

Report to ABO meeting: 13th June 07

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MU MUSICIANS HEARING PASSPORT – new scheme

Musicians Hearing Services working in partnership with the **British Association for Performing Arts Medicine** and the **Musicians Union** to deliver the **Musicians Hearing Passport**

The purpose of the Musicians Hearing Passport is to: -

- increase awareness of the risk of hearing damage
- promote the provision of hearing health surveillance amongst freelancers
- reduce the risk of hearing damage
- promote the use of hearing protection when necessary and
- ensure that hearing protection is used properly

The Musicians Hearing Passport includes details of certified training and health surveillance undertaken by the freelancer

Freelancers agree: -

- To enroll for health surveillance
- To undertake training in the proper use of hearing protection and understand the risk of hearing damage
- To keep their own records of their estimated daily/weekly exposure
- To make their own calculations in order to assess their likely personal overall exposure using the data supplied by either the engager/contractor, other collated data sources and/or their own personal records (using the HSE points calculator system) on www.hse.gov.uk/noise/calculator.htm

Engager/contractors agree: -

- To supply data on typical exposure levels based on previous experience and assessments
- To provide information on the expected noise dose from the event, especially when the freelancer has been engaged to perform on a specific repertoire. (it is suggested that the venue owners and engagers/contractors consider installing recording noise meters in the venues to help generate a databank of typical noise levels to enable information to be provided to freelancers)
- To ensure that freelancers have access to any noise policies affecting their engagement

The Scheme: - The Musicians Hearing Services will provide the following under the Musicians Hearing Passport:-

Full aural examination

- Otoloscopic examination of the ear for pathologies/abnormalities of the ear canal
- Wax removal if necessary prior to aural examination
- Examination of the tympanic membrane for abnormalities
- Examination of the outer ear (pinna)

Full audiogram, audiological assessment

- Extended pure tone audiogram at all audiometric frequencies
- High frequency audiometry
- Tinnitus match and mask testing if required with general advice on living with tinnitus
- Advice on referral routes for tinnitus management and ENT

Report on results

- Full description and explanation of results with general indications
- Written report to related professionals, GP, employer etc (only at the request of the client / with clients permission)

Audiological / medical history

- Audiological history including family history where relevant
- Related general medical history in line with Hearing Aid Council Clause 5 referral criteria

Advice and training on hearing protection

- Explanation and advice on current European guidelines for noise protection and implications for hearing protection and noise induced hearing loss
- Information and advice on current hearing conservation solutions and help selecting the correct attenuation for individual requirements and noise levels
- Provision of custom made earplugs with aural impression
- Information on hearing health surveillance and conservation

Cost: TBA

Each member signing up to the above **Musicians Hearing Passport** will be included in the MHS call back system:

- **The MHS will keep all medical records but will supply anonymous information to the MU and BAPAM as and when requested for statistical collation purpose.**
- **The MHS will continue to offer MU members a discount on hearing protection.**

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Logos to be inserted MU/MHS/BAPAM	Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005; Hearing Health Surveillance Reg.
(name to be inserted)..... Has enrolled in the Musicians Hearing Passport Scheme Signed on behalf of the MHS date	The Musicians Hearing Passport is endorsed by the Health & Safety Executive and demonstrates that the performer has received advice, training and information on hearing health conservation.