

PRESS RELEASE

27 October 2014

City of London Sinfonia announces Dame Felicity Lott as Patron with an initial series of family concerts in schools across London

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is delighted to announce **Dame Felicity Lott** as Patron of the orchestra. Dame Felicity will have an active ambassadorial role initially focusing on CLS's education and wellbeing programme **Meet the Music**.

Meet the Music began in 1988 and was one of the first outreach and education programmes established by a UK orchestra and it continues to be a leader in the field. **95%** of CLS's musicians are involved in the programme and they spend approximately **100 days a year** outside the concert hall working with young people, in hospitals and residential homes bringing music-making into the community. In 2013 Meet the Music reached **10,000** people throughout the UK. Partners include a long standing relationship with the world famous Great Ormond Street Hospital.

CLS is currently the only professional orchestra working with children aged 3 – 7 in Tower Hamlets, one of the most socially deprived boroughs in the UK. This autumn Dame Felicity will work with CLS musicians in two school concerts in Tower Hamlets and the London borough of Harrow on 11 and 12 December, both offering 5 - 7 year olds (Key Stage 1) the chance to access one of the best British sopranos of the last 50 years. The concerts will be preceded by workshops at four schools across Tower Hamlets and Harrow where **CLS Animateur-in-Residence Claire Henry** will run creative music sessions with Key Stage 1 pupils to introduce them to the idea of the orchestra, including the different instruments and sounds. The workshops will also allow the children to write their own lyrics for a song that Dame Felicity Lott will perform with them in the concerts.

On 13 December, Dame Felicity will join CLS and workshop leader Claire Henry for the second Crash, Bang, Wallop! family concert of the season: 'Christmas Star'. She will act as a 'guiding light' to help find the final shining star on the Christmas tree in a concert featuring music by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky alongside sing-a-long carols and a piece performed by Dame Felicity to the children. Crash, Bang, Wallop! concerts are suitable for children aged 3 - 8 and their parents and are an exciting introduction to orchestral and classical music, with audience participation and interaction.

Dame Felicity Lott said on becoming Patron, 'I am really proud to become Patron of CLS. It has a rich history and CLS's work in education and wellbeing is truly remarkable and an area which I am passionate about. I want to get up close with communities and give them access to the wonderful music I have had the privilege to perform for the last 50 years. I hope that together we can reach a further 10,000 people over the next few years and through the power of music help to transform lives.'

Dame Felicity Lott is one of Britain's best loved sopranos. Her operatic repertoire ranges from Handel to Stravinsky, but she has above all built up her formidable international reputation as an interpreter of the great roles of Mozart and Strauss. She has sung in the major opera houses including the Royal Opera House, the Metropolitan Opera, the Bavarian State Opera, Glyndebourne and the Vienna State Opera. A founder member of The Songmakers' Almanac, she has appeared on the major recital platforms of the world, including the Salzburg, Prague, Bergen, Aldeburgh, Edinburgh and Munich Festivals, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna and the Salle Gaveau, Musée d'Orsay, Opera Comique, Chatelet and Theatre des Champs Elysees in Paris. She has a



particularly close association with Wigmore Hall and received the Wigmore Hall Medal in February 2010 for her exceptional contribution to the hall. She was made a CBE in the 1990 New Year Honours and in 1996 was created a Dame Commander of the British Empire.

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Listings

13 December 2014, 12pm, Cadogan Hall

Crash, Bang, Wallop!: Christmas Star

Claire Henry animateur/presenter

Dame Felicity Lott soprano

City of London Sinfonia

Venue Booking Information:

Cadogan Hall, London: www.cadoganhall.com or Box Office 020 7730 4500

Notes to Editors

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is the orchestra that promises to surprise and move you. It involves people from all ages and backgrounds in life-enhancing music experiences to create an exciting and harmonious future together. The Orchestra is led by Stephen Layton Artistic Director & Principal Conductor) and Michael Collins (Principal Conductor). CLS makes regular appearances at all the major London concert halls and venues, as well as St Paul's Cathedral and other venues in the City of London and on its fringes. It has been resident orchestra at the capital's popular Opera Holland Park since 2004, and is a regular guest at major UK festivals. The Orchestra has an extensive discography, including a series of award winning operas by Benjamin Britten on the CHANDOS label. CLS's latest release is a recording of Weber's Clarinet and Horn Concertos on the CHANDOS label.

The [Meet the Music](#) education and outreach programme brings music-making into the community by working in schools and education settings for young children, in hospitals and in residential homes. The Orchestra's current programmes include:

- **Growth through Music** which brings music and musicians into schools, nurseries and community settings. The annual **Lullaby Concert Tour** works with very young children across Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Essex and is organised in partnership with **Orchestras Live** as part of their **First Time Live** scheme.
- **Wellbeing through Music** includes work in the field of health and wellbeing: visits to **Great Ormand Street** and **Evelina Children's Hospital** where musicians perform on the wards as well as presenting concerts.
- **L'Chaim** is a rapidly expanding programme which sends musicians into residential homes for elderly Jewish refugees and holocaust survivors for a series of interactive concerts.

The CLS 2014-15 London season is supported by Arts Council England, with additional support for CLoSer from M&G Investments, The London Community Foundation, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The Radcliffe Trust.



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