

# **Press Release – 17.01.11**

**(for immediate release)**

## **Jazz Artist of the Year 2011** **A brand new talent project for the Jazz world**

'Jazz Artist of the Year' 2011 sees the start of what is hoped will become an annual institution in the Jazz world. It was created and developed by producer and director, Russell Scott, with a view to finding and showcasing new musical talent in a genre currently un-catered for in this way.

In 2009, he began producing a number of sophisticated cabaret shows for PizzaExpress Music, showcasing emerging talent from the world of Cabaret, Jazz and Musical theatre. Since then, he has become known for finding great talent and producing top notch, sophisticated productions, receiving overwhelming support, standing ovations and public acclaim.

The Jazz world is vast and encompasses a great range of music and styles. We identify with the thousands of talented musicians and performers out there, often lacking in opportunity to launch or develop their careers in what is a very competitive industry.

With so many competitions around, there is still little that aims at the Jazz or Jazz *influenced* performer. The competition was created for three prime reasons: To find and develop new talent; To celebrate the enormous success and history of Jazz and bring the community together; To give opportunity for emerging performers.

We are looking for an emerging new solo artist, someone hugely talented, with great natural musicianship, charisma and artistic quality. We are looking for someone within the Jazz genre or *influenced by Jazz*, so this could encompass Blues, Cabaret, Big Band, Swing or 'Sophisticated' Musical Theatre genre. We are NOT looking for pop artists. We are looking for singers and musicians, including songwriters.

Following a series of nationwide heats, starting in March 2011, the winner will be decided at the live final in London on Saturday 30th April 2011. The Winner will receive the title of 'Jazz Artist of the Year 2011', a management offer, recording opportunity, £1000 cash and exclusive gig and concert opportunities.

We aim to give the best platform available to us to those performing; to give them exposure, and most importantly, opportunity to be seen. To this we aim to invite industry professionals and experts, TV and radio execs, record companies and a&r execs, critics and journalists, producers, programmers, managers and agents, song-writers and performers on to our judging panel.\* (\*subject to availability)

We are delighted to be collaborating with leading venues and Jazz organisations across the country.

We are enormously grateful to be receiving such great support from the Jazz community and our mission to showcase new talent.

### **Technical Information**

The project is launched on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Auditions start in February 2011 in London, Birmingham, Southampton and Manchester

Live Heats start in March 2011.

The Grand Final is on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in London.

### **ENDS**

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