



MMF & FAC submission to BBC public interest consultation for proposals for three new music radio stations

Deadline 27th March

Thank you for approaching our organisations to submit our thoughts on behalf of artists and their managers on the proposed creation of 3 new radio stations by the BBC. In general we are supportive of the proposed new BBC channels.

Both the MMF and FAC are member bodies of **UK Music**, holding a position each on the Board of Directors. As well as the topics raised in our submission below, we are fully supportive of the UK Music submission on this matter.

We both consulted our memberships who made the following points:

Commitment to British Music's success at home and internationally

- We welcome the commitment to supporting British music and talent and that the new stations will give focus to UK artists in terms of the proportion of tracks played. This links into the BBC core purpose of [Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence](#)
- We would like to see more detail on the plans for commissioning new programmes for the new stations. We also welcome the expressed aim to raise the profile of artists that are lesser known and have not received as much broadcast coverage from existing stations.
- It is imperative that the BBC continues to commission, support and champion new and diverse music and talent, ensuring that across all demographic characteristics and genres, there is the broadest possible representation.
- BBC has long had a remit to help UK music grow internationally [Bringing the UK to the world and the world to the UK](#) and we would like to see this expansion of music capacity ensuring coverage of key overseas showcases of new British music abroad such as SxSW, Eurosonic and Reeperbahn.

Commissioning of new Music

- Given the proposed focus on specific decades of music, concerns were raised about the division between supporting and championing new music vs catalogue and the need to do both. The 'pop nostalgia' station seems to be just about repurposing catalogue rather than supporting any new talent whereas the Radio 1 extension specifically states there will be a focus on new talent. We wonder if this means musical talent or the BBC's own presenting staff?



- Managers of classical contemporary artists were particularly encouraged to see reference to new commissions and would like to see a stronger commitment to this in the remit of the station. Living composers get very little support from the current commercial stations and there is a clear public service argument for the BBC to provide this support.
- MMF Board Director, Ellie Giles commented:

“Radio 3 announcing a new station, centred around living composers, offers a place for people to listen and engage with the best new classical music around, currently there is no other space for this on any radio network. Dead composers have been given a platform for far too long, we need to move forward and allow the new music world to flourish.

Erland Cooper, Hania Rani and Olafur Arnulds all have impressive fan bases, selling significant tickets without any radio support, imagine if radio was to give this underrated but much loved world a platform. There could be many more artists breaking through and building worlds like they all have done! Culturally for the country it's vital to acknowledge new music in all genres, not just pop, rock and dance.”

- The aim to support new artists in the Dance stream expansion on BBC Sounds and producing global hits was seen as positive. We welcome that Radio 1 Dance will continue to support new artists and DJs and the latest releases in dance music and that the aim is for around a third of music in daytime is new music (as defined by Ofcom in the Operating Licence). Similarly we welcome that focus to matching Radio 1's level of UK artists comprising 45% of tracks across the schedule.
- Steven Braines, Music Manager, Weird & the Wonderful commented
”Dance music is so varied and one of the biggest success stories of British music are electronic producers and DJs performing internationally at clubs and festivals. UK originated genres such as drum'n'bass, dubstep and tech house have been incredibly influential on the global scene. The more space given for these sub cultures to rise up is vitally important, as we keep seeing is what is in today's clubs are often what the sound of pop music is 5-10 years later.”

Gatekeepers

- It was felt strongly that the curation of new stations should not simply fall under BBC existing station gatekeepers, but should have new additional curators and the opportunity to pitch new music
- Similarly some artists and managers raised concerns about genre pigeonholing certain music into some stations without a route to progress this onto more mainstream stations and audiences.
- In this vein, Black managers had previously [raised concerns](#) with the MMF in July 2021 that some felt their clients were stuck in the 1Xtra box, unable to get gatekeepers permission to graduate to Radio 1. This concern should be addressed and not replicated with new stations.



Coverage of live events

- We welcome the commitment that the new stations will also reflect the creative calendar across the year, covering the live events and unique performances in their genres. We hope this is an opportunity to create new content supporting independent festivals, promoters and culture, which is hugely valuable for artists, not just making use of the BBC's existing archive of live and specially recorded music;

Streaming vs Radio

- Some artists earn very well from streaming via their label or distributor (which pays per listener much more than radio). However many also welcome the direct public performance income that comes direct from radio stations under the blanket licence to PPL regardless of the artists deal with their label.
- The BBC needs to be mindful of both these issues and see its role as a curator and champion of new and existing British musical talent in the UK and internationally, promoting discovery, not simply trying to compete with on demand streaming.
- Where this is the case the BBC should ensure as part of its licence negotiations for the new station the integrity of the public performance licence and ensure that the direct payments to musicians (via PPL) are maintained and not eroded through increased desire for interactivity.

About the FAC & MMF

[The FAC](#) is the UK trade body representing the specific rights and interests of music artists. We are a not-for-profit organisation, serving a diverse, global membership of creators at all stages of their careers.

Having been formed in 2009 by pioneering artists including Billy Bragg, Sandie Shaw, Radiohead's Ed O'Brien and Pink Floyd's Nick Mason, the FAC's current Board of Directors represents some of the most recognised names in the music world with the likes of Wolf Alice's Joff Oddie, Imogen Heap, Katie Melua, Howard Jones and Blur's David Rowntree as the organisation's Artist in Residence.

The FAC is a founding member of the International Artist Organisation, the Council of Music Makers (CMM) and Live Music Industry Venues & Entertainment (LIVE), and a member body of UK Music.

[The MMF](#) is the world's largest professional community of music managers.



Since its inception in 1992, the MMF has worked hard to educate, inform and represent UK managers as well as offering a network through which managers can share experiences, opportunities and information.

Our membership stands at over 1500 managers based in the UK with global businesses and a wider network of managers globally.

The MMF engages, advises and lobbies industry associates and the wider industry on issues that are relevant to managers. We continue to recruit members and grow our network so we are truly representative of the wider management community.

The MMF is a founding member of UK Music, the European Music Managers Alliance (EMMA), the Council of Music Makers (CMM) and Live Music Industry Venues & Entertainment (LIVE).

In 2022 we published the [Essentials of Music Management book](#), and updated our 2nd edition in 2023.

We also co-host the annual [Artist and Manager Awards](#) with our sister organisation the [Featured Artists Coalition](#).