



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

**23 March 2011**

**In response to today's Budget, Mark Pemberton, Director of the Association of British Orchestras, said:**

“We welcome the changes to the Gift Aid system and inheritance tax announced in today's Budget, and are pleased that the Government has given serious consideration to how to increase philanthropy in these challenging times. We hope these initial changes will go some way to making a difference to our members' ability to generate income through private giving. Orchestras will continue to work hard to bring in income from other sources and the ABO will work with the DCMS and the Office of Civil Society to find more ways to provide incentives for individual giving.

“But it's important that the Government understands that this is but a first step in creating a genuine culture of giving, and does not assume that any additional private giving generated from the changes announced today will replace sustained local and national public investment. Orchestras operate using a mixed economy model; with each strand – public, private and earned income – playing a vital part in allowing orchestras to thrive.”

Ends.

For more information or to arrange an interview with Mark Pemberton, contact Melissa Milner [melissa@dhacommunications.co.uk](mailto:melissa@dhacommunications.co.uk) 020 7793 4035 / 07976 636 228