

Futuresonic 2006

12 April 2006

Unique music and media arts competition opens in Manchester

Futuresonic, the UK's leading electronic music and media arts festival, today announces the launch of its competition for musicians, club promoters, programmers and curators. The Futuresonic EVNT Competition offers cash prizes to enable up-and-coming new music and arts events to appear during Futuresonic's July festival, and is open to anyone in the world. This is a unique opportunity: Futuresonic is the only festival to provide support in this way for independent events, promoters and programmers.

Futuresonic this year celebrates its 10th anniversary. The three-day festival, which runs 20–23 July at venues across Manchester, celebrates the diversity of electronic music and media arts with everything from headline gigs at the city's major music venues to a specialist sound art conference. It presents its most ambitious programme of live music, digital media, art and performance to date.

In particular, 2006 builds on the success of last year's Futuresonic EVNT Showcase, where venues throughout the city's Northern Quarter opened their doors to music lovers for an entire weekend of independent electronic, dance, post-rock and club gigs. Over 30 events took place during last year's EVNT Showcase alone, with acts from as far afield as New York, Moscow, Berlin and Dallas. Futuresonic now invites anyone working in music or media arts to take part in the 2006 EVNT Showcase, with the EVNT Competition an added incentive for those who would like financial support in doing so.

Futuresonic EVNT Competition

Two winners will be awarded £2500 and £1000 respectively to stage their work as part of the EVNT Showcase, with three runners-up each awarded £250. Open to any promoter, programmer or curator anywhere in the world, with the focus on the new or ground breaking, as well as one-off and adventurous events by established promoters, proposals will be judged by a panel of industry, club and music figures. Those who enter the competition but are unsuccessful will automatically be invited to take part in the EVNT Showcase.

Deadline for proposals: 1 May 2006

Futuresonic EVNT Showcase

Music promoters, programmers and curators are invited to stage their events in venues in Manchester's Northern Quarter – the city's creative hub, home to Night & Day, Cord, Centro, Common, The Roadhouse and more. Futuresonic is looking for innovative events of international calibre, and will 'matchmake' promoters to venues.

Deadline for proposals: 22 May 2006

Festival Director, Drew Hemment, says, 'Events are a vital part of the music industry and of music culture, but it's rare to get an events showcase at a festival – usually, the focus is on music labels. Most new music events need time, money and passion to get off the ground but it's becoming increasingly hard for new nights to break through and become established. The Futuresonic EVNT Showcase and Competition are a way of changing that – and making sure up-and-coming promoters and musicians get the break they deserve.'

Competition details and submission forms are available from www.futuresonic.com

Ends

For more information or images, please contact Susie Stubbs on 07919 575 740 or email susie@futuresonic.com

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Notes to Editors

The EVNT Showcase and Competition form just one part of Futuresonic 2006. The festival also includes *Futuresonic Live*, an extensive programme of live music by headline acts; an exhibition strand featuring internationally-renowned artists working with media and new technologies; and specialist events such as the *Social Technologies Summit* and *PLAN, The Pervasive and Locative Arts Network*.

Futuresonic was established in 1995, and has an international reputation for promoting cutting-edge music and media arts. The 2005 festival involved 211 artists in 44 events at 15 arts, music and club venues, and was attended by around 6,000 people.

Futuresonic is presented by Future Everything, a not-for-profit creative studio at the forefront of electronic arts and culture.