



NEWS from Sound Sense

January 2009

New chair for Sound Sense combines voluntary sector and community music experience

The new chair of Sound Sense, the UK development agency for community music, is Catherine Pestano. A long-time member and board member of Sound Sense, Pestano is a trained group worker, counsellor and mental health social worker as well as a practising community musician.

Musically, she has trained with Frankie Armstrong of the Natural Voice Practitioners Network and on the Goldsmiths Certificate in workshop skills course, and is currently registered for MPhil/PhD studies in community music at the University of Winchester. She runs Croydon-based CRISP, which offers community music making opportunities for all ages and training for community musicians; CRISP won an ISME (International Society for Music Education) Gibson community music education project award 2007, for a project in Serbia. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

In the social care field, Pestano has most recently been vice chair of Carr Gomm Housing Association, and she continues to serve on the registration and conduct committees of the General Social Care Council.

Catherine Pestano comments: "My service in the voluntary sector helps me feel confident to take up the exciting position of chair of Sound Sense. I can now help shape the development of music making for people of all ages and all conditions in the UK to include the emancipatory and life-affirming values and practices of community music. I have always found the third sector's practices and ethos to be a great inspiration for my work."

Kathryn Deane, director of Sound Sense, says: "I am thrilled to have Catherine as my chair. Her mix of skills as we continue to develop Sound Sense as the voice of community music will be crucial."

Pestano replaces previous Sound Sense chair Martin Milner, who has taken up an unexpectedly exciting music education offer in Berlin.

For more details:

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High-res versions of attached photos available from Kathryn.Deane@soundsense.org

Sound Sense, the UK association for community musicians

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Catherine Pestano, chair Sound Sense



Sound Sense chair Catherine Pestano, right, receiving an ISME Gibson community music award