

Incorporated Society of Musicians: Manifesto for Musicians – 2019

The Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) is the UK's oldest professional representative body for musicians, set up in 1882 to promote the art of music and to protect the interests of all those working in the music sector.

The ISM has approximately 10,000 members working in the music sector, including performers, composers, music teachers, music advisers and lecturers, sound technicians and music therapists. We support our members with legal services and advice, insurances, professional development and guidance.

What do musicians need from the new Government?

Leaving the EU

The music industry is vital to supporting the UK both in terms of GVA and 'soft power'. The music industry is worth around £5.2 billion to the UK's economy and it continues to grow.

Brexit will damage the music sector. Many musicians rely on work within the EU for a sizable portion of their income and are very concerned about the effects that Brexit will have on their livelihoods. Above all else a no deal Brexit must be avoided to protect the music industry and those who work in it.

Musicians rely heavily on the ability to travel to the EU - 85% of respondents to ISM research visit the EU27/EEA for work at least once a year, 22% visit the EU27/EEA more than 11 times per year, 35% spend at least a month per year working in EU27/EEA countries, and one in seven musicians have less than a week's notice between being offered work and having to take it. So, a **two-year, multi-entry, cheap and admin-light, touring visa is essential.**

Any deal with the EU will also need to cover the **movement of goods** (musical instruments and sound equipment), **health insurance or an alternative to the EHIC scheme**, and the proposed cost of **Musical Instrument Certificates**, which are only required for instruments containing endangered species according to CITES (including ivory, rosewood, tortoiseshell), **International Driving Permits**, and **tax arrangements** so that musicians do not become liable for double deductions of social security payments in other EU countries.

It is essential that a deal is agreed with the EU in which the following is covered:

- 1. The introduction of a two-year, multi-entry touring visa, that is cheap and admin-light.**
- 2. The continuation of the A1 certificate system, or an equivalent established, to ensure that musicians are not liable for additional social security payments in EU27 countries.**
- 3. The introduction of a simple, cheap and fit-for-purpose customs mechanism that will ensure musicians can temporarily transport instruments and sound equipment when touring.**

4. An expansion of the current list of CITES-designated ports to include further ports serving Scotland, at least one serving the north of England and Eurostar. This will ensure that musicians are able to easily transport their instruments to the EU27.

We also call on the Government to:

5. Engage with the music sector in all withdrawal scenarios, with regards to the effect of Brexit on music-based businesses, individual musicians and those who work in supporting roles.

6. Commit to matching funds for the UK's creative and cultural sectors including Creative Europe, should funds which support Europe's creative and cultural sectors cease.

Music education

The disappearance of music from primary and secondary schools needs to be reversed.

The APPG for Music Education's State of the Nation report shows the marginalisation of music from our schools even though music is part of the national curriculum. **Music is no longer taught at Key Stage 3 in more than 50% of state-funded secondary schools.** Other schools are moving towards music only being offered on a 'carousel' basis (offered for part of the year on rotation with other subjects) or taught on one day per year. In other schools it has disappeared altogether. Therefore, we ask that:

1. The EBacc is abolished or a sixth pillar for creative subjects is added. We also call for a review of other accountability measures including Progress 8.

In addition, we call for:

2. A long-term commitment to music education hub funding of at least £100m per annum for the 121 music education hubs for the next five years to support music education in England.

3. A refreshed National Plan for Music Education which ensures access for all.

4. The continuation of the Music and Dance Scheme.

Workers' rights

Most musicians are employed on a **freelance basis** and have little protection from exploitation. The new Government must ensure that:

1. The equalities legislation effectively covers all freelancers.

2. Third party harassment rights are reintroduced.

3. The use of discrimination questionnaires is reintroduced.

4. Shared parental leave rights are extended to self-employed people, or that a new, bespoke scheme that is especially tailored for self-employed people is introduced.

Copyright

Copyright is central to the work of creatives and they need protection from illegal usage.

The new Government should:

- 1. Enshrine and implement the EU's Copyright Directive or introduce comparable legislation.**
- 2. Ensure that UK copyright laws are not undermined by any post-Brexit future trade deals with the United States or any other nations.**
- 3. Introduce a robust, concise advisory framework around copyright that will encourage musicians, record labels and music industry professionals to engage with and develop an understanding of copyright law.**

Live Music

The ISM asks that the **Live Music Act** is strengthened. Live music contributes £1.1 billion a year to the UK economy. It is estimated that over the past ten years, 40 per cent of London's music venues have closed, reflecting similar patterns around the UK. In particular, we are asking that the Government:

- 1. Extends the cut-off threshold to 12:00am (currently it is 11:00pm) – this will lead to more music being performed which will boost revenues for venues (many of whom are struggling because of business rates).**

Incorporated Society of Musicians, November 2019