

# philharmonia orchestra

## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA LEICESTER RESIDENCY 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT The Philharmonia Orchestra celebrates its 10th Anniversary as resident orchestra in Leicester on Sunday 3 June with a special celebratory day.**

The day's celebrations will consist of a Philharmonia concert with Soloists of the Philharmonia taking centre stage in the first half performing works by Dukas, Bach, Mendelssohn and Francaix, climaxing in Saint-Saëns' exhilarating *Organ* Symphony chosen in a special audience poll in April 2005; a Family Music Day featuring *Peter and the Wolf*; and a free post-concert party with the Philharmonia musicians playing tango strings, jazzy brass and Italian arias.

On 4 April 1997 Benjamin Zander conducted Mahler's gigantic Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection* in the Philharmonia Orchestra's first concert at De Montfort Hall, launching the Residency and setting the scene for a partnership, which ten years later continues to go from strength to strength. The Philharmonia now not only performs up to ten concerts a year at dmh but also has a strong presence throughout Leicestershire: performing as part of the Leicester Comedy Festival and Leicester International Music Festival; Soloists of the Philharmonia concerts and Friends Chamber Ensemble events throughout the region; and many Community & Education projects in schools and the local community.

The aim of the Residency is to bring a classical music season of the highest international quality to the residents of Leicester, with major artists from South Bank Centre, London. The last ten years have seen such distinguished conductors as Principal Conductor Christoph von Dohnányi, Principal Guest Conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, Conductor Laureate Vladimir Ashkenazy, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Leonard Slatkin, as well as soloists of the highest calibre including Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Joshua Bell and Mikhail Pletnev.

A high priority is set on educational activity related to the Residency. In addition to the annual Family Music Day, ongoing projects in the Leicester community include 'Symphony Days,' creative, hands-on workshops to introduce young people to the symphonic repertoire and attend a Philharmonia concert, and 'Creative Orchestra,' which offers young people the chance to develop instrumental and improvisation skills with musicians in a week-long project. In December 2006 the Orchestra also worked with Leicester's Peepul Centre on Orchestra Live's *In a Different Light* project which culminated with a 20-minute commission by Composer-in-Residence Dominique Le Gendre for the Philharmonia Orchestra and Peepul Community Choir at the Peepul Centre.

The world première of a Birthday Fanfare by Dominique Le Gendre (jointly commissioned by the Philharmonia and dmh) opened the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a flourish. Other season highlights included a Viennese Gala concert featuring Nicola Benedetti; the annual Lord Mayor's Concert conducted by young Venezuelan sensation Gustavo Dudamel and a welcome return visit to dmh by Sir Charles Mackerras. The season also included two concerts as part of the Orchestra's Elgar 2007 series, the UK's most significant celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sir Edward Elgar's birth conducted by Sir Andrew Davis in 13 different venues nationwide.

Performing at dmh, with its wonderful acoustic, is one of the highlights of the Philharmonia's year. With so many familiar faces applauding at each concert and hundreds of loyal Friends and Subscribers, the Philharmonia has a unique and special place in the life of Leicester.

David Whelton, Managing Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra, commented:

*"Over the last 10 years we have performed to audiences totalling over 100,000 people in the concert hall and taken music workshops, concerts and projects to more than 15,000 children and adults in the community. None of this would have been possible without the loyal and imaginative support of Leicester City Council, our local sponsors, the Arts Council, Orchestra's Live, and of course all the staff at De Montfort Hall. This is one of the finest examples of a real arts partnership and something that everyone in Leicester can be immensely proud of."*

Richard Haswell, De Montfort Hall Manager, said:

*"Like the 100,000 people that have bought tickets, I've enjoyed the extraordinary experience of world-class classical music here at De Montfort Hall. It is a great privilege and one we are immensely proud of. Leicester audiences enjoy the same repertoire, soloists and conductors as the Royal Festival Hall and many other concerts in 30 countries worldwide."*

ENDS

For further information, interviews and photographs, please contact Lisa Tolliday, Philharmonia Orchestra Marketing Assistant on 020 7921 3936 or email [lisa.tolliday@philharmonia.co.uk](mailto:lisa.tolliday@philharmonia.co.uk).

**Sunday 3 June**  
**De Montfort Hall**

**FAMILY MUSIC DAY 12PM**

Once upon a time...  
*Telling stories through music*

**Robin O'Neill** conductor  
**Luke Crookes** presenter

**PROKOFIEV** *Peter and the Wolf*

Free workshops from 10.15am  
**Tickets £3 & £6**

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT 5PM**

**Robin O'Neill** conductor  
**Thomas Trotter** organ  
Soloists of the Philharmonia Orchestra  
**Rebecca Chambers & Rachel Roberts** viola  
**Barnaby Robson** Clarinet  
**Mark van de Wiel** basset horn  
**Hugh Webb & Lucy Wakeford** harp

**DUKAS** Fanfare from *Le Peri*  
**BACH** Brandenburg Concerto No. 6  
**MENDELSSOHN** Konzertstück No. 1 in F minor  
**FRANÇAIX** Concerto for Two Harps and Orchestra, mvts 3 & 4  
**SAINT-SAËNS** Symphony No. 3, *Organ*

Free post-concert party with entertainment by Philharmonia musicians and FREE glass of wine for each audience member supplied by Hardys Wine.

**Tickets £26 £24 £20 £15 £11 £7**

**Box office 0116 233 3111 / demontforthall.co.uk**

**Note to editors:**

Hardys Wines have been official wine sponsor of the Philharmonia Orchestra for five years, and have been involved with the Philharmonia's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Leicester having marked the opening night at De Montfort Hall by providing a celebratory glass of wine for each audience member. On 3 June they will be aiding festivities once again: a glass of Nottage Hill Sparkling Chardonnay will be given to every concert-goer to toast a decade of world-class classical music in Leicester.