



28 August 2007

CITY GETS READY FOR FESTIVAL FINALE

This week the **Edinburgh International Festival** is building up to its annual spectacular finale on **Sunday 2 September at 9.00pm** with the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** performed live by the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**.

Preparations are underway as the city gets ready for one of the world's greatest fireworks concerts. Choreographed to a live orchestral performance, this immensely popular event last year attracted an audience of over **250,000 people** viewing from vantage points across the capital and is the biggest annual event of its kind in Europe.

Acclaimed conductor **Clark Rundell** is rehearsing with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for their performance of a selection of great American music by Bernstein, Gershwin, Barber, Ives and Copland.

Meanwhile, international fireworks artists **Wilf Scott** and **Keith Webb** are hard at work up at the Castle with their expert team of 15 technicians laying out all the fireworks.

Over 100,000 fireworks, four tonnes of explosives, and hundreds of firing sequences, including the famous waterfall cascading from Edinburgh Castle, will be used during an unforgettable 45 minutes.

Adding to the experience for the audience in Princes Street Gardens, two large screens will carry a live close up video of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra performing in the Ross Bandstand.

The live video is also seen on a screen in the **Bank of Scotland Family Viewing Area** at Inverleith Park - an ideal viewing area away from the crowds in Princes Street that is particularly suitable for families with younger children.

Jonathan Mills, Festival Director, Edinburgh International Festival said: "The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert offers everyone a chance to celebrate the end of the Festival season in spectacular style. We are delighted that with the continued support of the Bank of Scotland, thousands of people across the city will enjoy the grand finale to what has been a wonderful Festival"

Karen Tighe, Acting Head of Sponsorship, Bank of Scotland said, "The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert is the perfect finale to the Edinburgh International Festival and offers the whole city the chance to get involved and enjoy the spectacle. We are delighted to be involved and hope that everyone enjoys the show."

Roy McEwan, Managing Director, Scottish Chamber Orchestra said: "This year's music will be as colourful as the fireworks and just as explosive. The great team of Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Bank of Scotland and Edinburgh International Festival will once again come together to provide a suitably climactic end to the festivals season"

Councillor George Grubb, Lord Provost for the City of Edinburgh, said: "The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert is a fantastic finale to Edinburgh's vibrant summer festivals season. I would urge people to get out and enjoy the fireworks display and encourage families to make use of the viewing area in Inverleith Park. Do ensure you keep safe and listen to advice from the police and stewards as they are there to help you."

Tom Halpin, Lothian and Borders Police Deputy Chief Constable, said: "This years fireworks display promises to be an excellent event with large crowds expected across the city centre.

"As always, public safety is our main consideration. We would ask that people do not bring glass or bottles to the event and would encourage families to make use of the viewing area at Inverleith Park. We would ask everybody to follow the safety advice given by police officers and stewards and I am sure this will prove to be a very enjoyable night."

Festival fans in Scotland and across the world can keep up to date on all the latest news about the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** at www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandfireworksconcert

Forth One and **Forth 2** will broadcast the Concert live on the night, enabling members of the public to tune in and experience the full atmosphere of the event from wherever they choose to view it.

For the very first time, the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** will be streamed live on www.stv.tv/fireworks and www.scotlandontv.tv on Sunday 2 September at 9pm, followed by an exclusive broadcast on **stv** at 11.10pm.

Ends

For further media enquires please contact:

The Edinburgh International Festival Press Office on Tel: 0131 473 2020 / 07813 879 225 or email press@eif.co.uk

For media enquiries about the Bank of Scotland please contact Jenny Mungall, Material, on Tel 0141 204 7970 / 07813 886 448

Notes to Editors:

Sunday 2 September 9pm

Princes Street Gardens

Sponsored by **Bank of Scotland**

Edinburgh International Festival 2007

BANK OF SCOTLAND FIREWORKS CONCERT

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Clark Rundell	Conductor
Bernstein	<i>Overture 'Candide'</i>
Gershwin	<i>Overture 'Strike up the Band'</i>
Barber	<i>Adagio for Strings</i>
Ives	<i>Three Places in New England</i>
Copland	<i>Rodeo 'Buckaroo Holiday'</i>

Clark Rundell is Head of Conducting and Director of Contemporary Music at Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. He regularly conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he made his debut in 1987, as well as others including the BBC Philharmonic, the Hallé and the Philharmonia Orchestra, with whom he recently performed at the Royal Albert Hall. Clark is also Artistic Director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's new music group, Ensemble 10/10.

For further information on the concert, members of the public are advised to visit www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandfireworksconcert

For non-ticket holders **The Bank of Scotland Family Viewing Area** at Inverleith Park provides an ideal viewing area away from the crowds in Princes Street and is particularly suitable for families with younger children. This year the facilities at Inverleith Park will feature a large screen with a live link to the orchestra in the Ross Bandstand. The concert is broadcast in the park and across the city by Forth One and Forth 2. Entertainment starts from 7pm.

To allow members of the public to congregate and view in safety, Princes Street will close from 12.30pm; Hanover Street, Frederick Street and Castle Street will close from in-between their junctions with Princes Street and George Street from 12.30pm; The Mound will close from Princes Street to its junction with Market Street from 5.00pm; and surrounding streets will close from 6.00pm.

To view the concert, no tickets or passes are required for the city centre (only for Princes St Gardens).

Parking for blue badge holders has been arranged at Calton Hill and Inverleith Park and King's Stable Road. These areas are free of charge and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Bank of Scotland invests in an award winning programme of sponsorship which includes Edinburgh International Festival, Scottish Ballet, Aye Write!, Bank of Scotland Book Festival and Bank of Scotland Total Art, a partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland.

The **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** is at the heart of the arts in Scotland. Formed in 1974 with a commitment to serve the Scottish community, the Orchestra is internationally recognised as one of the world's foremost chamber orchestras.

Featuring world class new and classic drama, opera, music, dance and visual arts, the **2007 Edinburgh International Festival** runs from **Friday 10 August to Sunday 2 September** across the city in theatres, concert halls and opera houses attracting audiences from around the world to Scotland's picturesque capital. Full details are available at www.eif.co.uk.