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Dear Sir Mark

I read with some concern an article which appeared in the *Evening Standard* in January in connection with the decision of the Victoria & Albert Museum to close its gallery of musical instruments to make way for fashion and costume Holdings. I understand that a good proportion of the collection will be rehoused at the Horniman Museum, which as you know, is much less accessible by comparison to the V&A.

Your collection of musical instruments is of international significance and it is a matter of grave concern to the Society that the V&A has made such a controversial decision when London is one of the leading centres of excellence for classical music in the world.

The ISM, which was founded in 1882 and has over 5000 professional musician members and over 100 corporate members, has received many letters and emails from our members about this decision. I would be grateful if you could provide the ISM with an explanation of the thinking behind it since this is a matter of such concern to the music community.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Annetts

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