

Submissions for Manchester Jazz Festival 2012

You are invited to let us know of any projects you'd like to put forward for consideration as part of the 2012 core festival programme. The festival will take place in **July** (specific dates are yet to be confirmed).

Please read all of the notes before you fill in the form. They change every year, are there to help both you and us, and they contain some useful general tips on promoting yourself.

Where and how to submit

Please **email** a word document (not pdf) of the completed form (without these notes please) to submissions@manchesterjazz.com along with mp3s or a web-link to a site where your music can be heard.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet or a computer, please post the form together with any recorded material to: *mjf submissions 223 Ducie House, Ducie Street, Manchester M1 2JW*

When to submit

The deadline is **Monday 9th January 2012 at 5.00pm**

*Please note! If you want to submit a proposal for the **mjf originals** commissioning scheme, please download and submit the mjf originals form instead. The deadline for mjf originals is earlier: 26th October 2011.*

General priorities:

- The main body of the mjf programme features musicians living and working in the North West. Our primary aim is to provide a focus for **contemporary jazz** practice in the area, which other venues, promoters and organisations can't or won't, and to encourage musicians to remain in Manchester to develop their careers and work opportunities. Although 15 – 20% of the programme features national and international artists, please bear in mind that **priority will be given to North West-based artists**.
- As the programme features primarily regional performers, duplication of particular personnel is often a problem. Whilst we do not want to force particular players onto your project, **we have to limit the number of appearances by popular musicians**. This establishes fairness across the musical community and interest within the programme for our audiences. It therefore could be that **your band/project may not get selected because one of your musicians also features indispensably in several other projects**.
- mjf encourages the creation and presentation of **new, original contemporary work**, and this will be prioritised over other styles/repertoires. mjf gives musicians the opportunity to explore a project that would not otherwise be possible, and one which other promoters/venues would be reluctant to present – thus enabling mjf to stand apart from other festivals in the region, and in the UK.
- **Bands that performed at mjf 2011** - or subtle variants of them - **will not be considered for 2012**. Musicians are, however, welcome to submit other projects for consideration.
- mjf normally pays a fixed rate (£90 for 2012) for each individual musician, for a 60-minute performance. If the band consists of 10 or more members, the individual rate is slightly lower. Travel and accommodation expenses will be considered for musicians outside of the North West if necessary.
- The deadline is 6 months ahead of the festival, for us to review all the submissions, formulate the programme and promote the festival in good time.

Notes about the questions on the form:

Band name:

If this is only a working title/name, remember to let us know what you decide before we go to print (end of March).

E-mail address:

Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address – we're moving away from postal communications. Please also make sure that our domain name manchesterjazz.com isn't being blocked by your spam filter. Your contact details will be added to mjf's musician database, if you are not already listed.

Band personnel:

We appreciate that this may change, but please give us your best indication.

Let us know whether any **line-up changes/additions** are likely between now and the festival – we will try to accommodate any reasonable requests; this information is helpful to us in trying to avoid putting unexpected additional pressure on our budget.

Is an acoustic piano required?

This helps identify a suitable venue for your music. We will try and accommodate any requests, but there is, unfortunately, limited availability of venues with a real piano.

Is anyone irreplaceable?

It's fine to say 'yes'. As explained previously, we aim to limit the number of appearances by any one artist to 3.

Please write a few sentences about your music.

Please give your personal description of the music you play – a summary. Tell us about what has motivated you to produce your music, and how you'd like your listeners to feel when they hear it. Please don't say "see attached sheet"; don't mention the line-up again or people with whom you have previously performed – that doesn't tell us anything about the music itself. Avoid describing your band as "a unique blend" of this or that, or "original, eclectic and accessible" – we've heard these terms dozens of times. We use your description to guide us when writing the content of the festival brochure and website, so it's really helpful – vital if it's a new band with no current recording. If you are selected, we can provide more space on the mjf web-site for you to elaborate on the ideas and history behind the band.

Availability:

If you already know you can't make a gig at certain times or on particular days, it saves us (and you) time.

Other gigs in Manchester:

Let us know if you have any gigs that we can attend to hear you play. Hearing a band live gives us a more accurate impression than a recording, but our time is limited and we won't be able to get to everything. Similarly, we do stay in touch with promoters, and if you are planning any other gigs around the time of the festival, we will need to be mindful of the impact a (free) mjf gig might have on their audiences.

When submitting recordings:

- Mp3s can be emailed to us or a link to a site where we can access tracks (please tell us which tracks (up to 3) to consider. If you don't, we may well make judgements on the wrong band/material). Don't send us to a site where we have to pay or sign up in order to access your music. Alternatively you can post a CD.
- 20 minutes of music is sufficient, with three or four pieces showing the variety of your work.
- Don't fade tracks in and out as samples of particular pieces. We want to hear what the music and the band sound like in their entirety, not just the bit with the dazzling sax solo.
- Make sure CDs are labelled with your band name, track listings and composer's credits.
- If you are proposing a project that isn't yet recorded, please forward either a recent recording of your work or as much written information as you can describing the music and players. It is up to you to make the best possible case for your music, especially if we only have a description to go on.

Other promotional material:

- Please do not send us any images at this stage. We'll be in touch with you for these if the band is confirmed.
- If you have any press quotes or reviews, please enclose them on a separate sheet.
- Please don't staple anything to the form, and please don't put everything in fancy plastic wallets or folders – it's not necessary for us.

FINALLY, AND IMPORTANTLY:

We endeavour to let people know programming decisions by the end of February. If you haven't heard from us by mid-April please assume that we haven't been able to fit you in this year – we're sorry but we simply don't have the time or resources to communicate with every applicant or give one-to-one feedback: we get hundreds of submissions and it would take weeks just to respond to all applicants in this way. If you haven't been successful, please bear in mind that there is only enough time, space and money for us to programme about 10% of the submissions we receive. If we can't programme you this year, it doesn't necessarily mean that your music isn't good enough, inappropriate or that we don't like it!

Finally, thanks for taking the time to send us your information and ideas – it's the invaluable contribution of the region's talented, varied and evolving jazz community that makes the mjf programme so special.

Please try to keep the completed form itself down to one A4 page, deleting any blank spaces, and keep a copy for your records.