

Incorporated Society of Musicians: A manifesto for musicians – 2017

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

What do musicians want from the new Parliament?

Leaving the EU

The music industry is hugely important to the UK. We need to:

- **Ensure freedom of movement** for musicians and creative professionals across all 27 states with **a cultural exemption** from visa and tax rules for artists, directors, performers, composers and authors to continue to travel within the EU.

Skills and education

Brexit means we need to invest in skills and education. Our world class music education and pipeline of talent that underpins the success of our creative industries and its £87.4 billion contribution to the UK economy needs protecting with:

- A pledge to **scrap or reform the English Baccalaureate** (EBacc) which excludes music from key school league tables.
- Support for higher education institutions to **promote the creative, cultural and economic benefits** of studying for a music degree.
- A commitment to ongoing **£75 million ring-fenced** support for music education hubs to ensure access for all.

Health and wellbeing

[More than 60% of musicians suffer from mental health issues at some point, and three in four experience performance anxiety](#), but do not talk about it. The Government can help tackle this by:

- Supporting institutions working **to tackle the stigma around discussing mental health**

Industrial strategy and micro-businesses

90% of the music profession are self-employed and need a tax regime that supports their wealth creating microbusinesses:

- **Supporting small businesses** and professional musicians by raising the quarterly reporting threshold for tax (under *Make Tax Digital*) to £83,000 in line with the VAT threshold and work with us to help musicians understand the implications.
- Defend the intellectual property rights of our creatives which underpin so much of our economy.

Live Music protection

[Live music contributes £662 million 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. The Government must:

- Support and strengthen the Live Music Act.