

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 13 APRIL 2011

**Liverpool Philharmonic's Michael Eakin and Live Music Now
Scotland's Carol Main appointed to ABO Board**

Chief Executive of the Liverpool Philharmonic, Michael Eakin, and Director of Live Music Now Scotland, Carol Main, have been appointed to the board of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO). Michael replaces Simon Woods, who has left the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to take over as Executive Director of Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

Michael Eakin has been at the helm of the Liverpool Philharmonic since 2008 – and has previously held positions at Arts Council England and in theatre management. Carol Main is Director of Live Music Now Scotland and Live Music Now International Development, as well as classical music editor of *The List* and a music reviewer for the *Scotsman*. She was also Director of the National Association of Youth Orchestras from 1979 to 2003 and has been appointed to the ABO board to help develop the ABO's support for its recently launched youth ensemble membership.

Simon Taylor, Chairman of the ABO and Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said:

“We are delighted to welcome to the Board two people with such experience and knowledge. As the organisation that represents the interests of the sector across the UK it is vital that we reflect both the breadth and spread of orchestral life, from large internationally renowned and publicly funded ensembles to small independent chamber orchestras and from London to Glasgow and Belfast to Bournemouth. We are also delighted to be building our Youth Orchestra membership whose players are our professional musicians of the future.

“On behalf of the ABO Board, I'd like to thank Simon Woods for his invaluable contribution - and wish him well in his new role in Seattle.”

Michael and Carol join existing ABO board members: Simon Taylor (Chairman), Chief Executive, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Peter Harrap, Orchestra & Chorus Director, Welsh National Opera; Andrew Jowett, Director, Town Hall & Symphony Hall, Birmingham; Barry Kempton, Chief Executive, City of London Sinfonia; Kathryn McDowell, Managing Director, London Symphony Orchestra; Chi-chi Nwanoku MBE, Principal double bass, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Gavin Reid, Director of BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; Leonora

Thomson, Director of Audiences and Development, Barbican Centre; and Bob Riley, Chief Executive of Manchester Camerata.

Ends.

For further information and interviews with the new board members or Simon Taylor, contact: Melissa Milner melissa@dhacommunications.co.uk, 020 7793 4035 / 07976 636 228

Biographies of new board members

Michael Eakin

Michael Eakin took up the position of Chief Executive of the Liverpool Philharmonic in October 2008. The Phil is one of the country's leading music making and presentation organisations, with a world class symphony orchestra, an international concert hall, and a significant learning and engagement programme.

Michael joined the Phil from Arts Council England, with whom he had been Executive Director North West since 2001. In that position he led a growth in Arts Council funding across the North West, and worked closely with the Liverpool European Capital of Culture bid, planning, and delivery processes.

Previously, he was Director of Arts and Leisure for Reading from 1997, with a portfolio including the arts and theatre services as well as libraries, museums and archives, sport and leisure, and tourism.

Michael's initial career was in theatre management, in Hillingdon, West London, and then Reading. He worked for Reading Borough Council as Head of Arts and Theatres, where for several years he ran and programmed the major regional presenting theatre and concert hall, The Hexagon and led the establishment of the UK's major world music festival, the WOMAD Festival in Reading.

Carol Main

Carol Main is a graduate of Edinburgh University and now works in the capital as Director of Live Music Now Scotland and Live Music Now International Development, as well as classical music editor of The List and a music reviewer for the Scotsman. She has recently stepped down as long-standing Chair of Hebrides Ensemble, Scotland's foremost contemporary music group, and is a member of the Board of Directors of St Mary's Music School.

Carol was the founding Director of the National Association of Youth Orchestras, and established its Festival of British Youth Orchestras in Edinburgh and Glasgow between 1979 and 2003. She co-founded the European Association of Youth Orchestras and was a founding

member of the European Union Cultural Forum. She is currently involved in setting up the UK Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq. She has served on the Music Committee, Local Authority Partnerships, Cross Media and Arts and Social Inclusion Panels of the Scottish Arts Council and was one of SAC's first Specialist Advisors, She is a past Chair and Director of Enterprise Music Scotland and was Vice-Chair of Voluntary Arts Scotland for five years until 2008. She served almost 20 years until 2005 as a Board Director of Edinburgh Festival Fringe, of which she was also a member of the Management Committee. She was awarded a Herald Archangel at the 2002 Edinburgh Festival.