

# PRESS RELEASE

## JAZZ STILL ROBUST IN A TOUGH CLIMATE SAYS NEW REPORT



**Jazz Services Limited**  
First Floor  
132 Southwark Street  
London SE1 0SW  
tel 020 7928 9089  
fax 020 7401 6870  
admin@jazzservices.org.uk  
www.jazzservices.org.uk

Jazz is worth over £80 million to the British economy according to a new survey, carried out by the University of Westminster for Jazz Services Ltd. There is an encouraging expansion of jazz interest in the 15 - 34 age range and a rise in the number of women active in jazz. Yet most British jazz musicians earn a wage below the national average.

In Jazz Services' second 'Value of Jazz in Britain' report, authors Mykaell Riley and Dave Laing found that jazz contributes to economic, educational and cultural life at all levels from small pubs, clubs and local arts festivals to high profile performances at the nation's most prestigious concert venues.

However, while jazz continues to attract these audiences, 80% of its musicians earn less than £25,000 a year. And things look set to get tougher for them in the current economic climate in which, as Riley puts it, 'there is an increasing public reluctance to pay for music'. Yet falling CD sales in a download culture are having a smaller impact on jazz income than might have been expected. And ticket sales and public and private subsidy all showed modest but significant increases between 2005 and 2008.

'The Value of Jazz in Britain II' also reveals a thriving small scale recording scene among British jazz musicians, with widespread and growing use of the internet to sell recorded music. The report shows how a different kind of jazz venue emerged - located in a church, library, museum or community centre in response to the red tape challenge to pub gigs occasioned by new licensing laws. Jazz festivals also expanded and brought new money with them.

Extensive research into national print and broadcast media shows regrettable media neglect of a thriving art form, with classical music routinely given three times as many column inches as jazz in the mainstream press. Jazz on TV is virtually restricted to BBC4, Sky Arts and occasionally Channel 4. The results of a recent examination of BBC Radio's jazz programming, undertaken for Jazz Services by Professor Stuart Nicholson, Emma Kendon and Chris Hodgkins shows it to be still overwhelmingly biased towards classical and pop music.

Chair of Jazz Services, Bob Blizzard, said, "Jazz continues to thrive even in tough conditions and is a key part of the music economy. It has a larger audience than most media seem to realise and deserves more airtime."

Jazz Services Director, Chris Hodgkins, said, "This country has a really vibrant jazz scene which mixes a high end professional element alongside what's been called the 'discretionary energy of a crucial voluntary sector'. That core dynamic means that in jazz you can put a pound in and get five times that sum out. I want to remind people of what fantastic value for arts money jazz is and why it's crucial to protect the revenue it receives."

'The Value of Jazz in Britain II' is available at [www.jazzservices.org.uk](http://www.jazzservices.org.uk)

For further details on Jazz Services, please contact Chris Hodgkins on [education@jazzservices.org.uk](mailto:education@jazzservices.org.uk)

### **Notes to editors:**

Jazz Services provides a voice and support for UK Jazz; promoting its growth, accessibility and development in the UK and abroad. Services include advice, advocacy, communications, education, information, marketing, publishing, research and touring. Jazz Services is recognised as a committed campaigner providing a valued voice for jazz in the UK. Jazz Services publishes Jazz UK, a listings magazine with a print run of 30,000 that is distributed by subscription and free through venues, colleges, libraries and shops.

Jazz Services works closely with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO), which is an autonomous body, that receives its Arts Council England funding through Jazz Services. NYJO also receives funds from private donors, Youth Music and the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Every year NYJO organizes over 100 open workshops for jazz musicians up to the age of 25 and more than 40 concerts.

Jazz Services gratefully acknowledges the support of Arts Council England and also the Performing Right Society for Music Foundation for their support on the Jazz Promoters Award Scheme.