

ISM

INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS

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COMMANDING PERFORMANCE

Musicians' professional body heads to Buxton for Conference 2008



CHATSWORTH HOUSE

BOOKING is now open for the annual conference of the **Incorporated Society of Musicians**, the UK's professional body for performers, composers and music teachers. The musicians will meet at the Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire, on 8-11 April.

The theme of the 2008 conference is 'Commanding Performance'. The keynote speech will be given by **Sir John Tusa**, the former managing director of the Barbican Centre in London, and an outspoken critic of state intervention in the arts. Tusa, who recently took the independent chair of the



SIR JOHN TUSA

Conservative Party's Arts Taskforce, will address the issue in his speech on Tuesday 8 April called 'State of the Arts; Arts of the State'.

Also on 8 April, the pianist **David Owen Norris** will discuss whether performers should aim to 'Surprise or Satisfy' their audiences, while sociologist **Professor Frank Furedi** of the University of Kent will ask 'Is there a place for Truth in Music?'

The ISM welcomes the poet and critic **James Fenton** on Wednesday 9 April: he will explore the relationship between sounds and symbols – both in music and words.

There will be plenty of live music throughout the week, too, with performances from the tenor **Mark Padmore**, lute player **Liz Kenny**, and the ISM's outgoing President – and 2008 conference chairman – the distinguished accompanist **Roger Vignoles**. Students from **Chetham's School of Music** in Manchester will also perform.

In an eclectic evening on 9 April, participants will sing Choral Evensong at St John's Church before visiting **Buxton Opera House** to see a production of the comedy 'Doctor in the House'.

On the conference's final evening, the musicians will enjoy a private tour of **Chatsworth House**, which is also the spectacular setting for the closing reception and annual dinner. Music historian **Roderick Swanston** will then take over as ISM President for 2008-09.

The full conference programme and booking form can be downloaded from the ISM website at **ism.org/annualconference**

ENDS [1/08]

Note to Editors: The Incorporated Society of Musicians is the UK's professional body for musicians. It was founded in 1882 and 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, composers, and music teachers, as well as others involved in the musical profession.

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ROGER VIGNOLES JAMES FENTON
ISM President 2007/08