

PRESS RELEASE



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For immediate release

Old Mutual and City of London Sinfonia announce winner of the Young Composer Prize

Old Mutual and City of London Sinfonia (CLS) are pleased to announce the winner of their Young Composer competition. The competition provided young musicians with the chance to earn a £5000 commission for writing an original overture that will then be performed at the Orchestra's annual Gala Concert on 24th June 2009.

Graham Ross was selected by a panel of three expert judges for his composition, *A London Overture*, a celebratory ode to London in the 21st century. The judging panel were impressed by Graham's strong portfolio and the compelling, original ideas behind his commission.. The judging panel was comprised of Peter Klatzow, Professor in Composition at the University of Cape Town, Alasdair Nicolson, former CLS composer-in-residence and Harry Christophers, celebrated conductor and founder of the world-famous vocal ensemble *The Sixteen*.

At the age of 23, Graham is already establishing himself as a composer and conductor. Having studied at Clare College, Cambridge, and the Royal College of Music, he is co-founder and Principal Conductor of the Dmitri Ensemble, an innovative performing group that performs neglected and newly-written works based around the central theme of a string ensemble. The Ensemble has been praised for its highly-acclaimed performances, including recent performances in St John's, Smith Square, and St. Paul's Cathedral. As winner of the Young Composer competition, he is now being commissioned to write an opening overture that will be played by CLS and conducted by Harry Christophers for the Gala concert [event] in June.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have won the Old Mutual/CLS Young Composer Prize and about the prospect of composing an original piece for the City of London Sinfonia,. This is an exciting opportunity and I am very much looking forward to working with Harry Christophers and the wonderful ensemble at CLS," commented competition winner Graham Ross.

Harry Christophers, a member of the judging panel remarked:

"Working with a young composer who clearly has such a burgeoning talent is fantastic. We are grateful for the sponsorship of Old Mutual in giving Graham the opportunity to have his work performed by one of the country's leading orchestras and at such a high

profile event. This support has also proved valuable in enabling CLS to continue the late Richard Hickox's excellent work in nurturing emerging young talent."

Old Mutual has been a leading sponsor of CLS since 2006, primarily as title sponsor and supporter of the annual Gala Dinner and Concert at the City of London's Mansion House. An additional and important element of the sponsorship has involved CLS providing creative music workshops at Dog Kennel Hill and other London schools in support of Old Mutual's corporate responsibility strategy.

Julian Roberts, Chief Executive of Old Mutual said:

"Old Mutual is proud to sponsor this prize together with the City of London Sinfonia. Encouraging excellence and new ideas is core to what we do and this prize provides a unique and exciting opportunity for a young composer to showcase their creative ability on the highest stage."

For full details of the competition guidelines and application process, please visit www.cls.co.uk/composerprize.

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

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About CLS

The City of London Sinfonia (CLS) was founded in 1971 by Music Director Richard Hickox and performs primarily chamber orchestra repertoire, often with a focus on the human voice.

CLS performs throughout the UK, with regular London appearances at Cadogan Hall and St Paul's Cathedral. It is resident orchestra at the capital's popular summer opera festival, Opera Holland Park, and is regularly invited to perform at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. CLS has travelled to all corners of the globe and enjoyed its first ever visit to Croatia in September 2008.

The Orchestra also works with a wide range of education and community groups, as well as delivering an acclaimed programme of music-based professional skills training. CLS has over 100 recordings to its name, including a series of operas by Benjamin Britten conducted by Richard Hickox on the Chandos label.

Richard Hickox died suddenly in November 2008. He was an extraordinary musician and human being, whose passion, leadership and energy inspire and live on in the Orchestra today.

About Old Mutual plc

Old Mutual plc is a leading international long-term savings Group. Originating in South Africa in 1845, the Group provides life assurance, asset management, banking and general insurance in over 40 countries in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. Old Mutual plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange and the JSE, among others.

Old Mutual's corporate responsibility strategy incorporates five themes: environment, community, suppliers, employees and society. Our work in the community focuses on sustaining growth through education.