

3rd March 2010

A Big Band first for the Boatshow

Top young Jersey Musicians will have the chance to play alongside the world famous Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines when they perform at Jersey Opera House for the first time as part of Jersey Harbour's Boat Show celebrations this May.

The theme of the Jersey Boat Show this year is 'youth' and up to two hundred children, ranging in ages from 10 to 18, from schools right across the Island will take part in a special workshop day at the Jersey Instrumental Services (JIS) rehearsal rooms organised as part of the event. Young Island musicians from the JIS Training Wind Band, JIS Intermediate Wind Band and Jersey Youth Wind Band will take part. After the workshops, around 30 talented youngsters will be selected to join the military big band to play two or three pieces of music on the Gala night at the Opera House on Sunday 2nd May.

The Head of Jersey's Instrumental Musician Service, Neil Courtney, said: "This is a unique experience for our youngsters to benefit from expert guidance from some of the World's best military musicians. It will be an incredible opportunity for those selected to join such a prestigious band on stage and we are thrilled that the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines have taken this opportunity to come to Jersey. "

Jersey Harbours are paying any costs for the concert, but money raised from ticket sales will be donated to the Royal Naval Royal Marine Charity and the Jersey Variety Sailing Trust, the chosen charity of Jersey Harbours.

Jersey Harbours Commercial Director, Myra Shacklady said: "The Jersey Boat Show has grown to become a significant event in the Island's spring time calendar, enjoyed by thousands of visitors and locals. This year our special theme is 'youth' and this will be carried through all the elements of the show with the aim of introducing as many young Islanders as possible to the opportunities of a life at sea. This is the first time that we have decided to put on a Charity Gala Concert during the boat show weekend and we are really honoured that the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines

will star. It is extremely fitting, given our 'youth' theme, that some of our talented Island young musicians will be able to join them on stage for what promises to be a very special night. “

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines have visited Jersey in the past to perform a series of Beat Retreats, but this is the first time that they will perform a concert in the Jersey Opera House. Captain Craig Burns is their Director of Music:

“We will performing a traditional Military Band concert repertoire with a fanfare to open, a March sequence with the Corps of Drums demonstrating their skill and dexterity with drum beatings. We will also include virtuoso solo performances from individual members of the band and of course some of the traditional and well loved 'Big Band' sound, wrapping up with a finale including the Sunset ceremony. Of course it will be wonderful to be on stage with some of Jersey's best local young musicians and we are very pleased to be over in the Island to support Jersey Harbour's splendid Boat Show weekend. We will try to make such an impact with our concert that we might be invited back and can perhaps make it a regular event!”

The Boat Show will take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend from 1st to 3rd May and Jersey Harbours want to build on the success of the previous two years. Jersey has a long maritime heritage which has been reflected by the attendance at past events of thousands of Islanders - and visitors - who have enjoyed a huge variety of maritime attractions, including experiencing life on board the Royal Navy vessel, HMS York, which last year proved to be the star attraction.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors:

The Director of Music for the Royal Marines, Captain Craig Burns, will be in Jersey for the Jersey Youth Wind Band rehearsals on Tuesday 9 March between 4.15- 5.50. If you wish to film, interview or photograph him.

To keep up-to-date with the latest goings on and any developments ahead of the next Jersey Boat Show, you can keep an eye on the Jersey Boat Show website www.Jerseyboatshow.com

Tickets for the Gala Concert can be purchased from Jersey Opera House on boxoffice@jerseyoperahouse.co.uk or 01534 511115

For further information about the Boat Show please contact the event contact Boat Show Organiser, Sara Felton on 07797 787 872

Jersey Boat Show's Facts and Figures

- 2010 will be the third annual Jersey Boat Show
- The 2010 event will take place at the start of the boating season, over the Bank Holiday weekend, 1,2 and 3 May
- This years theme is 'Youth' and there will be a special focus on youth organizations and activities for younger Islanders
- The Show was officially launched on board the Royal Navy mine hunter, HMS Walney when she was brought into St. Helier Harbour by her Commanding Officer, Old Victorian, Lieutenant Commander Marcus Jacques, in December.
- The Royal Navy vessel, HMS York, was the star attraction at last years boat show
- The 2010 Boat Show will also have a special surprise Naval presence
- The popular Jubilee Sailing Trusts tall ship, Lord Nelson will among the other features to return to Jersey
- An estimated 20,000 visitors enjoyed the Boat Show last year which featured nearly 80 exhibitors and more than 80 boats of all shapes and sizes
- Overall during 2009 *maritime* visitors to Jersey were up 8% on 2008.
- During the whole of 2009 22,000 yachtsmen or boaters arrived, with 7.600 boats and an average stay of two and half days.
- Most visitors were from France; the second most popular departure point was from the UK.