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PRESS RELEASE

In Search of Beethoven

Phil Grabsky, UK 2009, 138 mins, U

Aberystwyth Arts Centre Cinema

Monday 29th June, 8.15pm and Wednesday 1st July, 2.30pm (silver screening)

From Seventh Art Productions, the makers of In Search of Mozart, award-winning filmmaker Phil Grabsky returns with a new feature-length biographical film In Search of Beethoven. After a successful premiere at the Barbican Centre in London on 30th March, the film is now on general release in selected U.K. cinemas and will be at Aberystwyth Arts Centre Cinema on Monday 29th June, 8.30pm and Wednesday 1st July, 2.30pm (silver screening).

In Search of Beethoven addresses the romantic myth that Beethoven was a heroic, tormented figure battling to overcome his tragic fate, struck down by deafness, who searched for his 'immortal beloved' but remained unmarried. It delves beyond the image of the tortured, cantankerous, unhinged personality, to reveal someone quite different and far more interesting.

"It was so terrific I wept"
Mail on Sunday

In Search of Beethoven has brought together the world's leading performers and experts on Beethoven to reveal new insights into this legendary composer. The line-up of performers and interviewees includes Gianandrea Noseda, Sir Roger Norrington, Riccardo Chailly, Claudio Abbado, Fabio Luisi, Frans Brüggen, Ronald Brautigam, Hélène Grimaud, Vadim Repin, Janine Jansen, Paul Lewis, Lars Vogt, and Emanuel Ax among others. The film is narrated by Juliet Stevenson and young RSC actor David Dawson.

As with the Mozart film In Search of Beethoven will take a comprehensive look at the composer's life through his musical output. Having created a blueprint with In Search of Mozart, Phil Grabsky documents each piece of music chronologically marrying it to Beethoven's biography and letters.

"The film will give those who already know about Beethoven enormous pleasure, but it would also provide any receptive 12-year-old with an ideal introduction to the man and his music" *The Express*

Phil Grabsky travelled across Europe and North America to interview historians and musicians between rehearsals and performances. He managed to film a remarkable 55 performances for the film - and has once again captured the raw energy of these world-class artists. It includes exclusive footage of Claudio Abbado's critically-acclaimed performance of Beethoven's opera Fidelio. There

are further performances from Frans Brüggen's Orchestra of the 18th Century, the Salzburg Camerata with Sir Roger Norrington, Leipzig Gewandhaus with Riccardo Chailly, Vienna Symphony with Fabio Luisi, violinists Vadim Repin, Janine Jansen or pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Ronald Brautigam, Jonathan Biss, Emanuel Ax, Lars Vogt and cellist Alban Gerhardt reveal their unique approach and share their passions. The Endellion String Quartet gave exclusive access to film a number of complete Beethoven quartets. Extracts appear in the film and the complete works, along with others, will appear as Extras on the DVD.

“This film will make you rush to a concert hall or the nearest classical music store to savour Beethoven's compositions.” Rupert Christiansen - The Telegraph

Phil Grabsky is one of the UK's leading film-makers. He has specialised in arts, biographical and historical documentaries for over 20 years for television and cinema. Recent highlights have included the award-winning cinema films *The Boy who Plays on the Buddhas of Bamiyan*, *Heavy Water - a Film for Chernobyl*, *Escape from Luanda*.

Tickets for this production are £5 (£4) and £4.50 for Cardholder holders. Silver Screenings (Wednesday afternoon, 2.30pm) are £3.50 and free tea and coffee is available. Tickets can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

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