



IN A VIRTUAL LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

TICKETS FOR *BANK OF SCOTLAND FIREWORKS CONCERT* RELEASED ONLINE

The next chance to buy tickets for the *Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert* - the spectacular finale to the **Edinburgh International Festival** – is **Monday 27 July** when an allocation of tickets goes on sale **online** at www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandfireworksconcert from **11.00am**.

This year the *Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert* opens with the world famous theme music to the Champions League and includes modern wedding favourite, *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*.

100,000 fireworks will shoot into the sky over Edinburgh's **Princes Street Gardens** on **Sunday 6 September** from **9pm** in a magical 45 minutes must see match up of live music and a choreographed fireworks display.

The music, a selection of some of Handel's most popular works, will be performed by the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and **Chorus**, conducted by **Matthew Halls**.

The *Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert* is the largest annual event of its kind in Europe and last year this hugely popular event drew an audience of around a quarter of a million people viewing from vantage points across the Scottish capital.

The fireworks display is designed by internationally-acclaimed fireworks artist **Keith Webb** of **Pyrovision** and includes four tones of explosives, and hundreds of firing sequences, including the famous waterfall cascading from Edinburgh Castle.

The concert opens with *Zadok the Priest*, which football fans across the globe will recognise as the anthem played before every UEFA Champions League match. Handel composed the piece for the coronation of George II in 1727, and the music has been sung at every subsequent coronation service.

Excerpts from *Music for the Royal Fireworks* follows. Handel composed this music in 1749 for a fireworks display in London's Green Park to celebrate the end of the war of Austrian Succession.

The fireworks continue to a piece of music which is a favourite at weddings across the world, and which some brides choose to accompany them up the aisle - *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from the oratorio *Solomon*.

The concert reaches a soaring conclusion to the *Hallelujah Chorus* from the oratorio, *Messiah* - Handel's most famous work.

An allocation of Gardens tickets for the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** is released for sale at 11am on Monday 27 July online at www.eif.co.uk/bankofscotlandfireworksconcert. These are limited to four per person.

The final allocation of Gardens tickets will go on sale for counter sales only at Hub Tickets on Sunday 30 August at 10am.

The first allocation of Garden tickets were sold via a postal ballot.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

Edinburgh International Festival 2009
BANK OF SCOTLAND FIREWORKS CONCERT

Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Matthew Halls Conductor

Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus

Handel *Zadok the Priest*
Music for the Royal Fireworks (excerpts)
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Solomon
Hallelujah Chorus, Messiah

Sunday 6 September 9pm
Princes Street Gardens
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:

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 Jenny Mungall on 0141 204 7970

For further information on the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** please contact Lauren Johnston Smith on 0131 478 8338

Featuring world class new and classic drama, opera, music, dance and visual arts, **Edinburgh International Festival 2009** runs from **Friday 14 August to Sunday 6 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.

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 one of Scotland's national performing arts companies. 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 and is also performing in the Opening Concert at Festival 09, with the Royal Ballet of Flanders and Scottish Ballet, and in concert at The Usher Hall.