available to be awarded and recipients will also benefit from career guidance from the Musicians Union.

The award is made following auditions to a leading panel of jazz experts. 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.

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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