

20 February 2008

WORLD PREMIERE OF WORK BY THOMAS ADÈS AND VIDEO ARTIST TAL ROSNER IN THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Monday 28 April, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre

A new work by one of today's leading composers, **Thomas Adès**, and young Israeli video artist **Tal Rosner**, will be given its **world premiere** in the Royal Festival Hall on 28 April as the climax to the ETHER festival, Southbank Centre's annual festival of art and technology. The work, ***In Seven Days (Piano Concerto with Moving Image)***, was commissioned by Southbank Centre and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and will be performed by Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra, the **London Sinfonietta** and pianist **Nicholas Hodges**, conducted by Adès. This is Adès' first work with moving image. The programme is completed with Steve Reich's seminal *Music for Eighteen Musicians*.

Tal Rosner, whose design for the titles of the E4 series *Skins* was nominated for a Royal Television Society Craft award, was given special access to the Royal Festival Hall during its 2-year refurbishment, and to the extraordinary Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, for the project. The resulting architectural video work is themed around the biblical creation story, the seven sections representing the days of creation. The visuals and the music tell the story in a set of abstract variations, each new element – light/darkness, sea/sky, heavenly bodies, plants, creatures – represented in a sequence of musical and visual generations. The symbolism of the number seven, as six days and one culminating day of rest, informs both music and visuals, with the six separate video screens uniting to form one visual entity.

Gillian Moore, Head of Contemporary Culture at Southbank Centre, said:

'The music of Thomas Adès is dazzlingly rich and communicative. Its breathtaking sureness of touch, sometimes playful complexity, comes from a startlingly original 21st-century voice. With this work's use of contemporary technology and the combination of art forms, the ETHER festival provides the perfect home for this world premiere. I'm really looking forward

to hearing and seeing how Adès and Rosner respond to the 1950s modernist architecture of the Royal Festival Hall and the curves of Frank Gehry's Disney Hall in Los Angeles.'

This work is one of a number commissioned from today's leading composers by Southbank Centre, for its Resident Orchestras and Associate Artists, to celebrate the reopening of the Royal Festival Hall last year.

Monday 28 April 2008, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

London Sinfonietta

Thomas Adès *conductor*

Nicolas Hodges *piano*

Tal Rosner *video artist*

Synergy *vocals*

Adès: *In Seven Days (Piano Concerto with Moving Image)*

Reich: Music for 18 Musicians

Tickets: £8 - £22

Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500

Online booking: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

For further information please contact Kenny Morrison in Southbank Centre press office on 020 7921 0962 or via email at kenny.morrison@southbankcentre.co.uk, or Jenny Wegg on 020 7921 0824, jenny.wegg@southbankcentre.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

ETHER, Southbank Centre's innovative festival of art and technology returns in April 2008 with an intriguing mix of experimental new work, rare appearances by influential legends and a brace of suitably strange collaborations. ETHER 08 runs from Friday 18 – Monday 28 April and features performances by Goldfrapp, Radio Soulwax and 2manydJs, a co-bill between Current 93 & Baby Dee with special guest Marc Almond, a first – ever UK performance from krautrock heroes Harmonia, and Pere Ubu's staging of Alfred Jarry's theatre of the absurd classic *Ubu Roi* with the aid of the brilliant Brothers Quay. The festival also sees the return of the International Beatbox Convention, which includes a performance by Shlomo vs Mad Professor and the line-up of concert programmes is complemented with free performances in The Front Room of Queen Elizabeth Hall and The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, including *China Incident*, a sound installation, which can be sampled throughout ETHER.

Thomas Adès

(b London, 1 March 1971). English composer. After early success as a performer, winning second piano prize in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in 1989, he read music at Cambridge (1989–92). His rise to prominence as a composer was rapid, with commissions from the Hallé Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta, Almeida Opera and the City of Birmingham SO, combined with various residencies. Adès's connection with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group led to his appointment as its Music Director, and as well as teaching composition at the RAM he became increasingly active as a conductor. In 1999 he received both the Ernst von Siemens Prize and the Grawemeyer Award, and became joint artistic director of the Aldeburgh Festival.

Tal Rosner

Tal Rosner is a filmmaker and graphic designer who has made his name with radical interpretations of musical compositions.

Since receiving an MA from Central Saint Martins (2005), he has completed a variety of commissioned work, including a visual exploration of Stravinsky and Debussy's two-piano music, in collaboration with Katia and Marielle Labeque, released on DVD (KML Recordings, 2006), and a two-screen interpretation of Conlon Nancarrow's *Player Piano Study No.7* (Barbican Centre, 2007). His film for Stravinsky's *Concerto for Two Pianos* was screened at the 2006 *L'alternativa* festival of independent cinema, Barcelona, and featured at the Victory Media Network Digital Art Plaza in Dallas, Texas. A second extract (*5 Easy Pieces*) was selected to be featured in *Terrain_07*, a programme of short films, curated by onedotzero for international touring. In 2007 his title sequence for the Channel 4 television series *Skins* was nominated for a Royal Television Society Crafts and Design award for Best Title Design. He has also participated in the Future of Sound Lectures series, hosted by Martyn Ware, in London's Kinetica Museum and the British Library.

Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre manages the Royal Festival Hall, The Hayward, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, as well as the Saison Poetry Library, the Arts Council Collection and Hayward Touring Exhibitions on behalf of Arts Council England. It attracts more than 3 million visits annually. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following its major refurbishment and the redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.