

CITY GETS READY FOR FESTIVAL FINALE

This week the **Edinburgh International Festival** is building up to its annual spectacular finale, on **Sunday 31 August at 9.00pm** the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** is performed live by the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and **Pyrovision**.

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 **Nicolae Moldoveanu** is rehearsing with the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** for their performance of the exuberant **Slavonic Dances** by **Dvořák** and **Hungarian Dances** by **Brahms**.

Meanwhile, international fireworks artists **Wilf Scott** and **Keith Webb** of **Pyrovision** 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 of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra is also relayed to a screen in the **Bank of Scotland Family Viewing Area** in Inverleith Park, a free and unticketed viewing area particularly suited to families with younger children.

Those without tickets can enjoy the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** from **Princes Street**, which is closed to traffic for the evening and has an enhanced sound system carrying the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's performance from the Ross Bandstand for 2008.

Forth 1 and **2** broadcast the concert live, enabling people to tune in and experience the full atmosphere of the event from wherever they choose to watch it.

The event streams live on **stv**'s website, www.stv.tv/fireworks, and is broadcast on stv later in the evening at **10.20pm**. The programme, ***Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert from the Edinburgh International Festival***, will be hosted by one of stv's most well-known faces, *Scotland Today* presenter Louise White.

Jonathan Mills, Festival Director, Edinburgh International Festival said: "The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert is a spectacular way to celebrate the end of the Festival season. I would like to thank the Bank of Scotland for their continued support of this wonderful, popular event. There is a fantastic atmosphere in Princes Street Gardens, and across the city, where crowds gather to watch the display. Remember to tune in to Radio Forth to hear the concert broadcast live. Or if you can't be with us then watch it live online or on stv at 10.20pm the same night."

Karen Tighe, Deputy Head of Sponsorship, Bank of Scotland said, "We're looking forward to what promises to be another spectacular display next weekend and are delighted that stv will be broadcasting the performance on the night."

Roy McEwan, Managing Director, Scottish Chamber Orchestra said, "This year's finale promises to be as breathtaking as ever with the Orchestra performing an exuberant programme of central European folk dance music by Dvořák and Brahms, led by acclaimed Romanian conductor, Nicolae Moldoveanu. Our established partnership with the Bank of Scotland and the Edinburgh International Festival is once again set to provide a suitably climatic end to the festivals season."

Cllr Steve Cardownie, Festival and Events Champion at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "With the summer festivals in full swing, August is a fantastic month to be in Edinburgh and the Bank of Scotland Fireworks display ensures that we end the season with a big bang.

"I would encourage visitors and residents alike to either come into town, visit Inverleith Park or find a suitable point across the city to view the spectacular display and listen to an outstanding performance from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra."

Fiona Taylor, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police, said: "The fireworks display is hugely popular with local people and visitors to Edinburgh.

"Public safety is our main consideration and while we want people to enjoy themselves, we want them to be safe too. There will be police and stewards on duty on the night who are there to help. Please follow their advice.

"We would ask that people do not bring glass or bottles to the event and stress that anyone under the age of 18 found in possession of alcohol will be firmly dealt with."

Radio Forth's Station Director, Cathy Kirk, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be the long term radio partner for one of the best events in the world. Forth One and Forth 2 are proud to be the sound of the event and bring it to people of Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife. "

Bobby Hain, Managing Director of Broadcasting, stv said: "The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert is a fantastic way to end the festival, and I'm delighted that stv can help bring the event to a global audience."

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

Ends

Notes to Editors

Edinburgh International Festival 2008

BANK OF SCOTLAND FIREWORKS CONCERT

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Nicolae Moldoveanu	Conductor
Dvořák	<i>Slavonic Dances (Excerpts)</i>
Brahms	<i>Hungarian Dances (Excerpts)</i>

Sunday 31 August 9pm

Princes Street Gardens

Tickets - Returns only

Sponsored by **Bank of Scotland**

For further information on the concert, members of the public should contact Hub Tickets on Tel: 0131 473 2000 or visit www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandfireworksconcert

For further media enquires please contact:

Brian Maycock or Susie Burnet in the Edinburgh International Festival Press Office on Tel: 0131 473 2020 or email press@eif.co.uk

For further information on **Bank of Scotland** please contact Gillian McCormack or Jenny Mungall on 0141 204 7970

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. **Bank of Scotland** has sponsored the Fireworks Concert since 1995.

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.

Edinburgh International Festival continues until 31 August and arguably saves some of the best for last – with 38 events still to run before the ***Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert***. Highlights include the ***Whirling Dervishes of Turkey***, ***Batsheva Dance Company***, ***Devil's Ship*** and a hotly-anticipated world premiere from theatrical genius and festival favourite, **Heiner Goebbels**. The **Festival also tours to Rutherglen, Stirling and Cumbernauld**, for the very first time, with special one-off performances of Sarajevo-based East West Theatre Company's *Class Enemy*.

Mobile phone users should look for promotional Bluetooth staff around Princes Street during the concert. By activating the Bluetooth device on your mobile you will receive exclusive pictures of the display, information on the programme and the chance to win tickets for next year's concert.