

# AIM Hosts Music Business Funding Summit: *Investing In Music*

Thursday 10th January 2008, Monument

- **Industry, Government, Investors Explore Funding Options**
- **Speakers Inc. Robin Millar, Steve Levine, Margaret Hodge**

The Association of Independent Music will on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January host ***Investing In Music*** - a one-off discussion exploring the tricky issue of attracting finance for up-and-coming music businesses.

The invite-only event, supported by Creative & Cultural Skills, will see music industry and government top brass examine funding challenges and opportunities in front of a select audience of financiers and music executives.

Creative Industries Minister Margaret Hodge will join Steve Levine, Robin Millar, Martin Mills (MBE), Stephen Navin, Stephan Bourdoiseau, Cliff Dane, Ian (Wez) Westley, Stephen Bass, Paulette Long and Geraint Howells for a roundtable discussion of funding options (titles below).

Audience members include representatives from leading media finance houses and executives from the fields of recording, production and publishing.

Said **Margaret Hodge** "*It's no secret that it can be tricky for small and medium sized music businesses to access finance. This type of event is crucially important in helping everyone understand the reasons why problems arise and how we can work together to address them. I look forward to attending AIM's Finance Day.*"

Commented AIM Chairman & Chief Executive **Alison Wenham** "*AIM has organised this one-off event to bring together young entrepreneurs and experienced industry practitioners with representatives from government, public and private funding bodies, to discuss the investment opportunities in the vibrant independent sector. We welcome the Minister's attendance, and look forward to sharing some of our ideas and issues with her and the audience*".

**Tom Bewick**, Chief Executive of Creative & Cultural Skills, added "*It is estimated that the UK accounts for almost 15% of the global music market though employment levels remain comparatively low: around 130,000 recorded jobs. Our research shows that the music industry is disparate and diverse. There are hundreds of small businesses concerned with simply staying afloat, let alone focusing on the career training and development that will enable them to continue competing on a global level. With the advent of digitisation and global*

*convergence the industry is changing rapidly and access to finance is of key importance. I look forward to the dialogue this event will facilitate”*

## **Event Details:**

9.15 am – 12.30 pm, Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
The Churchill and Attlee Room, Providian House, 16-18 Monument Street, London,  
EC3R 8AJ

## **Panelist’s Titles**

**Steve Levine** - Producer Beach Boys, Culture Club, Ziggy Marley  
**Robin Millar** - Producer and Patron of the Music Producer’s Guild  
**Martin Mills (MBE)** - Chairman Beggars Group  
**Stephen Navin** - Music Publisher’s Association CEO  
**Stephan Bourdoiseau** - CEO of French independent Wagram  
**Cliff Dane** – Financial Director Snapper Music PLC, author of the annual UK Record Industry survey of Economic performance  
**Geraint Howells** – Partner, Willott Kingston Smith  
**Ian (Wez) Westley** - Founder, Full Time Hobby  
**Stephen Bass** – Founder, Moshi Moshi  
**Paulette Long** – Trustee, PRS Foundation

## **About AIM**

AIM is the non-profit trade body established in 1998 by UK independent record labels to represent the independent record sector, over 1/5 of the UK market with 2005 sales worth nearly £1/2 billion from mainstream UK retail alone.

AIM is recognised as the legitimate voice of the British independent music industry, with 800 members, from the smallest start-ups to the largest and most respected independents in the world. AIM promotes this exciting and diverse sector globally, leveraging the sector’s power as a fifth major to enable its members to grow, grasp new opportunities and break into new markets.

AIM oversees an independent sector whose artists have claimed four Mercury Music Prizes in a row and earned two thirds of nominations in both 2005 and 2006. This cutting edge sector also scooped more 2007 Brit awards than EMI, Sony BMG or Warners, an indie signed act claiming “Best British Group” for the third year running.

In commercial terms the independent sector accounted for 30% of all award worthy UK artist albums (silver, gold, platinum or multi-platinum) in 2006 including two thirds of artists claiming silver awards and roughly half of those with gold or silver. In 2006, independent albums made up approximately half of fifty “best albums of the year” according to the UK music press, an independent release also claiming top spot for the second year running. Independents are universally acknowledged as the A&R powerhouses for the industry.

Artists signed to AIM member labels include Arctic Monkeys, Bjork, Bloc Party, Thom Yorke, Franz Ferdinand, Editors, M.I.A., Hold Steady, Jose Gonzalez, The White Stripes, The Strokes,

Basement Jaxx, The Raconteurs, Super Furry Animals, The Prodigy, Pixies, Sufjan Stevens, Antony & The Johnsons, Jarvis Cocker, Nitin Sawhney, Enter Shikari, Pigeon Detectives, The Go! Team, RoxySopp, The Decemberists, Roots Manuva, Coldcut and thousands of others.

[www.musicindie.com](http://www.musicindie.com)

## About Creative & Cultural Skills

**Creative & Cultural Skills** is the Sector Skills Council for Advertising, Crafts, Cultural Heritage, Design, Music, the Performing, Literary and Visual Arts. We work with employers to deliver realistic solutions to the skills needs of these industries. One of our flagship projects is **Creative Choices**: the first user-led online service to provide the tools, knowledge and networks to support every artist, sole trader and creative business across the cultural industries.

Central to **Creative Choices** are three key services.

- A **career planning kit** that empowers individuals to connect with others to explore their skills and discover the range of opportunities, jobs, career routes and qualifications available
- The ability to **find and compare** all the courses available and relevant to creative and cultural professionals, or those entering the sector; this consumer-led resource will include student views and ratings, an industry benchmark for courses and essential course info
- **In-depth intelligence** that is direct and focused on industry news, events, labour market analysis, leadership best practice and just-in-time guides for creative business

**Creative Choices** is for everyone who wants to work in our sectors; or those wanting to move up. We offer the **tools** to help individuals get on with their development; **networks** to help them get on with one another; and the **knowledge** to develop their skills and fuel their desire to succeed. For more information please contact [Phillipa.abbott@ccskills.org.uk](mailto:Phillipa.abbott@ccskills.org.uk), 0207 015 1800