



Registered charity number: 1048162

Press release

Release date: 18th March 2009

BALLADS FOR A LIVING PLANET

An environmental prom is set to raise thousands of pounds for charity next month when Birmingham's Symphony Hall becomes centre stage for a world premiere of the celebrated 'Ballads for a Living Planet'.

The musical extravaganza will be performed by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) on Sunday April 26th and features the City of Birmingham Choir. All funds raised will be shared between the Birmingham Community Foundation and the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)

The Prom is the brainchild of BPO's chief clarinettist and President of CIWEM, Alastair Moseley, who said: "This will be a fantastic event for hundreds to enjoy. As well as the world premiere, flags should be at the ready for favourites such as 'Jerusalem' and 'Pomp and Circumstance'.

"In my year as President of what is the only chartered institution to represent all aspects of the management and protection of the environment, I wanted to do something arresting and I believe combining the skills of the wonderful BPO and CIWEM to stage this Prom in one of the world's greatest concert halls is the perfect way to do it!"

Ballads for a Living Planet was originally commissioned by Chris Shirley-Smith, director of Water Works UK, and funded by a grant from Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

Conceived as a self-contained song cycle, it has been performed in London on a number of occasions but never in this complete, orchestrated and extended form.

This is a versatile and accessible work that lends itself to performance by the widest range of choirs using virtually any combination of singers.

Chris Shirley-Smith said: "I am delighted that CIWEM has adopted Ballads for a Living Planet as part of its rallying call for greater environmental awareness, and is a call to action for individuals and businesses alike.

Birmingham Community Foundation's CEO, Derek Inman, said: "The Foundation is known for putting on a good show, and this time we're calling on all of nature's elements to celebrate our 'green and pleasant land'. It's an inspiring way to highlight issues around the environment, enjoy a good evening's entertainment and to raise money for some very good local causes."

The Environmental Prom performance will be at the extreme end of large with over 250 orchestra and choir members on stage. Andrew Glen who will be narrating and Ivor McGregor who masterminded the orchestration, are both local musicians.

Under the baton of Michael Lloyd, The Environment Prom will feature other environmentally-inspired music such as Mussorgsky's 'Night on a Bare Mountain;' extracts from Grofe's 'Grand Canyon Suite;' Respighi's 'Pines of Rome;' and Vaughan William's 'Lark Ascending' with violin soloist, Anna Ovsyanikova . Concert-goers will also be treated to the usual prom favourites, including Elgar's 'Land of Hope and Glory', and Parry's 'Jerusalem.'

The weather's part in the environment will not be forgotten as the evening is rounded off with an "electrifying" performance of 'Thunder and Lightning Polka' by Strauss!

Tickets cost from £8.50 and are available to book online at www.thsh.co.uk/view/the-birmingham-philharmonic-environment-prom

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The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, CIWEM, is an independent professional body and a registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environmental management for a clean, green and sustainable world.

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