

The Selector Wins Sony Radio Award

The British Council's music radio programme, the Selector, won a Gold award for Weekly Music Show of the Year at the 23rd Sony Academy Awards — the UK's most prestigious radio accolades — held at London's Grosvenor House on 9 May 2005. The panel of over one hundred judges — chosen for their particular expertise from the world of radio, the arts, entertainment and sport — described the show as 'a truly unique programme that showcases a wide range of new British talent across a variety of different genres'.

The Selector, which is produced for the British Council by Somethin' Else, the UK's leading independent production company, beat off fierce competition from a range of high profile commercial radio stations to scoop the award. John Kieffer, Head of Music for the British Council, explains what makes the show so special: 'As an independent non-commercial radio show, the Selector is uniquely placed to pick up on artists early in their careers and to mix up styles in a way that is becoming unusual in a segmented broadcast market. After all, this is the show that picked up on The Streets, Amy Winehouse and The Darkness well before they'd hit the charts.'

Alison Wenham, Chief Executive of AIM (the Association of Independent Music) is also a major advocate for the show: 'The Selector is a fine showcase for UK acts, programmed intelligently and well packaged for the worldwide market. The show should be broadcast in all territories of the world, especially in the USA, where British music is hard to get onto the radio.'

The Selector currently plays in 19 countries across four continents and reaches millions of listeners worldwide every week with its mix of the best new music from the UK. This was the second time the show has been nominated for a Sony Radio Award since its launch in 2001, and its first win.

The Selector is available to all British Council offices working in partnership with a local radio station. To find out more about the show, email Lisa.Moult@britishcouncil.org. You can listen to the Selector online at www.selector-radio.com



[Above] Selector radio presenter Andrea Oliver (centre) collects the Weekly Music Show of the Year award at the Sony Academy Awards 2005, with Sam Bryant of Somethin' Else (left) and Australian singer Delta Goodrem (right)
Picture: UPPA/Photoshot

British Council at Glastonbury Festival 2005

For the first time ever, the British Council had a physical presence at this year's Glastonbury Festival

The Director General of the British Council, Sir David Green, and an international delegation of music promoters hosted by the British Council, donned wellington boots and braved knee-high mud at this year's Glastonbury Festival — the world's largest outdoor music and performing arts festival, which took place in Somerset, west of England from 24–26 June.

This year, for the first time ever, the British Council had a physical presence at the festival in the form of a unique asymmetric pavilion commissioned from leading communications design agency Thomas Matthews. The environmentally friendly and highly sustainable structure, built using indigenous materials and skills, was designed to address the themes that run through ZeroCarbonCity, the British Council's global campaign to increase public understanding of climate change.

The pavilion successfully weathered the torrential rain that blighted the start of the festival and transformed the 900 acre site into a sea of mud. With many of the 150,000 festival-goers finding their tents completely submerged or washed-away by the deluge, it provided a dry sanctuary away from the crowds, where delegates and festival-goers (including singer songwriter Billy Bragg) could learn more about the British Council's work and its products and services. Visitors took a break from their hectic schedules to listen to the British Council's award-winning Selector radio show on mp3 players at listening posts, check out the lists of recommended UK artists performing at the festival, and to plan their next voyage across the muddy waters.

Representatives of the British Council's Creative Industries Unit and Performing Arts Department were on hand throughout the festival to facilitate the international exchange in ideas, opinions and views on the development, production, distribution and exhibition of music for a global network of music professionals.

Amit Saigal, managing director of leading Delhi-based music media company RSJ, was among the delegation of international promoters who braved the weather to make

it to Glastonbury as a guest of the British Council. 'This was one of the most complete festivals I have seen,' he commented enthusiastically at the end of his trip. 'I couldn't help but appreciate the huge amount of logistics and hard behind-the-scenes work that goes into making a festival of these gigantic proportions happen without any seemingly obvious hitches.'

As a result of all this hard work perhaps, the Glastonbury Festival will be taking a break in 2006 to return triumphantly in the summer of 2007, when it's hoped the weather might be a little better.

www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk



(Above) Director General of the British Council, Sir David Green (left) and singer songwriter Billy Bragg (right) at Glastonbury Festival 2005

Launch of Innovative New British Council Music Award

A new music award which aims to identify and nurture future music industry leaders in developing and transitional markets was launched by the British Council on 22 June. The third in a series of 10 awards designed by the British Council to celebrate future leaders of the creative industries, the International Young Music Entrepreneur of the Year Award will be presented for the first time in June 2006. This unique award will celebrate the unsung heroes of the music industry — the people behind the scenes who really make things happen.

The award, which has the support of many key figures in the music industry, is intended to raise the profile of the UK as a centre of creative thinking and entrepreneurship and develop a culture of engagement and collaboration by creating opportunities for cultural exchange. Targeted at young people aged 25 to 35 already working in the music sector, the winner will receive £7,500 GBP towards the cost of developing a British Council approved music project.

Music consultant Doug D'Arcy (of management and investment company Songlines), hosted the award launch party at London's Vinyl Factory on 22 June. He comments: 'The award is a great opportunity to share all our experiences in the music industry and since cultural exchange is at the core of creativity I'm sure we will all derive enormous benefit and enjoyment. It's great that the British Council is able to generate this kind of development activity in the music world.'

Speaking at the award launch, John Kieffer, Head of Music for the British Council, said: 'The creative sector is now the fastest growing sector of our economy and in London ranks second only after financial services. Music is a major British industry. We are fortunate to have significant talent in every aspect of the production chain and to have major international events like the Glastonbury Festival which allow us to welcome visitors from a wide range of countries to our shores. Creative entrepreneurs are at the heart of shaping the balance between the creative and the economic. They are instrumental in the development of small creative businesses, from which a strong, dynamic, independent sector will grow.'

British Council offices based in developing or transitional countries that wish to register interest in participating in the award scheme, should contact Claire.DeBraekeleer@britishcouncil.org



Doug D'Arcy, Director, Songlines (LEFT)
Clare Grotefeld, award designer (CENTRE)
and John Kieffer, Director, Performing Arts
Department, British Council