MIA welcomes Government's continuing commitment to music education.

The MIA is greatly encouraged by the publication of the National Music Plan and the importance that the Government clearly places on music education in this country, as well as the critical role music plays in our creative and cultural economy.

We welcome the Government's decision to focus on the delivery of high quality music education to our schools as part of a broad and balanced curriculum through music education hubs. We note that even in these difficult economic times, guaranteed funding will be available in the three years from April 2012.

The Government has clearly listened to, and engaged with the sector and we are looking forward to working in partnership with Government to deliver the ambitions and objectives of the Plan.

A number of challenges face the sector in the speed of transition to implementing music education hubs and the MIA will offer all possible support to both Government, music teachers and music providers.

The Government's recognition that high quality music education is a vital part of the school curriculum is also welcome and of key relevance to the National Curriculum Review Team.

The MIA continues to believe that it is **essential** for music to remain in the National Curriculum and that it should also be included in the English Baccalaureate.

Finally, the MIA totally endorses the Government's acknowledgment of the crucial role professional development plays within the sector. Once again, the MIA will offer all possible support in this aspiration.

For more information on this story or the MIA in general, please contact:

- Paul McManus
- paulmc@mia.org.uk
- www.mia.org.uk

FINISH.

About the MIA

The Music Industries Association (MIA) is the trade association of the UK musical instrument industry, representing over 350 manufacturers, distributors, retailers, publishers and educators, which collectively generates annual sales of over £600 million of instruments and associated products. It has the mission of "creating and encouraging music making" and takes a proactive role in promoting the wide-ranging benefits of music making on behalf of the sector. This is achieved through liaison with government departments and the various music education bodies and through direct action programmes such as "Get Alive" and the "Learn to Play" teaching format.

The MIA also runs the industry charity, Music for All, which helps people of all ages to be able to start playing an instrument, especially school age children. It has the mission of "Making More Musicians". For more information: www.mia.org.uk, www.musicforall.org.uk