



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

**\*\* THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

## **‘INSPIRATIONAL’ VIOLINIST AND TEACHER DAVID TAKENO SCOOPS ABO AWARD**

Tokyo-born violinist and tutor to many of the UK’s top orchestral and solo violinists, David Takeno, is the winner of this year’s Association of British Orchestras (ABO) Award.

David has committed much of his life to nurturing talent through inspired teaching methods and has taught musicians who now hold active positions in the profession, performing and teaching throughout the world.

During the 1960s he moved to London, where he formed various chamber music ensembles and was a member of the Menuhin Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Since 1976, he has devoted his time to teaching and has taught at the Menuhin School, Cambridge University and at the Guildhall School of Music where he holds the post of 'Eugène Ysaÿe International Chair of Violins'

On receiving the ABO award, David Takeno, said:

“It is indeed a great honour to receive the ABO Award for 2010. The Association of British Orchestras does wonders for spreading culture throughout the country and as 'culture is the soul of the nation', the association provides valuable inspiration to people of all walks of life. This tremendous award encourages me, even more, to nurture and expand the talents of this country.”

Simon Taylor, Chairman of the Association of British Orchestras, said:

“For the last 35 years David Takeno has devoted his life to teaching violin and viola at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. During that time he has trained and inspired literally hundreds of musicians who have gone on to be distinguished soloists, concert masters and orchestra players all over the world, but particularly in Britain. The ABO was delighted to be able to make its annual award to someone who has contributed so much, in such a tangible way, to the excellence of British orchestral music-making.”

As Takeno was given the award, the audience at the ABO Conference heard from past pupils who were full of praise for their former teacher:

Anthony Marwood, award-winning international violin soloist:

"I am so delighted that David is receiving this award. His greatness lies in that he teaches his students to teach themselves. It is the path of greatest resistance, a deeper and more philosophical journey, but the rewards are lasting and extend well beyond the student years. I feel hugely privileged to have encountered David at that crucial starting point, and for helping me, along with countless others, to find the tools with which to grow."

Stephanie Gonley, Leader of the English Chamber Orchestra:

"I feel enormously privileged to have benefitted from David's passionate dedication to music and boundless energy. He has given unwavering support and commitment to his many students over several decades, while encouraging musical independence and an objective approach. I am delighted that he is receiving this award."

Rachel Podger, baroque violinist and Michaela Comberti Chair for Baroque Violin at the Royal Academy of Music:

"David is the most inspiring musician, educator and person! He has the ability to home in on every individual completely and immediately; he understands your nuts and bolts through a remarkable perception, knowledge and wisdom - and through this he helps you realise who you are and what you could become... After a lesson with him I was always on cloud 9 - his teaching was limitless - not just about possibilities in music or interesting historical facts of all kinds, but he encouraged the irresistible urge to bring a musical message across to the listener - I owe him a huge amount."

## **Ends.**

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Photographs available on request.

## **Notes to editors:**

1. The **ABO** is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras throughout the UK and you can find details of all our members on this

site, orchestral facts and information as well as the latest news and comment on the issues that affect British orchestras. See [www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk)

2. The ABO Award is presented annually to an individual or institution considered by members to have made an exceptional contribution to Britain's orchestral life. The Award is unique in the world of music because its recipient is nominated by members of the Association of British Orchestras themselves.

3. Previous recipients of the Award include:

1991 Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

1992 Sir Simon Rattle

1993 Sir John Drummond

1994 Classic FM

1995 William Relton

1996 Sir Michael Tippett

1997 BBC Radio 3

1998 Richard Hickox CBE

1999 Gillian Moore MBE

2000 Edward Smith

2001 Sir Charles Mackerras

2002 Libby MacNamara

2002 John Wallace OBE

2003 Bernard Haitink KBE

2004 Oliver Knussen

2005 Roger Wright

2006 David Richardson

2007 Sir Nicholas Kenyon

2008 Sir Neville Marriner

2008 Vernon Handley CBE

2009 Sir Colin Davis

4. David Takeno Biography

Born in Tokyo, David Takeno began his solo performing career at the age of eight with the New Zealand and Seattle Symphonies and continued in Israel and Europe.

In the 1970s he created various chamber ensembles and was concertmaster of several orchestras in London.

His teaching posts have included the Menuhin School, Cambridge University, and since 1976 the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 1998 he was awarded the W.W. Cobbett Medal for services to chamber music by the Worshipful Company of Musicians