

A shame not to use fame, says Lennox

CHART-TOPPER Annie Lennox said pop stars who did not use their fame to promote good causes were missing an opportunity.

She said music had the potential to provide a platform for all issues, adding, "It should be used in that way—the potential is there, it's a missed opportunity if people don't ever use it."

She said today's celebrity-fixated culture made her "a little sad."

In recent years she has established The Sing Campaign to raise awareness of HIV and is an ambassador for many international organisations on the issue.

She said, "With this issue it really, really helps if

The star said the current court case in Germany involving HIV positive pop star Nadja Benaissa, who is accused of grievous bodily harm for allegedly infecting one man, was a "dark story," but said a positive message could be found.

She added, "People will see from this young woman that HIV is not only a gay community thing, it's a heterosexual issue—60% of people living with HIV in certain countries are women."

She said, "I want to contribute to changing the perception of HIV. I want people to know that it's the biggest killer of women of reproductive age globally."

Ms Lennox remained tight-lipped about current musical projects, but said she will speak about them in a few months time.

She will deliver the General Teaching Council for Scotland lecture about her Sing campaign at the Festival of Politics today.

She confirmed she will visit Malawi in February in her role as special envoy to the Scottish branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Labour MSP Jack McConnell said, "There have been a number of discussions between Annie and I about her Sing campaign and the work she can do here in Scotland and Malawi."

Lennox formed Eurythmics with Dave Stewart in 1980.

They were one of the biggest British music acts of the 1980s, selling 75 million records worldwide and scoring hits such as There Must Be An Angel.



Annie Lennox

you've been to a country that is outside of your own culture and you look people in the eye and you're able to take an abstract statistic that you may have read and personify it with one individual."

