



Press Release

Open letter to Alan Davey, Controller, BBC Radio 3

Don't Cut BBC Late Junction and Jazz Now

19th March 2019

Dear Mr Davey,

When questions arise as to whether Radio 3 is 'dumbing down', our first line of defence as composers is to cite those programmes which uphold the BBC's mission statement 'to enrich people's lives with programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain.'

This would include Composer Of The Week, Hear And Now, the live evening concerts, Music Matters, Record Review, Private Passions etc. but particularly Late Junction and Jazz Now.

Late Junction and Jazz Now are important. They are varied and unpredictable and explore areas that no other programmes do. They provide exposure to some of the most under represented artists and cultures. Both are genre fluid, culturally diverse and gender blind. These three elements alone are culturally vital at this time, making them beacons of public service broadcasting.

Late Junction and Jazz Now self-evidently 'inform, educate and entertain'. We are therefore particularly concerned to learn of the BBC's decision to cut the weekly broadcasts of Late Junction from three to one and that Jazz Now is to be axed.

BASCA represents music creators in their totality and no other BBC programmes support such a wide variety of living writers and performers with such consistency and erudition.

We respectfully request that you reconsider your decisions.

BASCA is supporting the 'Don't Cut BBC Late Junction' and "Don't Cut BBC Jazz Now!" online petitions and we call on all creators and believers in musical diversity across the UK to campaign to save both programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Carpenter, Chair of the BASCA Classical Committee and BASCA Director
Issie Barratt, Chair of the BASCA Jazz Committee and BASCA Director

About BASCA

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA) exists to celebrate, support and protect the professional interests of all writers of music. We are the voice for music writers; the independent professional association representing music writers in all genres, from songwriting, through to media, contemporary classical and jazz and can trace our history back over 70 years.

Whilst we are well known for putting on the British Composer Awards, the Gold Badge Awards and The Ivors every year, there is far more to us than these events. BASCA campaigns in the UK, Europe and throughout the world in order to protect the professional interests of our members. We count on the best songwriting and composing talent in order to do this important work and are entirely self-funding, relying on the continuing support of our members, who include The 1975, David Arnold, Gary Barlow, Harrison Birtwistle, Kate Bush, Coldplay, Howard Goodall, Calvin Harris, Imogen Heap, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, John Powell, Dizzee Rascal and many more. www.basca.org.uk