

# Press Release

## *The Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel opens a cello section in October 2011*

26 April 2011

The Music Chapel had for some time planned to open a cello department as part of its programme. This discipline was consequently expected and should moreover inject renewed enthusiasm among the students and undoubtedly prove instantly complementary with and beneficial to the 4 disciplines available since 2004, namely piano, violin, voice and chamber music. We still needed to come across an international authority commensurate with our aspirations to complete the prestigious list of masters in residence -- first rate artists on the international stage who wish to share their passion with the new generation. Gary Hoffman is an exceptional artist with a very impressive career who clearly shares the values of excellence and companionship. He can therefore assume this position of cello master with much talent, for he has held many master classes throughout the world, and is keen on sharing with others the musical emotions of performing on stage. We are therefore very delighted and impatient to welcome him for the 2011-2012 season.

**Bernard de Launoit**, *Executive President*

*It is with a feeling of pride and responsibility that I accept to be part of this project aimed at creating and bringing to life a new discipline, namely cello, in the Music Chapel. I hope that I can live up to this important project as a "master" and am fully aware of the responsibility it entails, for the Music Chapel is synonymous with excellence in instruction and support for young talents today who will be the musicians of tomorrow. I feel that a new page is turned, and I hope that there will be wonderful things to come.*

**Gary Hoffman**

Auditions of candidates will be held on  
**Wednesday, 15 June 2011** at the Music Chapel.

### Communication Department

**Auriane de Fauconval**, external communication and media relations

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**Under the Honorary Chairmanship of H.M. the Queen**

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*Gary Hoffman*

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*Full sound, flawless technique and exceptional artistic sensibility characterize the style of Gary Hoffman.*

Gary Hoffman made his debut at Wigmore Hall in London at the age of 15. He then performed in New York. At the age of 22, he became the youngest professor at the famous school of music of Indiana University. Winner of the Rostropovich First Prize in Paris in 1986, he then embarked on an international career to perform with the greatest orchestras: Chicago, London Symphony and English Chamber Orchestra, Montreal, Toronto, Baltimore, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia...

Gary Hoffman has given recitals in famous concert halls: Alice Tully Hall, Sun-tory Hall, Kennedy Centre, Tivoli, Gulbenkian, St-Lawrence Center, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Beethovenhaus in Bonn, Warsaw Philharmonic, Geneva, Palau de la Musica in Valencia, Théâtre du Châtelet... He has also been invited to perform in many festivals in Korea, Japan and the United States (Bath, Marlboro, Santa Fe, La Jolla, Blossom...), in Europe (Helsinki, Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Stresa, Prades, Colmar, Monte Carlo...), some of which have also called on his instructional talents, and he has given highly prized master classes, in such venues as Kronberg, Salzburg, Ravinia, Israel, Manchester, etc. In addition to the aforementioned orchestras, he has performed with such orchestras as those of Helsinborg, Stavanger, Warsaw, Monte-Carlo, Mulhouse, Metz, Cannes, Bordeaux, Toulouse, National de France, National d'Ile de France, Madrid, Malaga, Granada, Budapest, Belgrade, Haifa, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Santa Rosa, Luxembourg, Het Gelders Orkest... to cite but a few. Although he is fond of the great classical repertoire for cello, Gary Hoffman also enjoys – and has indeed become a committed proponent of -- contemporary music. Composers such as Graciane Finzi, Renaud Gagneux, Joël Hoffman, Laurent Petitgirard, and Dominique Lemaître (to cite but a few) have dedicated their concertos to him.

Gary Hoffman played Carter's concert in Amsterdam (he had performed the French premiere in 2006 in Monte Carlo): in the premiere of Lemaître's concert (Autumn in Normandy), in Taipei (particularly the concerto of Julius Bürger). Gary Hoffman's projects require him to share his time between Europe and the rest of the world. In France, he will give chamber music concerts, recitals and concertos in Paris on several occasions (Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Gaveau, Cité de la Musique...), at the Laon festival, Saint Nazaire, Dijon, Avignon, Orchestre Français des Jeunes, Festival de Verbier, Orchestre National d'Ile-de-France... In Europe: recital at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Enescu Festival in Bucharest, with the orchestras of Lübeck, Pamplona, Palma de Majorca, Kronberg, ... and throughout the world: Lisbon, Cartagena, Lubbock, Puerto Rico, Taiwan National Symphony. Furthermore, he will tour with the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival (Paris, Luxembourg...). A regular guest of the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society in New York, he is a remarkable chamber musician much in demand. Established in Paris since 1990, Gary Hoffman plays on a Nicolo Amati instrument from 1662 which once belonged to Leonard Rose. Gary Hoffman has recorded for BMG (RCA), Sony, EMI, and Le Chant du Monde.

