

## NEWS RELEASE

23 January 2012

# ***MusicMix*** – bringing orchestral music alive for young people from across Norfolk

Theatre Royal, Norwich  
Tuesday 20 March 2012, 10.45am and 1.30pm

Following its huge success in 2010 the **BBC Concert Orchestra** returns to Norfolk on Tuesday 20 March 2012 with two instalments of their interactive concert *MusicMix*. 2,000 young people aged 10 – 14 from around 50 schools across Norfolk will see the orchestra perform, with live and pre-recorded footage on a big screen and music from Handel to Jessie J. The concert provides a unique experience for young concert-goers and a special insight into the vast and varied world of orchestral music.

*MusicMix* features the full BBC Concert Orchestra and will be presented by Blue Peter's **Barney Harwood** and **Helen Skelton**, who has just completed her incredible South Pole challenge. The concert programme includes traditional classical works such as Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and 'Montagues and Capulets' from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, alongside music from TV shows *Doctor Who* and the recent BBC Natural History hit *Frozen Planet*.

Participation and engagement runs at the heart *MusicMix* with over 70 young people from local schools performing on stage alongside the orchestra, as well as the entire audience getting a chance to take part in the group song – Stevie Wonder's *Sir Duke*.

Students from Aylsham High School are having their own scrapheap challenge, and over the coming weeks will build percussion instruments to perform *Junk Funk*, an up-tempo piece in the style of American cop and action TV theme tunes of the 1970/80's written by BBC CO percussionist Stephen Whibley.

Singing an arrangement of Leonard Bernstein's 'Something's Coming' from hit musical *West Side Story* will be a combined choir from Wymondham, City of Norwich and Notre Dame High Schools.

A rock band made up of students from Future Projects and Access to Music will be performing Jessie J's 'Price Tag', which has been specially arranged for band and orchestra by BBC CO violinist Sarah Freestone. Sarah will also be coaching and mentoring the rock band in the run up to the concert.

The concerts have been co-produced by **Orchestras Live**, the national development organisation for professional orchestral music, in partnership with the BBC Concert Orchestra and eight local authorities in Norfolk as well as Norfolk Music Service and the Theatre Royal, Norwich.

Stuart Bruce, Partnership Manager of Orchestras Live, said: *Orchestras Live is delighted to be again working collectively with all our local authority partners in Norfolk to enable many young people to have an amazing interactive experience of live orchestral music with the BBC Concert Orchestra. The high level of participation by young people in these concerts will help to make them unique, inspirational events, and we hope everyone will leave with a very positive perception about the modern orchestra and its wide range of music.*

**Ends**

## **Notes to Editors**

1. For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Matt Carwardine-Palmer (Communications Consultant for Orchestras Live) on 07791 465524 / [matt@orchestraslive.org.uk](mailto:matt@orchestraslive.org.uk) or Victoria Peet (Marketing Officer for BBC Concert Orchestra) on 020 8576 0347 / [victoria.peet@bbc.co.uk](mailto:victoria.peet@bbc.co.uk).
2. Orchestras Live is a national music charity which brings orchestral music to thousands of people in under-served areas. Its mission is to inspire, motivate and empower the widest range of people through excellent live orchestral music. Each year it co-produces up to 200 concerts and numerous creative projects involving a range of British and international orchestras. More information at [www.orchestraslive.org.uk](http://www.orchestraslive.org.uk)
3. The BBC Concert Orchestra is perhaps the UK's most versatile orchestra. Their action-packed, eclectic schedule boasts frequent broadcasts on BBC Radio 2 and Radio 3, concert programmes with music from Haydn to Tchaikovsky, film scores with Will Gregory (Goldfrapp) and the Pet Shop Boys, and gigs alongside the likes of the Guillemots, Kasabian, Annie Lennox, KD Lang and Will Young. The 56 players happily switch between recording shimmering scores for TV like *Planet Earth*, *Coast*, *Walking with Dinosaurs*, *Kombat Opera* and *Sports Personality of the Year* to building talent and audiences of the future in schools projects in London and the East of England. For the last three years the Orchestra's Composer-in-Residence has been Jonny Greenwood, otherwise known for his work with Radiohead. More information at [www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras](http://www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras)
4. *MusicMix* partners are Orchestras Live, BBC Concert Orchestra, Broadland District Council, South Norfolk District Council, King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, SeaChange Arts, Breckland District Council, Norfolk Music Service, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norwich City Council and the Theatre Royal, Norwich.