

## JAZZ SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

Central to the Jazz Services mission statement introducing its Annual Report for the year 2008-9 is the same message that has driven the organisation throughout the 24 years it has been making its crucial contribution to British music:

Jazz Services has always seen its principal mission as being 'to provide a voice and support for UK jazz'.

But as this influential charity's small but dedicated staff head toward new challenges in an arts world confronted by severe funding cuts, one particular objective of the mission statement takes on a new urgency. Under the heading of 'Communications and Marketing' comes the aim 'to seek funding from public and private sources for projects and initiatives which further the availability and appreciation of the music. In particular to ensure that jazz gets an appropriate share of funding for the arts.'

In the previous year's 2007/8 Annual Report, the organisation had revealed steady advances in its widely-used online information service, in its gig-promoting National Touring Support Scheme (NTSS), its educational services, recording scheme, and a growing international influence that culminated in the powerful contribution of British jazz groups to the International Association For Jazz Education (IAJE) conference in Toronto in January 2008.

During 2008/9, the momentum has been sustained, and in some areas - notably inter-organisation dialogue, website development, international promotion of UK artists, and campaigning for improved media coverage - there has been significant movement forward.

Jazz Services has an agreed Action Plan with its principal funder the Arts Council of England (ACE) in the following areas:

### **1. Relationships with other music organisations.**

This includes regional jazz bodies, the National Music Council, the prestigious European Jazz Meeting at Bremen, the European Jazz Network, and the All Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group (APPJAG) were advanced through the year, with the latter supporting January and July concerts showcasing leading youth bands, in addition to its high-profile Parliamentary Jazz Awards scheme.

### **2. The Promoters' Choice programme.**

Where leading new UK groups voted for by promoters are presented to jazz festivals including London's, Manchester's and Scarborough's, was sustained - with further growth envisaged through partnership between Jazz Services and regional organisations for a stable touring network presenting promoters' choices.

### **3. The National Touring Support Scheme.**

Forty bands were toured in 2008/9 reaching audiences of 2, 6047, helping to generate £184k in box office takings and band fees of £226k. Three bands were toured under the Promoters' Choice scheme, including at the London, Manchester and Scarborough jazz festivals. A high level of support in terms of advice to musicians is delivered.

### **4. Jazz Services Recording Support Scheme**

This scheme presented music by Leeds composer Jamil Sheriff's Octet in March 2008, and London pianist Robert Mitchell's Trio in October that year. Both albums were distributed online in collaboration with Leeds distributors Caprimusic. Both albums have been well received by the press and Robert Mitchell's album '3io' secured best jazz album 2009 in the Giles Peterson Worldwide Awards and the album was submitted to the Mercury Awards.

## **5. The Jazz Services/PRS for music Foundations' Jazz Promoters Awards**

The scheme awards promoters a total of £20,000 for programmes of new British Jazz in 2008/2009. The awards generated work for 750 musicians and 235 composers. 14 promoters were made awards to programme new British music.

## **6. New Jazz Services website developers were appointed.**

Though the change was initiated to address existing technical problems, Jazz Services and the developers went on to improve the site's search functions and Google rankings, and began expansion of its news, photo- resource and radio services. The website received 2.5 million page views and 11, 142 emails have been received, dealing with information, touring and advice enquiries.

7. Discussions with the jazz marketing and public relations organisation Air PR were pursued, with the objective of seeking funding for an Online Jazz Music Business Resource.

## **8. Jazz in Education work in 2008/9**

Jazz Services have been taking over the administration of the teaching-materials resource [www.musiced.org.uk](http://www.musiced.org.uk), facilitating the Jazz in Education Day conference at London's Mermaid in October 2008. Jazz Services was invited by the Open University to assist in a funding proposal to the Arts and Humanities Research Council, for research into the social history, aesthetics and economics of Black British jazz. Jazz Services continued to develop jazz in education information on their website.

## **9. Raising the jazz profile in the media**

This has been a long-term Jazz Services priority, though often an uphill one - was pursued through a steady output of information and press material. Work commenced on a report into the amount of jazz on BBC Radio by Professor Stuart Nicholson, Emma Kendon and Chris Hodgkins. A Jazz Services-supported Jazz in the Media Report by Mykaell Riley and Dave Laing was launched at Leeds College of Music International Jazz Conference in March 2009.

In addition, the free bi-monthly new, features and listings magazine JazzUK continued to be published throughout the period, and won the Jazz Publication of the Year award at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards ceremony at the House of Commons in May 2008. Editor John Fordham resigned in 2008 after eight years' service, and Roger Thomas was appointed as replacement. 30,000 copies of the magazine were printed for each issue, distributed in jazz venues and other outlets nationwide. Advertising revenue was some 10% down on the projected figure of £48,000 for the year (reflecting the advertising downtown across the media) but subscription revenue was a little above target at £12,588.

## **10. International developments were progressed**

These developments were progressed with Jazz Services' International Advisory Panel (founded in January 2008), meeting regularly through the Review period.