

MEDIA RELEASE**Katy Alex wins the 2015 Merseyrail Sound Station Prize**

9 December 2015: Katy Alex, singer-songwriter from Liverpool, has won the third annual Merseyrail Sound Station competition, impressing a panel of industry judges and beating an array of excellent local talent in the final contest.

The competition held last month featured ten of Merseyside's most exciting emerging artists, who performed live at Moorfields Station in the culmination of the year-long project. Alex's prize is access to a team of music industry professionals, who will coach and support her over the course of one year to support her career in music. She will record with former Joy Division and New Order engineer, Michael Johnson and get various opportunities to play live and promote her work. She will also be awarded a year's free travel on Merseyrail.

Alex said: 'Everyone was equally good, it was a really good day. I'm looking forward to the mentoring and combining some ideas – really cool!'

Commenting on the competition day, she added: 'There was a lot of variety, The Basement Effect were really good, 15 and 16 years, and so, so talented. Gyrus were really different, I couldn't put a genre on it but really cool!'

The Sound Station award is designed to give a budding Merseyside artist an invaluable head-start in the music industry and is part of a wide-ranging project which encompasses pop-up stages at many of the regions festivals, a monthly podcast, as well as the competition.

Last year's winner, Blue Saint, who was on the judging panel, has reaped the benefits of winning the prize last year. The Liverpool-based rapper has appeared at festivals throughout the summer and is about to launch a new EP after recording at Tankfield Studios with New Order engineer, Michael Johnson.

Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde, managing director of Merseyrail, who presented Alex with the award, said: 'Sound Station is a fantastic initiative, promoting emerging young talent and helping really gifted musicians get the leg-up they deserve. Alex's success is very

Notes to Editors:

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- *Merseyrail scores for reliability and punctuality averaged over 95 per cent during the last 12 months*
- *We operate one of the most intensively used networks in the UK with more than 800 trains per weekday*
- *Merseyrail is a 50-50 joint venture between Serco and Abellio*
- *Merseytravel is the transport executive body and delivery arm of the city region's Combined Authority*
- *Network Rail is the owner and operator of most of the rail infrastructure in the UK*
- *For further information, contact Alice Owen on tel 0151 955 2131.*

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well deserved, and we congratulate all the contenders, who were of an exceptionally high standard across the board.'

Over the past three years, Merseyrail Sound Station has become increasingly popular. More local artists have become involved in the initiative, filming performances at upload locations and performing at festivals at the Sound Station pop-up stage. Ten Sound Station musicians were picked to several music festivals this year.

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