

**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2 February 2011 \*\***

## **New Chamber Orchestra ‘2020 Vision’ launches as sinfonia ViVA hosts ABO Conference in Derby**

The UK orchestral scene will head to Derby on February 16-18 as the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) holds its annual conference in the home-town of conference hosts, chamber orchestra sinfonia ViVA.

It comes as this week the UK’s professional chamber orchestras – small ensembles of orchestral musicians - launch their ‘2020 Vision’, highlighting the unique flexibility, reach, innovation and quality of chamber orchestras and setting out key ambitions for the coming decade.

‘A 2020 Vision for Chamber Orchestras’ draws on examples including the ground breaking digital collaboration between Manchester Camerata and Ex-Novo, the Academy of Ancient Music’s worldwide tours (they’ve played on every continent except Antarctica) and the pioneering *Night Shift* concerts from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment which are drawing new and diverse audiences. It also showcases the wide ranging partnership between Derby City Council, Derby LIVE and sinfonia ViVA.

Mark Pemberton, Director of the ABO, said:

“Holding the ABO’s annual conference in Derby, hosted by one of our chamber orchestra members sinfonia ViVA, is an opportunity to celebrate the reach of orchestras beyond the big cities. Chamber orchestras complement the work of the symphony orchestras by taking classical music to towns and villages across the nation, working in partnership with local venues to provide access to high quality orchestral music.”

The Vision states that by 2020, Chamber Orchestras will aim to:

- Have challenged preconceptions about orchestras and orchestral music
- Have increased our role as cultural ambassadors within the UK and abroad
- Have given communities in more villages, towns and counties the opportunity to experience a live performance
- Have given more children the opportunity to learn, engage and participate with orchestras in education, community and outreach projects
- Lead the world in commissioning and performing new music

Peter Helps, Chief Executive of sinfonia ViVA, said:

"Now more than ever it is important to highlight the central role chamber orchestras play in the social fabric of our society. This short document outlines how these orchestras work in and with communities up and down the land, entertaining audiences, enriching peoples' lives, inspiring people to engage with and participate in music making and helping young people learn transferable life skills which will equip them to become contributors to and leaders in their communities."

The ABO Conference, 'Protect and Survive' will address three major priorities of the current government: the Big Society; increasing philanthropy; and partnerships and collaboration. It will also look at how to best protect the work that orchestras do, and how they can survive and be best placed to thrive.

This year's key speakers include Phillip Blond of ResPublica, Chief Executive of Arts Council England Alan Davey, Culture Minister Ed Vaizey MP, leading philanthropist Sir Vernon Ellis, Chair of NALGAO Lorna Brown and General Secretary of the Musicians' Union John Smith, with sessions covering everything from 'Creative Collaborations' to 'Why Americans Give' with the Big Debate on 'Surviving the New Funding Landscape.'

Mark Pemberton added:

"With the conference focusing on the Big Society and the government's ambitions for increasing philanthropy, it's timely for the ABO to look at the challenges that will face orchestras, in particular outside London. Local authorities are having to make difficult choices about whether they can continue to support the arts, and it is crucial that we look at how partnerships that have developed over the past decade can be sustained."

**Ends.**

For a full conference programme and to book a place, go to: <http://www.abo.org.uk/conference/> or email [info@abo.org.uk](mailto:info@abo.org.uk)

'*A 2020 Vision for Chamber Orchestras*' is available to download from the ABO website, [www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk)

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