



The Magazine for the Brass Musician

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Young Ambassadors for Music

Young people have been given a unique chance to influence regional and national policy. Youth Music held an initial induction event for its very first Young Ambassadors for Music in December.

The Young Ambassadors were gathered together from a range of Youth Music Action Zones, National Youth Music Organisations, schools and Music Services. They range from 15-19 years and act as the voice of young people in their areas. They are also responsible for feeding back young people's opinions to national bodies and local providers.

Their first challenge was to take part in a debate at the Music Manifesto's State of Play conference, which took place in January at the Roundhouse in London. Their participation at this event generated a hugely positive response from those attending.

Throughout State of Play the Young Ambassadors for Music were invited to give their opinions and impressions of events. They were asked about their feelings on topics under discussion and whether they thought young people's needs were being met. Perhaps more importantly they were questioned on whether they were convinced that anything would change. Thoughts that emerged from a number of the young people were that music should be taught "more flexibly", embrace more genres and allow students to follow their own interests.

by Paul MacMahon, Youth Music

In addition to this, the Young Ambassadors had the opportunity to interview David Lammy MP, (Culture Minister in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) as well as other high profile delegates. On both days of the conference, one of the Ambassadors summed up their experiences on the main stage along with the day's keynote speakers. Two of the Ambassadors also took part in a spectacular musical performance which received widespread praise.

The Ambassadors will be continuing to act as advocates for music throughout the coming year and will be encouraging participation in all forms of music-making. In order to ensure cohesion between sectors, they will be working with other Young Ambassadors from different

settings. They will additionally organise events representing gaps in the current provision for other young people.

A number of challenges will be set up for the Young Ambassadors to complete over the next 12 months and there will also be opportunities to help recruit and train a new set of Young Ambassadors when they decide to relinquish their roles.

This exciting project is a unique chance for young people to form a variety of settings to work together to influence regional and national policy. It also helps the Young Ambassadors develop new skills and Youth Music is currently investigating accreditation for the scheme.

