



11 October 2010

Buskers to take centre stage in Piccadilly

Piccadilly Gardens is set to become home to Manchester's first official busking stage; an initiative to allow street musicians to showcase their talent and gain exposure to a wider city centre audience.

This pilot event, organised by The Piccadilly Partnership, in conjunction with The Manchester College, will take place in Piccadilly Gardens on Friday 15 October between 12 noon and 4pm.

The stage will be opened by Manchester-based singer/songwriter Richard Dutton and his band The So and So's, fresh from performing at this year's In The City, which for the first time in its history is taking place in the Piccadilly area.

Students from The Manchester College, many of them regular city centre buskers, will also have the opportunity to perform on the stage and hope to encourage other performers to take part in future.

Alex King, Piccadilly Partnership manager for Cityco, the city centre management company, said: "Manchester is known as a musical city, where you can go and see bands and performances any night of the week. The busking stage is a recognition for the city's other musical culture; one that is open to everyone. Piccadilly Gardens is an area that lends itself perfectly to hosting creative events and encouraging a positive atmosphere. This is part of our long-term commitment to the area and we hope that by working closely with The Manchester College this pilot scheme will prove popular enough for us to make it a more frequent occurrence."

Manchester-based rising star Ruby-Ann Patterson will close the event on the back of a number of well-received performances in and around the city.

Rose Durbin, music tutor at The Manchester College, commented: “The Piccadilly busking stage has been designed to provide opportunities for students and the general public alike to perform music of all kinds. We hope to build on this event and develop an ongoing performance event in Piccadilly Gardens for the entertainment and enjoyment for all that use the central and vibrant space.”

The Piccadilly Partnership is a division of Cityco, the Manchester city centre management company.

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Notes to editors

The Piccadilly Partnership

- The Piccadilly Partnership is a strategic and pioneering alliance of public and private sectors, bringing together key landowners, Manchester City Council, Cityco, GMPTE, other public sector services and local occupiers.
- The Partnership provides an important forum for consultation, discussion and debate on all issues influencing the Piccadilly area. One of the key objectives of the Partnership is the positive promotion of the area to both business and the general public.
- For all other information please visit the Partnership’s website www.piccadillymanchester.com

The Manchester College

- The Manchester College is one of the UK’s leading education and training providers. The college has many sites across Manchester delivering an extensive range of professional, vocational and academic courses to school leavers, adults and employers from all sections of the community. For all other information please visit The Manchester College’s website www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk