

MMMR Update

MUSICAL MERCHANDISE REVIEW

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UK-Based Percussion Plus is Sold

After over 20 years, United Kingdom-based percussion manufacturer, Percussion Plus, has been sold.

The company will now move forward into the private ownership of Paul Cobbett and Keith Robinson, reported *MI Pro Magazine* today.

"Percussion Plus is a brand leader in its field of expertise," said the new owners. "It is our intention to build on that expertise, developing new products and enhancing our service to customers. We are not looking to move production away from Market Harborough as this is its home and where the manufacturing expertise is based."

Percussion Plus's John Dean added: "We hope that through this change we will be able to offer a better delivery service from our own dedicated warehouse. For any problems, please do not hesitate to call us at the Market Harborough factory as always."

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New Jazz Education Network Formed

On June 1, more than 35 leaders from the jazz education community and affiliated industries gathered in Chicago and founded the Jazz Education Network (JEN). The association will be focused on advancing and expanding jazz education, jazz performance opportunities, and jazz audiences.

The meetings were facilitated by Gene Wenner of Arts & Education Consultants, Bob Breithaupt of JazzArts Group, and Matt Carter of Music Crossroads.

"There is a burning need to help build a strong community in jazz education," said Mary Jo Papich, president of JEN. "Our goal is to be an essential resource for anyone involved in or with jazz education. Collaborating together, our goal is to support a strong and well-equipped community that meets the needs of 21st century education. We will strive to be inclusive, rather than exclusive. As a result, jazz education can have a positive impact on the lives of many more students. We will work to identify and inspire new audiences."

JEN is in the process of filing for non-profit organization status. Once complete, it will begin the work of developing programs and events and attracting membership. A web site will be up shortly at www.jazzednet.org.

The International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) filed for bankruptcy in April.

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