

FEATURED ARTISTS COALITION

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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ARTISTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR NEW DIGITAL RIGHTS

The Verve, Radiohead, Jools Holland, Kaiser Chiefs, Kate Nash, Robbie Williams and Billy Bragg are among dozens of musicians and performers calling for changes to the law and record industry.

A new organisation, the Featured Artists' Coalition will be launched tomorrow (Sunday 5 October 2008 at the music industry's *In The City* in Manchester) to campaign for the protection of performers' and musicians' rights. Formed by some of the best-known names in music, the Coalition will give artists the voice they need to argue for greater control over their music.

Brian Message, co-manager of Radiohead and Kate Nash said:

"It is time for artists to have a strong collective voice to stand up for their interests. The digital landscape is changing fast and new deals are being struck all the time, but all too often without reference to the people who actually make the music. Just look at the recent MoU on file-sharing between labels, government and the ISPs. Artists were not involved. The Featured Artists' Coalition will help all artists, young and old, well-known or not, drive overdue change through the industry in their interests and those of fans."

To date, over 60 artists have joined the Coalition by signing its founding Charter. These range from established artists like Radiohead, The Verve, Craig David, Robbie Williams and the Kaiser Chiefs through to newer acts like Kate Nash, The Futureheads and Sia. To read the Featured Artists' Coalition's Charter or to see a video of some of the artists who are part of the Coalition, visit www.featuredartistscoalition.com

The new organisation will campaign for specific changes to the laws governing the music industry and how business is conducted, so that

- artists always retain ultimate ownership of their music
- all agreements between artists and others are conducted in a fair and transparent manner
- rights' holders have a duty of care to the originator of those rights, and must always explain how any agreement may affect how their work is exploited.

(Continued overleaf)

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Jazz Summers, manager of The Verve, said:

“The Featured Artists' Coalition is an organisation for artists, which will be run by artists. It will ensure that in future the voice of artists is properly heard in discussions with music and technology companies, trade organisations and most importantly, with Government. It will also seek to improve the treatment of artists within the business and campaign to update laws and practices that better reflect the new music landscape. Digital technology gives artists the opportunity to control their future - this is the time to seize that opportunity.”

The Featured Artists' Coalition will expose unfair practices where necessary and demand that music companies consult with artists on all levels. It will give guidance to all artists on their rights and on how best these should be exploited. The Coalition will begin by campaigning for a series of changes (see Notes to Editors).

Notes to Editors

The following are available for interview: Jazz Summers (The Verve's manager) Brian Message (Radiohead's manager) Tim Clark (Robbie Williams' manager) and others. To arrange interviews please contact Katy Wynne on 07768 264656.

For further information visit www.featuredartistscoalition.com

The Coalition will begin by focusing on six areas where it is seeking change:

1. **An agreement by the music industry that artists should receive fair compensation whenever their business partners receive an economic return from the exploitation of the artists' work.**
2. **All transfers of copyright should be by license rather than by assignment, and limited to 35 years.**
3. **The making available right should be monetized on behalf of featured artistes and all other performers.**
4. **Copyright owners to be obliged to follow a 'use it or lose it' approach to the copyrights they control.**
5. **The rights for performers should be the same as those for authors (songwriters, lyricists and composers).**
6. **A change to UK copyright law which will end the commercial exploitation of unlicensed music purporting to be used in conjunction with 'critical reviews'.**