

PRESS RELEASE:

Music Venue Trust Publishes Interim Research Report: "Understanding Small Music Venues"



In December 2014 music charity **Music Venue Trust** organised the first national gathering of small and medium scale music venues from across the UK, **Venues Day 2014**. This week sees the first publication of the research conducted by the **Institute of Contemporary Music Performance** in the lead up to and during Venues Day. **Understanding Small Music Venues: An Interim Findings Report** is intended to be a discussion document about how these venues operate, the challenges they face and the role they play.

Over **120 venues** were represented at Venues Day and 107 participated in the research project which is still ongoing. Music Venue Trust CEO **Mark Davyd** explained the need for action:

"There is a national challenge to our live music venue circuit brought about by a sequence of events and developments which have left that network in a perilous and precarious state. Music Venue Trust feels that we need to take an overall view of the challenges out there. We need to be openly discussing and airing those challenges with our live music industry colleagues, and working together to tackle that range of issues so we not only maintain and preserve this circuit but actively start to improve it. We feel that past failures to talk about the ecosystem of UK music have meant that people who don't actively work in it perhaps don't understand the structure of the industry, or the vital role that this network of venues plays in maintaining it."



The UK is, quite literally, a music world leader, punching vastly above its weight in terms of the impact our artists and musicians make across the globe. A huge proportion of the music we export, which generates thousands of jobs, develops the artistic careers of our best writers and musicians, and is such an important part of the UK's standing on the international cultural stage, starts in a small venue. This is the grassroots of our industry, the research and development department of our major international music industry partners. It is impossible to overstate this enough; no Troubadour or 12 Bar Club, no Adele.

Our UK music scene, arguably the best in the world, is built on a robust ecosystem that starts with a first live concert in front of as few as ten people on a Tuesday night in Guildford and climaxes with 3 nights at Wembley Stadium. And it's not just the musicians - our industry and other parts of the creative sector are filled with people who cut their teeth promoting, booking or simply working the door at a small venue. This small venue circuit is the training ground and the entry level experience for our lighting engineers, sound technicians, and cultural organisers at all levels; we need to ensure we do all we can to protect it."



The interim report is available to read online or download from this link:

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/253772403/Understanding-Small-Music-Venues>

A full report will be released on Monday 9 March 2015, when Music Venue Trust will be announcing its response to what has been learned.

**About Music Venue Trust:**

Music Venue Trust, founded in 2014, is a registered charity that seeks to preserve, secure and improve the UK's network of small to medium scale, mostly independently run, music venues. We have a long term plan to protect that live music network which includes, where necessary, taking into charitable ownership freehold properties so they can be removed from commercial pressures and leased back to passionate music professionals to continue their operation.

Resources:***Report:***

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The report is in the public domain, please credit Music Venue Trust/Institute of Contemporary Music Performance

Photos:

Photos from Venues Days 2014 to accompany this press release are available to download from:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130561051@N04/sets/>

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