



PRESS RELEASE
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SOUND AND MUSIC APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Sound and Music, the organisation that exists to nurture and promote new music and sound, has appointed **Susanna Eastburn** to be its new Chief Executive.

Susanna is currently Director, Music, Arts Council England, and brings a wealth of experience to the role at a crucial moment in Sound and Music's development. At the age of 32 she was appointed Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival which she ran for five years before becoming a Fellow of the Clore Leadership Programme in its inaugural year, followed by Executive Producer of LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre). She started her career in music publishing and worked as International Promotions Manager at Chester Music Ltd. Earlier Governance roles include Chair of the Society for the Promotion of New Music and a Governor of Leeds College of Music.

Susanna will be taking up the position at Sound and Music from September 2012.

Susanna Eastburn said, 'I am delighted to be taking up this important role and am looking forward to shaping Sound and Music's future. This is an exceptional time for British new music. Around the country there are talented composers and artists creating extraordinary and highly distinctive music, as well as a generation of artists and promoters who are ferociously committed to communicating and presenting this work to audiences. There is still more to be done to support emerging talent, particularly given the astounding developments in digital technology which are transforming the way that musicians create and the public access new work. There is also more potential to encourage the growing public interest in new work. All of this is tremendously exciting for me, and I am looking forward to working with the Sound and Music team in making it happen.'

Michelle Wright, interim Chair at Sound and Music said, 'Susanna Eastburn's appointment has been made at an exciting time for Sound and Music, providing her with the opportunity to lead the development of a restructured organisation that has confirmed National Portfolio funding from Arts Council England. The Trustees of Sound and Music and I look forward to working with her to see the organisation achieve our vision of a world where new music and sound prospers, transforms lives, challenges expectations and celebrates the work of its creators. Following a rigorous appointment process, we are delighted to have attracted a Chief Executive with a real passion and commitment to contemporary music and the people who make it happen.'

Notes to editors:**Sound and Music**

Sound and Music was launched in 2009 following a merger between four founding organisations: British Music Information Centre (BMIC); Society for the Promotion of New Music (spnm); Contemporary Music Network (CMN); and Sonic Arts Network (SAN).

Sound and Music's ambition is to nurture and support talented composers and artists to create distinctive new work that inspires a broad audience. We promote new music and sound through a range of projects, incorporating live events, education, artist development, and digital platforms. We respond to and encourage the diversity of work in this area and different approaches to creating, producing and presenting it.

soundandmusic.org

Susanna Eastburn

Susanna Eastburn was appointed Director, Music at Arts Council England in March 2008. Previously, she was Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (2000-2004) and Executive Producer of LIFT – London International Festival of Theatre (2005-2008). From 2004-2005 she was a Youth Music Fellow on the inaugural year of the Clore Leadership Programme, an initiative to identify and develop leadership in the cultural sector. Non-executive roles have included being a member of the Yorkshire Regional Arts Council (2002-2005), a Governor of Leeds College of Music (2002-2006) and Chair of spnm (the Society for the Promotion of New Music) from 2003-2008. She was also on the executive board of the Réseau Varèse, a pan-European network of new music promoters (2002-2005). She is a keen chamber musician and plays the viola.

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