

Awards & Recognition

The Music Man Project and its founder, David Stanley BEM, have received numerous awards and honours recognising their contribution to accessible music education, disability inclusion and the wider community.

Many of the awards presented personally to David specifically recognise his work in founding and developing The Music Man Project and the achievements of its musicians. Together, they reflect more than two decades of pioneering work to create opportunities, challenge perceptions and demonstrate what people with learning disabilities can achieve through music.

Awards

2025	Winner, Big Syn International Film Festival, London Charity Film Category
2024	Prime Minister's Points of Light Award Awarded to David Stanley by Prime Minister Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP in recognition of his work with The Music Man Project
2023	Special Recognition Award Awarded to David Stanley by the National Lottery at BBC One's <i>Big Night of Musicals</i>
2023	Team of Pride Award Awarded to Music Man Project Essex at the Pride of Essex Awards
2023	Trailblazer of Disability Rights, Top 45 List David Stanley featured by <i>Motability Magazine</i>
2023	King's Notable Alumni List David Stanley recognised by King's College London
2023	Outstanding Community Champion Award Awarded to David Stanley by Anna Firth MP
2022	Sir David Amess Memorial Award Awarded to David Stanley by the Bengal's Pride Awards
2021	King's Arts & Culture Distinguished Alumni Award Awarded to David Stanley by King's College London
2021	Inspirational Leader Who Has Made a Difference Awarded to David Stanley by Venquis

- 2021** **UK Community Hero Award**
UK Community Network, recognising David Stanley and The Music Man Project's response during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020** **Danny Award for Best Version of a Cover Song**
Daniel's Music Foundation, New York
- 2019** **Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award**
Awarded to David Stanley by Lions International
- 2016** **Most Inspired Creative Contribution Award**
Awarded to The Music Man Project children's music school at the Kids Count Awards

Finalists & Shortlistings

- 2026** **Finalist, Make A Difference Award**
BBC Radio Essex, Music Man Project Essex
- 2026** **Finalist, Make A Difference Award**
BBC Radio Kent, Music Man Project Kent
- 2025** **Finalist, Smiley Charity Film Awards**
Longform Category
- 2023** **Shortlisted, Charity Times Awards**
Best Charity Collaboration
- 2022** **Finalist, Brand Film Awards**
Best Charity Film
- 2022** **Finalist, Music & Drama Education Awards**
Progressive & Inclusive Education
- 2022** **Finalist, Music & Drama Education Awards**
Lifetime Achievement Award, David Stanley
- 2017** **Finalist, Music Teacher Awards for Excellence**
Best SEND Resource
- 2015** **Finalist, Music Teacher Awards for Excellence**
Best SEND Resource

National & Civic Honours

- 2024 The King's Award for Voluntary Service**
Awarded to The Music Man Project Ambassadors, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK
- 2023 Freeman of the City of Southend-on-Sea**
David Stanley BEM
- 2021 British Empire Medal (BEM)**
Awarded to David Stanley in The Queen's New Year Honours for services to people with special educational needs and disabilities

Fellowships & Honorary Recognition

- 2019 Churchill Fellow**
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, David Stanley
- 2019 Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)**
David Stanley
- 2018 Paul Harris Fellow**
Rotary International, David Stanley
- 2016 Honorary Member**
Rotary Club of Leigh-on-Sea, David Stanley
- 2006 Honorary Life Member of Southend Mencap**
David Stanley

From community recognition in Southend-on-Sea to national honours and international awards, each accolade represents another milestone in The Music Man Project's mission to transform lives through music and show the world what people with learning disabilities can achieve.