



Abbey Road Studios Announces Worldwide Anthem Competition

LONDON, Wednesday 9th March 2011: The world famous Abbey Road Studios today launches a worldwide competition to find original, unsigned and undiscovered composers through a global anthem competition in celebration of the studios 80th anniversary. The initiative will give composers of all ages and abilities the chance to record their anthem at Abbey Road Studios with the internationally regarded London Symphony Orchestra and some of the UK's finest singers, conducted by renowned composer Eric Whitacre. Any anthem may be submitted as long as it hasn't been published or recorded for commercial release.

The winning anthems will be recorded in the studio's legendary Studio One, home to the recording of many of the greatest anthems of all time, from Land of Hope and Glory to the Star Wars title sequence and The Beatles' All You Need Is Love.

An esteemed jury of professional composers including industry legends Eric Whitacre, Harry Christophers, George Fenton and Rob Mathes will choose the winning anthems. If required winners will receive assistance from leading arrangers to ensure the competition is accessible to composers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and then recorded by Abbey Road Studios engineers using world-class microphones and equipment.

Jonathan Smith, General Manager of Abbey Road Studios, said, "This competition will give composers an opportunity to have their work performed and recorded to the very highest standard. Sir Edward Elgar opened Abbey Road Studios 80 years ago with a great anthem, Land of Hope and Glory, performed then by the London Symphony Orchestra. All composers will have the chance to record their anthems in the same studio with the same world-class orchestra. It's a thrilling prospect and a wonderful way to celebrate Abbey Road Studios 80th anniversary."

Eric Whitacre said, "I can't think of a better way to celebrate 80 years of excellence at the world's most famous recording studios than creating *new* music, giving everyone the chance to participate.

Elgar to Radiohead, Abbey Road has hosted the very best. We want to find the great anthems of our time. It is an honor to be involved in the selection process and to record the winning entries. I encourage all writers/composers to submit their music; inspire us."

The competition runs from 9th March 2011 until 15th July 2011, the closing date for entries being 15th July 2011. Entries will not be accepted as eligible after midnight on this closing date.

To participate please send your anthem by e-mail to: anthem.competition@abbeyroad.co.uk or by post to:

Anthem Competition
Abbey Road Studios
3 Abbey Road

Press release
March 9th 2011



London NW8 9AY UK

Only one entry will be accepted per person and this will be the first entry received by us.

Competition rules and full terms and conditions apply. www.abbeyroad.com/anthem.

Ends

For more information please contact:-

James Herring at Taylor Herring PR, +44 (208) 206 5151, james.herring@taylorherring.com

Notes To Editors

Competition rules, terms and conditions www.abbeyroad.com./anthem

To enter the competition composers need to write an anthem to be performed by a choir. The anthems must be no longer than six minutes and be written for a mixed choir of adults, children or a blend of both (with soloists if required). The composition may be for a cappella choir, for choir accompanied by a specific ensemble or for choir with a keyboard accompaniment that would form the basis of an arrangement or orchestration appropriate for the composition; possibly solo harp through to a full symphony orchestra. The competition is worldwide and is open to all age groups although submissions must be made in English.

Up to ten anthems will be selected and winners will join generations of legendary composers who have recorded their work at Abbey Road Studios.

An-them \ Pronunciation: ăn`thēm

- 1: a celebration of a mood or emotion
- 2: a rousing popular song that typifies or is identified with a particular culture, movement, or point of view
- 3: a song of praise and devotion
- 4: a sacred vocal composition with words usually from the Scriptures

About Abbey Road Studios

Abbey Road Studios has been at the forefront of music innovation, recording and production since 1931, this year celebrating 80 years.

Many of the worlds greatest anthems have been recorded at Abbey Road Studios from the opening ceremony in 1931 when Sir Edward Elgar, conducted the historic recording of Land Of Hope and Glory, played by the London Symphony Orchestra in Studio One to The Beatles recording of All You Need is Love, in 1967, again in Studio One as part of the worlds first ever television satellite broadcast.



About Abbey Road Studios, Studio One

Studio One is one of the world's largest purpose-built recording studio.

The space can accommodate a 110-piece orchestra and 100-piece choir simultaneously. Studio One's acoustic is as famous as the location, offering a supremely warm and clear sound, perfect for numerous types of recording, from solo piano to large orchestras.

For more information, please visit www.abbeyroad.com

About the London Symphony Orchestra

The London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) is widely regarded as one of the world's leading orchestras. Since its formation in 1904, it has always attracted some of the finest players from all over the world, many of whom have flourishing solo, chamber music and teaching careers alongside their orchestral work.

The LSO's roster of soloists and conductors is second to none, including LSO President Sir Colin Davis, Principal Conductor Valery Gergiev, André Previn as Conductor Laureate, and Daniel Harding and Michael Tilson Thomas as Principal Guest Conductors. Bernard Haitink, Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle are also regular guests. The LSO have been involved in many wonderful recordings at Abbey Road Studios including many film soundtracks. From Raiders of the Lost Ark, the first major feature film to be recorded at Abbey Road Studios, to Return of the Sith, the culmination of the LSO's longest ever running project, Star Wars.

About the Jurors

Eric Whitacre

Eric Whitacre, an accomplished composer, conductor and lecturer, is one of the most popular and performed composers of his generation. To date, his published works have received thousands of performances and have sold in well in excess of one million copies worldwide. In 2010 Eric created the ground-breaking Virtual Choir featuring 185 singers from 12 countries, and achieving over a million hits on YouTube in just two months. The Virtual Choir of 2011 has over 2,000 members from 58 countries, and will be posted in April. Signed by Decca, Eric is one of a handful of composers to have secured an exclusive, long-term recording deal. His debut album, Light & Gold, released in October 2010, became the No 1 Classical Album in the US and UK charts within a week. Best known for his choral output, Eric also has a substantial volume of work for orchestra, most recently a commission from the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus which was premiered in London in 2010, in an all American programme which he conducted. Staying in the UK from September to December 2010, Eric was a Visiting Fellow in Music and Composition at Cambridge University. His award winning musical, 'Paradise Lost' will be recorded for release in 2011, and in addition to commissions from choirs and orchestras around the world, Eric is also working in his home city of Los Angeles with Hans Zimmer on a theme for a major feature film, conducting recording sessions for elements of the soundtrack at Abbey Road Studios this March.

Rob Mathes

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A regular visitor to Abbey Road Studios, Rob is a renowned arranger/composer, music producer/director and performer. Rob uniquely crosses many musical styles, from writing concert works for groups such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic to songs for Bonnie Raitt. Equally his arrangements are as at home for artists as diverse as Lou Reed and the band Panic at the Disco as they are for Yo Ma and the soprano Renee Fleming. He has produced recordings for many artists, among them Vanessa Williams, Carly Simon and Rod Stewart. More recently he was nominated for a Grammy award for producing Bettye LaVette's *Interpretations* and he just produced Sting's *Live In Berlin* and *Symphonicities* CDs for which he also made several arrangements. He also recently completed tracks for the new album by Glee's Matthew Morrison, including a duet with Sir Elton John. A regular Music Director for the annual Kennedy Center Honors, Rob is also the longtime Music Director for The Songwriter's Hall Of Fame and he also arranged and musically directed the We Are One-Obama Inauguration Concert at the Lincoln Memorial for HBO featuring Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, U2, Beyonce and others.

Harry Christophers

Harry Christophers is known internationally as founder and conductor of The Sixteen as well as a regular guest conductor for many of the major symphony orchestras and opera companies worldwide. He has directed The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra throughout Europe, America and the Far East gaining a distinguished reputation for his work in Renaissance, Baroque and 20th-century music. He has made a significant contribution to the recording catalogue (already comprising some ninety titles) for which he has won numerous awards including a Grand Prix du Disque for Handel's *Messiah*, numerous Schallplattenkritik, the coveted Gramophone Award for Early Music and most recently, the prestigious Classical Brit Award 2005 for his disc entitled *Renaissance*. His CD *IKON* was nominated for a 2007 Grammy. In 2000 he instituted the Choral Pilgrimage, a national tour of English cathedrals from York to Canterbury in music from the pre-Reformation, as The Sixteen's contribution to the millennium celebrations. It raised awareness of this historic repertoire so successfully that the Choral Pilgrimage in the UK is now central to the annual artistic programme.

George Fenton

George is one of Britain's leading Composers, best known for his music for over seventy feature films, and numerous television programmes, with a long association with Abbey Road Studios. His many awards and nominations include 5 Oscar nominations for *Gandhi*, *Cry Freedom*, *The Fisher King* and *Dangerous Liaisons* and BAFTA and Emmy awards for his music to the groundbreaking documentaries *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*. George has had tremendous success touring countries conducting a live show with orchestra based around his music for *The Blue Planet*. This year sees the launch of *Planet Earth Live* featuring highlights from the BBC television series in full High Definition on the big screen, with narrator and George conducting a full symphony orchestra. George was a founder of the *Association of Professional Composers* which became part of the *British Academy of Composers and Songwriters* (which present the annual *Ivor Novello Awards*) for which George was awarded a fellowship in 2007. George is a visiting professor at the Royal College of Music.

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