

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

Master of the Queen's Music announced as President of the Musicians Benevolent Fund

- **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies appointed President of the Fund at 2010 AGM**
- **Second ever President in Fund's 89 year history**



Master of the Queen's music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies was made President of the Musicians Benevolent Fund at its recent Annual General Meeting. Maxwell Davies is the second ever President in the Fund's 89 year history, following in the footsteps of another Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Edward Elgar. Elgar helped set up the charity in memory of his good friend and tenor Gervase Elwes.

The role of President will replace that of Chairman of the Advisory Council, which was held for the last 20 years by conductor and composer Sir David Willcocks. The President will lead the Fund's Council of Ambassadors which includes many key figures from the music industry such as conductors Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Neville Marriner, composer Howard Goodall and jazz singer Dame Cleo Laine.

David Sulkin, Chief Executive of the Musicians Benevolent Fund, says: "We are delighted that Sir Peter Maxwell Davies has agreed to become President of the Fund. Through this new role Sir Peter will act as a vital champion of our work. Sir Peter has a wealth of knowledge and experience which will help guide us into our next 90 years".

To find out more about the Musicians Benevolent Fund visit the Fund's new website: helpmusicians.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

About the Musicians Benevolent Fund

The Musicians Benevolent Fund is a unique charity which provides essential help to musicians of all ages. The Fund supports music professionals throughout their working lives when a crisis such as an accident or illness can have a devastating impact and in later life, with the challenges that face older people. The Fund

also recognises that the life of a professional musician has to begin early and supports talented young people to enable them to fully develop their creativity and musical potential.

Please note that the Musicians Benevolent Fund is no longer using the acronym 'MBF' and should be referred to as 'the Musicians Benevolent Fund' or 'the Fund' thereafter.

About Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

Universally acknowledged as one of the foremost composers of our time, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies has made a significant contribution to musical history through his wide-ranging and prolific output. He lives in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland, where he writes most of his music. In a worklist that spans more than five decades, he has written across a broad range of styles, yet his music always communicates directly and powerfully, whether in his profoundly argued symphonic works, his music-theatre works or witty light orchestral works.

Maxwell Davies' major dramatic works include the operas *Taverner*, *Resurrection*, *The Lighthouse* and *The Doctor of Myddfai*; two full-length ballets, and music-theatre works *Eight Songs for a Mad King* and *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*. His huge output of orchestral work comprises eight symphonies, as well as numerous concerti, light orchestral works and five large-scale works for chorus. His most recent series is the landmark Naxos String Quartet cycle, which was recently presented in its entirety over one weekend at the Southbank Centre.

Maxwell Davies has held the position of Composer/Conductor with both the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Philharmonic Orchestras, and has guest-conducted international orchestras at the highest level. He retains close links with the St. Magnus Festival, Orkney's annual arts festival which he founded in 1977, and is Composer Laureate of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Maxwell Davies was knighted in 1987 and appointed Master of the Queen's Music in 2004, in which role he seeks to raise the profile of music in Great Britain, as well as writing many works for Her Majesty the Queen and for royal occasions.

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