

PRESS RELEASE:

MUSIC VENUE TRUST ADDS TWO NEW PATRONS OVER 14,000 PEOPLE NOW CALLING FOR AN URGENT REVIEW ON NOISE LEGISLATION



Legendary music industry figure **Barry Dickins** of **International Talent Booking** and **Angus Baskerville**, director at **13 artists**, join team of Patrons and supporters from across industry, politics and music coming out in favour of the national campaign to save live music venues in the UK, including **Enter Shikari**, **Frank Turner**, **The Wedding Present**, **Travis**, **Idlewild**, **Everything Everything**, **Kerry McCarthy** MP, journalist **John Robb** and many others.

Barry Dickins is co-managing director of **International Talent Booking Agency** and started his career more than 40 years ago arranging gigs for the likes of **The Who**, **Jimi Hendrix Experience** and **Otis Redding**. Today ITB's roster of more than 200 acts includes **Adele**, **Mumford & Sons**, **Aerosmith**, **Kasabian** and **Biffy Clyro** while Barry himself represents such artists as **Bob Dylan**, **Paul Simon**, **Neil Young**, and **ZZ Top**.

Barry said: "New bands get me excited. I still love the Clash, one of my favorite bands of all time. There are still going to be other bands that come along, like when I saw Mumford & Sons in a little club in London with 150 people. Artists have to learn their trade and touring is how you learn it. The small venue circuit we have here in the UK is one of the best in the world. It's vital we do all we can to protect these venues."

Angus Baskerville is a director at **13 artists** an independent booking agency who represent artists such as **Radiohead**, **Duffy**, **The Arctic Monkeys**, **Paolo Nutini**, **The Stone Roses** and **The Alabama Shakes**. Prior to the last 10 years working as an agent, Angus worked as an artist manager and in A+R for London Records.

Angus said: "As an agency that has over the years helped with developing artists from the embryonic stages of their careers thru to stadium show level we can't stress strongly enough the critical importance of the independent venue network that we are lucky to have in the UK. This network of venues needs to be maintained, nurtured and supported. In particular the current situation with regards to the recent noise abatement legislation needs urgent attention from the government, as we can't afford to have these small venues shutting down at the rate that is currently happening. The life blood of many cities in the UK is in the cultural scene that revolves around music venues, and a crucial part of the process of developing artists is being able to play in these venues. We need to make sure that the support is there for small venues to operate in what is a very challenging business environment – the current situation where every day new stories of venues shutting because of unsympathetic neighbours just isn't sustainable. For these reasons 13 artists fully support the MVT and the work that they are doing."

The Music Venue Trust believes that venues should be good neighbours, engaging with their local communities and addressing concerns around noise and anti-social behaviour. But we believe that being a good neighbour is a reciprocal process, and that people who choose to live near to community spaces are accepting the responsibility to behave as a good neighbour to their adjoining music venue, church or community space; anywhere it is inevitable and should be acceptable that noise will exist. **We believe this is a common sense approach - if you hate sport, why move next to a football pitch? If you hate music, why move next to a live music venue?**

The **Department of the Environment** has made a formal response to the petition stating that they believe that the current legislation is working in the best interest of all parties. The Music Venue

Trust will shortly be replying to this response. The fight continues to raise **100,000 signatures** and force a debate in the House of Commons. Chris Prosser of the Music Venue Trust said:



"This is the moment where we need the audiences and the musicians who love these venues to step forward and be counted. Don't sit around hoping that your local venue won't be affected, because this is happening nationwide. These venues have developed and grown some of our most important and biggest acts, from Adele to Coldplay, the Arctic Monkeys to Blur. If we want to keep these vital spaces, we need to act together and demand that the rights of local communities to enjoy well-run, well-managed live music venues is properly balanced against the need for town centre development."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

SIGN the petition at this link: <http://qr.net/sign>

TWEET, POST, PLUS and PIN the petition across your social media using **#SaveLiveVenuesUK** and the link <http://qr.net/sign>

The Music Venue Trust is also running a campaign to find and work with Venue Champions to protect the future of music venues across the country by changing government and local authority perceptions around music venues.

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ABOUT THE MUSIC VENUE TRUST

The Music Venue Trust was created in January 2014 to protect the UK live music network. Its immediate focus is on securing the long term future of the iconic venues which make up the "toilet circuit", venues which have played a crucial role in the development of British music over the last 40 years, nurturing local talent, providing a platform for artists to build their careers and develop their music and their performance skills. Patrons of the Trust include musicians from all sectors of the live music scene, including established stalwarts such as David Gedge of the Wedding Present, Jeremy Pritchard of Everything Everything (The Times Breakthrough Artist winners) and rising stars such as Moya. Musicians are joined by cross party parliamentary political support, MPs Mike Weatherley (Conservative, Hove) Kerry McCarthy (Labour, Bristol) and Lord Tim Clement Jones (Lib Dem). The Trustees and Patrons have created a national campaign that will work together with audiences to protect and preserve small venues.

ABOUT ITB:

ITB is a major international live music-booking agency representing legendary artists, contemporary global superstars and upcoming talents, booking their live performances throughout the world excluding the US and Canada.

www.itb.co.uk



Music Venue Trust CEO Mark Davyd is available for interview to discuss this petition. Please call 07778 668 225 or 0703 174 5994 to arrange.

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