



For immediate release

## London Oratory Concert to Support SURF

**(LONDON)** The London Oratory School is to donate proceeds from a special concert to mark World AIDS Day on 1st December to Survivors Fund (SURF).

The Charity Concert for World AIDS Day will be staged at Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square, London, and will feature the school's internationally acclaimed choir, the Schola, performing alongside a host of London's leading soloists and the London Oratory Sinfonia.

The programme includes Durufle: Requiem and the world premiere of a newly commissioned work, A Song of Hope, by British composer, Colin Mawby, which draws on texts highlighting the plight of orphans. It will also feature a highly poignant and evocative setting of the Requiem by renowned West End musical director and composer Gareth Valentine, a work which the Schola recorded back in 2000.

The London Oratory School is a long-time supporter of SURF, with Oratory students each year helping the charity at its office based just up the road from the school in West Brompton, London. A number of students have just returned from Rwanda, where they were given the opportunity to visit SURF's projects and to meet the survivors that their work supports. Proceeds from the event will also go to SOS Children's Villages which, like SURF, supports children orphaned through HIV and AIDS.

Mary Kayitesi Blewitt, Founder and Director of SURF, commented on the event:

**"SURF is privileged to be selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Oratory's event. We have a long association with the school. Teachers and students have played an active role in the work of SURF since our establishment ten years ago, which has helped immeasurably in our mission to support survivors of the genocide both in Rwanda and the UK."**

**"Proceeds raised will go towards both helping orphans and women survivors infected with HIV and AIDS, to enable them to access vital antiretroviral treatment and to rebuild their lives. We are grateful to the Oratory and its students to date, and look forward to continuing to build the partnership further to help even more survivors following the event, which is a particularly apt way to mark World AIDS Day."**

Tickets for the concert are now on sale and are available from the box office at Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square. Tickets are priced at £29, £26, £21, and £15 with 20% concessions for

children and 'Friends of the Schola.' Booking is online at [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com) or on (020) 7730 4500.

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**Notes to editors:**

**For more information, on SURF, please visit: [www.survivors-fund.org.uk](http://www.survivors-fund.org.uk)**

**What is the Survivors Fund?**

Survivors Fund, or SURF, is a charity dedicated to aiding and assisting the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Since 1997, SURF has been supporting medical care and providing counselling for survivors, vocational training and home building. The work ensures that the:

- **Voices of survivors are listened to and heard**
- **Memories of the genocide are kept alive**
- **Victims of the genocide are never forgotten**
- **Survivors of the genocide are supported - in Rwanda and the UK**

Over the past year alone, SURF has:

- **Supported 3200 women raped and infected with HIV/AIDS with antiretroviral treatment**
- **Provided grants for 5000 households for Income Generating Projects**
- **Built 70 homes for child-headed households, giving shelter to nearly 400 young survivors**
- **Provided vocational training to 360 children, and supported 370 children with school fees**
- **Built 22 mass graves, giving over 100,000 victims of the genocide a decent burial**

In 2007, SURF hopes to build 500 new homes for survivors and a further 23 mass graves. It has just completed work on a Resource and Testimony Centre – called Humura (“calm” in kinyarwanda), based just outside Kigali - to provide a place of sanctuary for survivor’s still under threat.

SURF is a registered UK charity (no. 1065705/5).