

March 2009

## Handel's life celebrated at concert in St John's, Smith Square

- ▶ 250 years since Handel's death
- ▶ Bosch hosts event to encourage Anglo-German relations

**London** - Bosch, a global leader in automotive, consumer and industrial technology hosted a concert at St. John's, Smith Square church last night to celebrate the life and music of the German composer George Frederick Handel and to recognise the strong relationship between Great Britain and Germany.

The Bosch Chamber Orchestra travelled from Stuttgart in Southern Germany especially for the occasion where they played a selection of pieces by Handel and Grieg, under the lead of conductor Robert Wieland.

Bosch also hosted the event in sponsorship of the Queen Mary College, University of London, who established the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations in 2005 to help promote the study of cultural transfers and inter-relationships between Britain and the German speaking world.

Guests of honour at the concert included the German Ambassador, His Excellency Georg Boomgaarden and the Director of the Centre for Anglo-German, Professor Rüdiger Görner.

Speaking at the concert, Managing Director of Robert Bosch Ltd, Robert Meier said:

“Handel's story provides the perfect analogy of what we can achieve through encouraging cultural diversity and strengthening international-relationships. Handel's passion for philanthropy, international perspective and interest in the UK are qualities that were shared by the founder of our company, Robert Bosch.

“As a German company operating in the UK, cultural diversity and encouraging relations between Great Britain and Germany is extremely important to Bosch. Supporting initiatives such as the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations is just one of many ways in which we can do this”.

In his speech at the concert, Professor Rüdiger Görner said:

“This partnership for the benefit of students working in this immensely rich field of study is, through this evening, intimately connected with the name of Georg Friedrich Händel; this towering example of the sheer fertility in the relationship between our two cultures. Given that this partnership materializes in economically difficult times makes it even the more precious. The Centre and College are deeply grateful for this unique initiative”.

Described by Beethoven as the greatest composer that ever lived, Handel resided in London over 250 years ago where he spent most of his adult life. Handel was supported by Queen Anne and became a subject of the British crown in 1727. While in England, Handel wrote some of his most famous pieces and when he died in 1759 he was given full state honours and buried in Westminster Abbey. His funeral was attended by over 3,000 mourners.

For further information on Bosch visit: [www.bosch.co.uk](http://www.bosch.co.uk)

For further information on the Centre for Anglo-German Relations visit: [www.slif.qmul.ac.uk/research/anglogerman/](http://www.slif.qmul.ac.uk/research/anglogerman/)

ENDS

Contact person for press enquiries:

Emma Hills  
Press and Communications Manager  
Tel: +44 (0) 1895 83 8545  
Email: [Emma.Hills@uk.bosch.com](mailto:Emma.Hills@uk.bosch.com)

*The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. According to preliminary figures, some 282,000 associates generated sales of roughly 45 billion euros in the areas of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology in fiscal 2008. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its more than 300 subsidiaries and regional companies in over 60 countries. If its sales and service partners are included, then Bosch is represented in roughly 150 countries. This worldwide development, manufacturing, and sales network is the foundation for further growth. Each year, Bosch spends more than 3 billion euros for research and development, and applies for over 3,000 patents worldwide. With all its products and services, Bosch enhances the quality of life by providing solutions which are both innovative and beneficial.*

*The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering." The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant up-front investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-two percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust. The remaining shares are held by the Bosch family and by Robert Bosch GmbH.*

*Additional information can be accessed at [www.bosch.com](http://www.bosch.com).*