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Press release

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Plea for Eco Schools to showcase work

Two local charities have issued a plea to schools with Eco status to come forward and showcase their achievements at a forthcoming musical extravaganza to be held in the heart of Birmingham.

The Birmingham Community Foundation and the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) charities are searching for around 20 qualified schools to display storyboards outside the Symphony Hall area on Sunday April 26th.

The exhibition, to run from 2pm until 8pm, will complement a unique Environmental focussed 'Night at the Proms' being staged by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) that evening.

All schools taking part will be offered two complimentary tickets to the concert and a special two for one offer for any additional tickets required.

The Prom is the brainchild of Alastair Moseley, BPO's chief clarinettist, Water Sector director for leading engineering firm WSP and President of The Chartered Institution of Water and the Environment (CIWEM), who said: "I am passionate about the

environment and believe strongly in educating children in schools on how to better protect it to ensure that future generations have a future on this planet.

“I have three children and am fully aware of the Eco status available to schools. During my presidential year I wanted to do something that could pull both education and the environment together right across the UK and in the Midlands this Night at the Proms event does just that!

“The story boards will be enjoyed by visitors to the International Convention Centre during the afternoon as well as all concert goers that night. Everybody will be able to see just how well local schools are doing and hopefully encourage other schools to take part.

Eco Schools is an international award programme guiding schools towards sustainability with a framework to help embed its principles in the heart of school life.

Upon joining the programme – which is free – schools follow a simple seven-step process which helps them address and implement a variety of environmental themes. Topics explored will range from litter and waste to healthy living and biodiversity.

Schools work towards gaining one of three prestigious awards: bronze, silver and the green flag award, symbolizing excellence in the field of environmental activity.

Alastair Moseley continued: “This will be a fantastic event for hundreds to enjoy. As well as the world premiere of Ballads for a Living Planet, flags should be at the ready for favourites such as ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘Pomp and Circumstance’ All funds raised will be split between CIWEM and the Birmingham Community Foundation.

Birmingham Community Foundation's CEO, Derek Inman, said: "This is a great opportunity for schools to show what children have learnt and achieved in the Eco status framework. As a charity that supports many local community projects involving teaching children a variety of skills we heavily endorse this particular event and look forward to enjoying a good evening's entertainment.

Concert-goers will also be treated to the usual prom favourites, including Elgar's 'Land of Hope and Glory', and Parry's 'Jerusalem.'

Schools interested in participating should email CIWEM New Members Group who are co-ordinating efforts ciwem.nmg.midlands@googlemail.com.

Box office 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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For further information please contact Jennifer Chatham (m) 07775 912818

Notes to editor

The Birmingham Community Foundation

The Birmingham Community Foundation is a charitable trust set up in 1997 raising funds from businesses and individuals to promote and support local voluntary / community groups and projects within the area of Greater Birmingham. It serves as a conduit between the region's donors and do-ers and provides support through a programme of constructive grant making for people living within deprived and disadvantaged areas of Birmingham and the Black Country, reaching individuals through small grass-roots groups. During the last 12 months The Birmingham Community Foundation has awarded more than £3.3 million in grants to more than 900 local voluntary and community projects.

For further information on the Birmingham Community Foundation go to www.bhamfoundation.co.uk

Community Foundations

Community Foundation Network, which comprises 57 local charitable foundations covering 94% of the UK population, is the UK's leading expert in revitalising local communities through effective charitable giving.

Its member organisations exist to connect those with money, with dynamic local organisations whose capacity to change lives for the better is only inhibited by a lack of money. Together, they make around £70 million in grants annually to grassroots organisations across the UK.

They are results-orientated, using their local expertise to ensure that the money invested by over 12,500 corporate, individual and public donors, as well as more than £220 million in endowments, makes the lasting difference donors want and expect.

For more information visit www.communityfoundations.org.uk

CIWEM

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.