

ABRSM to sponsor FMS during 2010–11

ABRSM, the world's leading authority on musical assessment, is to sponsor the Federation of Music Services (FMS) for the academic year September 2010 to August 2011. John Witchell, Chief Executive of FMS, announced the sponsorship agreement at the FMS Conference 2010 in Belfast (16–18 June). The grant will support the ongoing promotion and provision of the 12-month FMS course '*Rising with the tide: managing and leading music services in the 21st century*'.

Rising with the tide

Launched in 2010, the course aims to support beginning, developing and established leaders, both individually and collaboratively, in building professional knowledge around learning-centred leadership. The programme extends over 12 months and seeks to enhance school leadership capability and capacity across local authorities in England and Wales, by engaging individuals in a series of innovative development sessions.

A sustained relationship

ABRSM has sponsored a series of FMS activities since 2004. The two organisations announced a new consultancy partnership in 2008 in which ABRSM, through its Director of Professional Development Richard Crozier, would provide FMS with consultancy on professional development within music services at a strategic level. The development and launch of '*Rising with the tide*' has been a major part of Crozier's role as consultant.

Guy Perricone, Chief Executive of ABRSM, said: '*ABRSM recognises that Music Services make a vital contribution to the teaching and learning of music across the country. We are delighted to continue supporting FMS – and specifically the course 'Rising with the tide' – as part of our sponsorship programme for music education organisations in the UK.*'

John Witchell, Chief Executive of FMS, said: '*Music services in the FMS truly appreciate the ongoing support from ABRSM. This year, as we develop the leadership training programme, we are particularly pleased that ABRSM will be directly supporting colleagues who are preparing for*

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leadership and management posts in music services. The partnership between the two organisations is testimony to the dedication of those who are committed to the values of music education.'

ENDS

Notes to editors

About FMS

Established in 1996, FMS represents 98% of all Music Services across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Isles with 157 member organisations. FMS works closely with the Department for Education, OFSTED and the QCA as well as fellow music organisations such as the Music Education Council and the National Association of Music Educators. It is the national voice of music services, representing the interests of 0.5 million music students and 10,000 music teachers.

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