



ISM

MEDIA RELEASE

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to Speak at ISM Conference

Master of Queen's Music joined by Alan Rusbridger, Graham Sheffield and Roger Wright in Torquay

Details of the ISM's 2007 Annual Conference have now been announced. The conference, which will be chaired by the eminent clarinettist **Colin Bradbury**, the Society's President for 2006-07, will take place at the Palace Hotel, Torquay, from Tuesday 10 April to Friday 13 April. The theme – *Reclaiming the Stage* – will focus on the need to put classical music at the centre of contemporary culture.

On the first day, following Colin Bradbury's welcome and Presidential Address, **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies**, who will have travelled from Orkney for the occasion, will give the keynote speech. There will be a round table session with four practitioners of 'classical outreach': **Benjamin Ellin** (conductor of the Emfeb Symphony Orchestra), **Gillian Green** (director of Live Music Now! Wales), **Maureen Lehane Wishart** (artistic director of Jackdaws Educational Trust) and **Graham Sheffield** (artistic director of the Barbican, and chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society). The day will close with the film *Rhythm Is It!* about Sir Simon Rattle's work with Berlin schoolchildren and the Berlin Philharmonic on Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

On the second day, **Roger Wright**, Controller of BBC Radio 3, will lead a wide-ranging discussion session about the future of his network; neuroscientist **Dr Lauren Stewart** will explain the physical effects of music on the brain; **Oliver Davies** and **Mark Bromley** will talk about the Museum of Music History which is currently being set up; a wind ensemble concert will take place in St Matthias's Church, a short walk from the hotel; and two of the Society's Specialist Sections (Performers & Composers, and Musicians in Education) will hold their annual meetings.

On the third day, as well as the Society's AGM and the annual meeting of its third Specialist Section (for Private Teachers), there will be a visit to Exeter Cathedral, where conference participants will sing Evensong under the direction of the cathedral's organist, **Paul Morgan**. The guest speaker at the annual dinner in the evening will be **Alan Rusbridger**, editor of the *Guardian*, chairman of the National Youth Orchestra, and a noted amateur musician.



The Palace Hotel, Torquay

At the close of the conference, **Roger Vignoles** will become the ISM's President for 2007-08.

Colin Bradbury said: '*The Annual Conference is the ISM's flagship event: to be able to welcome Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and our other distinguished guests is an honour. The theme of the conference is one on which all of our speakers and participants will have strong views. Serious music and musicians will be given their proper place at centre stage in Torquay.*'

Further details about the conference, as well as a booking form, will be available in January.

A limited number of press passes may be available for the first day of the conference, Tuesday 10 April. Contact membership@ism.org for details.

Ends: 08/2006

Note to Editors: *The Incorporated Society of Musicians, founded in 1882, is the UK's professional body for musicians. It aims to promote the art of music and uphold the honour and interests of the musical profession by protecting the interests of musicians, raising professional standards, and providing legal advice and other benefits to its members. Its 5,000 members include performers, teachers, composers, conductors, organists, writers and others involved in professional musical work.*

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Clockwise from top right: Alan Rusbridger, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Graham Sheffield and Roger Wright

John Batten