



Maestro Sir Colin Davis wins ABO Award

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World renowned conductor and President of the London Symphony Orchestra Sir Colin Davis has received the 2009 Association of British Orchestras (ABO) award, for his outstanding services to British orchestral music. He was awarded the prize at the ABO annual conference, held in Glasgow this year.

Sir Colin Davis has worked extensively with some of the world's leading orchestras and opera houses – including the BBC Scottish Orchestra; the Royal Opera House; Boston Symphony Orchestra; Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra – in a career spanning more than 50 years. The ABO Award will add to his list of international honours from Italy, France, Germany and Finland.

Sir Colin was unable to receive the award in person, but addressed the conference via video link. He said:

"I am honoured to have been given this award and to join the illustrious company that have received it."

Previous recipients of the award, which honours excellence in the British orchestral sector, include Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Nicholas Kenyon.

Chair of the ABO Tim Walker, who presented this year's prize said:

"The ABO Award for 2010 has been made to Sir Colin Davis in recognition of nearly fifty years work with the LSO and eleven seasons as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. He has made an outstanding contribution to the development of orchestral life in Britain."

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
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

4. Sir Colin Davis Biography

During his career he has conducted the BBC Scottish Orchestra, moved on to Sadler's Wells Opera House in 1959 and spent four years as Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra from 1967 to 1971. He became Music Director of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in 1971 and Principal Guest Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1972. He spent the years 1983 to 1992 with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, was Principal Guest Conductor of the New York Philharmonic from 1998 to 2003 and has been Honorary Conductor of the Dresden Staatskapelle since 1990. He was Principal Conductor of the LSO from 1995 to 2006, the longest-serving in their history, and remains their President. On 21 June 2009, 50 years to the day after his first LSO performance, a special concert was given at the Barbican, at which present-day players were joined by many past members of the orchestra. He was awarded a CBE in 1965, knighted in the 1980 New Year Honours and named a Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2001. Most recently he was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2009.