TWO NEW FACES JOIN BOARD AS ABO GEARS UP FOR CRUCIAL YEAR FOR ORCHESTRAL SECTOR

Barry Kempton and Simon Taylor appointed Directors

The Association of British Orchestras, the body representing more than 65 professional orchestras in the UK, has appointed two new Board members – as it gears up for a busy year advocating for British orchestras.

Barry Kempton, Chief Executive of the City of London Sinfonia, and Simon Taylor, Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, will take up their positions with immediate effect. They replace Stephen Maddock, Chief Executive of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Dawn Day, General Manager of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, who stepped down this year.

Tim Walker, ABO Chair and Chief Executive and artistic Director of London Philharmonic Orchestra:

"Barry and Simon will be great assets to the Board – Barry represents the interests of the many chamber orchestras who have to survive without public funding and Simon brings a wealth of experience from both the broadcasting side and represents one of the country's leading symphony orchestras. It's a big year ahead for us with the general election and the comprehensive spending review looming, and the board will continue to play a key role in driving our campaigns and ensuring the ABO is well positioned to advocate for the sector."

He said:

"Thanks go to Stephen and Dawn for their sterling work during their time on the board. Particular thanks go to Stephen, who has completed six years' service and made a major contribution to the growth and success of the ABO during that period.

The other ABO board members are:

Peter Harrap, Director of Welsh National Opera; Andrew Jowett, Director of Town Hall & Symphony Hall, Birmingham; Chi-chi Nwanoku MBE, Principal double bass, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Gavin Reid, Director of BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; Bob Riley, General Manager of Manchester Camerata; Leonora Thomson, Head of Communications, Barbican Centre; Timothy Walker AM (Chair), Chief Executive and Artistic Director, London Philharmonic Orchestra; and Simon Woods, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Ends. **04/01/2010.**

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

Barry Kempton

Barry Kempton took up the position of Chief Executive at the City of London Sinfonia in May 2007. He has previously held administrative positions at the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and at the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (USA), where he served for eleven years as both General Manager and Vice President of Artistic Planning. His interest in music goes back to early childhood when he played both trombone and piano. The peak of his performance career was at the age of 16 when he appeared in the televised brass semi-final round of BBC Young Musician of the Year 1980.

Barry studied French and German at Bristol University and has travelled extensively through many parts of the world. His other interests include football and bonsai, and he has volunteered as an adult literacy tutor. He and his American wife Cheryl live in West London.

Simon Taylor

Simon Taylor joined the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras as Chief Executive in March 2008. Prior to joining the BSO he was Senior Producer, Classical Music for BBC Northern Ireland, where he was responsible for the BBC work of the Ulster Orchestra and for a wide range of music output for Radio 3 and locally.

Previously Simon spent a decade working for RTÉ, the Republic of Ireland's national TV and Radio broadcaster, where as Head of Performing Groups he was responsible for the overall management of the National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, RTÉ Vanbrugh String Quartet and RTÉ Choral Groups. Before that he ran an independent music school in his native Dublin. An accomplished guitarist he has performed internationally in UK, France, Spain, Iceland, USA and extensively in Ireland, as well as on radio and television.

Simon has served on the boards of the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music at Queen's University Belfast, The National Chamber Choir of Ireland and the Music Festival in Great Irish Houses.