



INDEPENDENT MUSIC COMPANIES ASSOCIATION



Verband unabhängiger Tonträgerunternehmen  
Musikverlage und Musikproduzenten e.V.

## **iTunes to launch without UK and European Independent Music**

*Repertoire from Basement Jaxx, Franz Ferdinand, Dizzee Rascal, Mr. Scruff, White Stripes, Lemon Jelly, Coldcut, Hextatic, Roots Manuva, Kid Koala and Cinematic Orchestra unavailable at launch*

LONDON - (June 15, 2004) –The UK launch of iTunes Music Store promises to be somewhat muted as the company has failed to license repertoire from the critically and commercially acclaimed European independent record sector to its new service.

AIM understands from a number of its members that negotiations with Apple have broken down. As a result, many significant labels will not be, at present, making their repertoire available to the new service. Many companies were only approached in recent days and independent label communities across Europe including France's UPFI, Germany's VUT and Sweden's SOM have had little correspondence with Apple. The European Independent record sector commands 22% of the European market at retail.

Said Alison Wenham Chairman and Chief Executive of AIM *"We welcome the arrival of iTunes in the UK, but are disappointed that our members have been unable to agree terms for licensing their repertoire to the service. iTunes has played a leading role in developing the download market in the US and we hope its European counterpart will soon be able to boast a more complete roster of European music"*

AIM, through its new media arm Musicindie, takes a proactive approach to licensing to digital music services. Musicindie has agreed collective deals with Sony Connect (launching shortly in UK), Yahoo, OD2, Wippit, O2 Music, Sony Computer Network Corporation Japan (So-net), and remains the only organisation to have inked deals with both old and new versions of Napster.

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## About AIM:

AIM is the non-profit trade body established in 1998 by UK independent record labels to represent the independent record sector, 1/4 of the UK market. This cutting edge sector generated 30% of UK artist albums reaching platinum in 2003 and 5 out of 12 nominees and winner (Dizzee Rascal) of the Mercury Music Prize 2003, as well as 4 of the world's top 10 most critically acclaimed albums in 2003, as voted by the UK music press.

Other UK independent signed artists include Travis, Feeder, Basement Jaxx, Craig David, Franz Ferdinand, British Sea Power, Katie Melua, Mr. Scruff, So Solid Crew, Badly Drawn Boy, White Stripes, Strokes, Libertines, Ty, Rae and Christian, Moloko, Lemon Jelly, Martina Topley-Bird, Coldcut, Estelle, Eva Cassidy and thousands of others.

AIM has over 800 members, all of whom are UK-based independent record labels or distributors. AIM's remit is to work collectively to enable its members to grow, grasp new opportunities and break into new markets. AIM set up the first collective negotiation structure for licensing repertoire through its Internet Trials, through its new media arm Musicindie.

[www.musicindie.org](http://www.musicindie.org)

## About VUT

The VUT (German Association Of Independent Record Companies, Music Publishers and Music Producers) was founded in 1993 in Hamburg as a non-profit organisation. Up to now, more than 850 companies have become members of the VUT. Generally speaking, the VUT focuses its activities on the improvement of the economic situation of its members and offers a broad information service as far as the music business is concerned.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the VUT has gained an ever growing respect throughout the national and international music business / industry.

Amongst the members of VUT are !K7, Buback, City Slang, Doxa Records, Four Music, Indigo, Intergroove Tonträger, Kontor, Kitty-Yo, Kompakt, Lado Musik, MMP Mannheimer Musik Plattform, Neuton Medien Vertrieb, Sanctuary Records, Tresor Records, V2 Records, Vielklang

[www.vut-online.de](http://www.vut-online.de)

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