

PRESS RELEASE:

Senior figures in live music have united around a plan to save the UK small venue circuit by creating a new charitable organisation, the **MUSIC VENUE TRUST**, which launches a public campaign on **Saturday 8 March**.

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) and **Kerry McCarthy** (Labour, Bristol) and **Lord Tim Clement Jones** (Lib Dem), and by senior music industry figures such as agents **Geoff Meale** (The Agency), **Paul Buck** (Coda) and **Scott Thomas** (XRay) who between them represent some of the biggest live music names in the world. The Trustees and Patrons have created a national campaign that will work together with audiences to protect and preserve small venues.

Small venues 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. In recent years however such venues have come under increasing economic pressures, with many iconic names already lost from the touring circuit: Leicester Princess Charlotte, Leeds Duchess of York, Sheffield Boardwalk, Dudley JBs, buildings sold for redevelopment as flats, offices, restaurants and nightclubs. The Music Venue Trust has a clear 3 year plan to ensure those venues continue to play their vital role in supporting the British music success story.

Trustee and CEO **Mark Davyd** said, "We have to act together to ensure UK musicians and music fans continue to have access to this essential part of UK music heritage. The Music Venue Trust has an achievable plan which we hope everybody; audiences, musicians and industry, will get behind and support." The Music Venue Trust is now seeking **VENUE CHAMPIONS** in every town and city across the UK, local people who want to join with the trust to act to secure the future of their beloved local venue.

Trustee **Jason Dormon** said, " For many years this small circuit has been powered on passion, love and a quest for artistic excellence by the performers that play ,the audiences that listen and volunteers that want to make things happen. Unfortunately, in the modern climate, this alone is not enough, these important venues are being sold and redeveloped for short term financial gain."

Fellow trustee **Sybil Bell** (Independent Venue Week) added, "We need these venues to give opportunities not just to the bands and the teams that support them but also to people who want to learn to work in the live industry and be the next generation of stage managers, sound people, lighting engineers, bookers and promoters. Without these small, independent venues, more and more of our towns and cities risk becoming homogenised into branded shop fronts and cultural outlets."

If you feel passionate about your local venue, the Music Venue Trust wants to hear from you. Take the first step towards becoming an **MVT Venue Champion** by emailing musicvenuetrust@gmail.com

