

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Publication

Covid Threatens UK Music Profession

**40% of professional musicians and music creators considering
quitting the industry**

92% have no work lined up for 2021

A [survey](#) undertaken by leading music networking body, [ConnectsMusic](#) has revealed the shocking impact of Covid-19 on the livelihood of the UK's musicians and music creators. The report calls for a Government review into the employment status of self-employed/freelance musicians and music creators and the support available to them.

The [ConnectsMusic report](#) reveals that:

- Since the March 2020 lockdown musicians' earnings from live performance have slumped by over 90%
- 92% of those surveyed have few or no live performances lined up in 2021
- 83% of the musicians and music creators surveyed reported a significant reduction in earnings from recording
- 84% of musicians and music creators surveyed have lost teaching work
- 40% of the musicians and music creators surveyed are considering quitting the music industry.

The musicians and music creators surveyed reported loss of income from all aspects of their work including live performance, composing, recording, teaching and royalties from streaming.

While over half of those surveyed had undertaken online live-streamed performances in place of live work only 30% of them had received any income from this work.

Despite the overall increase in consumer music streaming, the survey reports there has not been a corresponding increase in royalty earnings to musicians and music creators, with 88% of those surveyed reporting no increase in income from streaming.

One third of those surveyed had been unable to secure any form of Government support. 88% of musicians and music creators surveyed said that the last year has been an emotionally difficult time for them.



Emily Saunders, Director of [ConnectsMusic](#) and herself a musician and composer said, “The UK’s musicians and music creators are at the heart of a £5.8 billion UK music industry. Our survey shows just how hard Covid-19 has hit them. Many of them are self-employed/freelancers and before Covid, they had successful careers in this country and abroad composing and performing. But because of the nature of their work many have not been eligible for Government support. As well as hard data our survey received heartbreaking stories of skilled and talented musicians and music creators facing penury. Whilst we welcome the 2021 Budget announcement of an extension to the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), nearly one third of those we surveyed experienced difficulties in getting support from SEISS. In addition highlighted was the impact of inconsistent timelines in SEISS delivery. This needs urgent investigation and the rules need changing in order to help the nation’s music workforce.

“Music threads its way through our lives in so many different ways giving us personal landmarks and providing the backdrop to big occasions. UK music is a national success story contributing £5.8 billion to the UK economy and with an export value of £2.9 billion.

“We fully understand that to combat the Coronavirus pandemic, venues where live music is performed had to close for a lengthy time. However it is alarming to find that one third of those highly skilled professional musicians and music creators who completed our survey were unable to secure any Government support to offset loss of earnings. It is equally shocking that 40% of the musicians and music creators who create so much joy for so many, are thinking of leaving the industry altogether. 92% of those surveyed have few or no live performances lined up in 2021 and professional musicians who tour regularly have told us they do not expect touring work to pick up until 2022.

“We are today calling for a Government review into the employment status of all self-employed/freelance musicians and music creators to ensure that in circumstances caused by national emergencies in which they are unable to work, including a future pandemic, there are adequate Government support measures to help them through difficult times.”

ENDS

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A copy of the full ConnectsMusic Survey Report is downloadable here
<https://connectsmusic.com/covid-impact-survey-results/>

Note for Editors

1. **Music Creators and Musicians**

The lead industry body UK Music defines music creators as musicians, composers, songwriters, lyricists, singers, producers and engineers. Musicians are the people who specialise in music performance live and in the music studio.

2. **About ConnectsMusic**

[ConnectsMusic](#) is an online community of over 5,000 members where artists share work and ideas. It's a free, digital-focussed platform and directory for connection and collaboration in the world of music. Made up of artists, venues, organisations, we're incredibly proud to be joined by a multitude of like-minded people. We support, show and share the talent that is out there, especially in this current time when our music world is being so greatly affected – community has never been more important to us all.