



A BOUTIQUE OF FINE HANDCRAFTED ARCHTOPS

We don't usually 'borrow' text from another publication. But felt this article, just published by MusicWeek, is so important and relevant at this time, that it needed to be shared.

The UK Live Music Group has warned thousands of music industry jobs will be lost to the coronavirus crisis without urgent Government action.

The industry body, which is part of UK Music, said more than £900 million is expected to be wiped from the £1.1 billion the live music sector was expected to contribute to the domestic economy this year, adding it could be three to four years before the business recovers to 2019 levels.



More than 550 grassroots music venues – 82% of the total – are at immediate risk of closure, while a survey by the Association Of Independent Festivals found 92% of its members face collapse. Three quarters of the industry's workforce is furloughed, and the UK Live Music Group warned that cutting back Government assistance before the music industry had a chance to recover would have a "catastrophic" impact on the sector and the music business as a whole.

"The live music industry has collapsed as a result of coronavirus and it will be one of the last sectors to emerge from this crisis," said UK Live Music Group chair Greg Parmley. "Removing existing support – such as the furlough scheme and help for self-employed – before live music resumes will trigger thousands of redundancies, and without additional support, the sector may never recover.

"Live music powers a huge eco-system of managers, artists, agents, technicians and suppliers, who have no income when there is no live music. The effects of this crisis are faced by the entire music industry – labels, publishers, composers and more don't function without live performance."

The group is calling on the Government to implement several key measures to help the industry including ongoing support measures, tax breaks on ticket sales for a minimum of 18 months, and clear guidance about when venues can reopen in order to allow operators to properly plan a recovery. It is also asking for clarity around social distancing which takes into account the range of different venue sizes, some of whom may not be able to reopen until measures are further relaxed.

"The music industry is really hurting," said UK Music chair Tom Watson. "Parts of the sector are effectively on life support and will need a sustained package of help from the Government to survive.

"The music industry has joined forces and is doing its best to look after its people through a fantastic network of hardship funds.

"As the world slowly emerges from the international lockdown, the UK cannot afford to leave behind its economy-boosting music industry. We'll need more support from Government to survive and remain a long term contributor to the economy." In addition, the UK Live Music Group is appealing for business rate relief to be extended to the entire live music supply chain, include service companies, sound and lighting suppliers.

Article courtesy of Music Week. You can read the full text here: <https://www.musicweek.com/live/read/uk-live-music-group-calls-for-urgent-government-action-amid-catastrophic-coronavirus-impact/079731>

PATREON

With a moratorium on performing live for the foreseeable, Artists need to look at alternative ways to earn a living, through such avenues as online teaching, online shows, etc, via Patreon type sites. A good example of how Patreon can help to support an Artist during these uncertain times is with award winning jazz guitarist Nigel Price. Widely acknowledged as one of the hardest working musicians in the business with his 300+ shows per year, Covid-19 ended his relentless touring schedule overnight, just as he was getting ready to embark on a 60 date UK tour. Having planned to do so for a while, and now with plenty of time on his hands, Nigel has now set up his new Patreon site.



Nigel Price Working Hard

Patreon is not new, with many artists already using it to provide content for a monthly subscription fee. You can find out more about how Patreon works by clicking here: <https://www.patreon.com/>

