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HRH The Prince of Wales Receives Special Harp for Use by the Royal Harpist: A Gift From the Victor Salvi Foundation

NORTH WALES, July 5 (AScribe Newswire) -- A special reception was held today during the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in North Wales, during which HRH The Prince of Wales graciously accepted a new, specially crafted harp made in his honour by Salvi Harps of Italy. The new harp, a gift of The Victor Salvi Foundation, will be used by the Royal Harpist in her official capacity. Jemima Philips, current Royal Harpist, performed *Watching the Wheat* by John Thomas, *Spanish Dance No. 1* by Manuel de Falla and *God Bless The Prince of Wales*, traditional, on the new instrument to celebrate the occasion. Victor Salvi, founder of Salvi Harps, and his wife Julia, president of the Victor Salvi Foundation, made the official presentation. The Royal Harp will be housed at Clarence House, in London.

"HRH The Prince of Wales was actively involved in the designing of this instrument and followed its progress with great interest," says Marco Ghibaudo, general manager of Salvi Harps. "Our most experienced carvers and gilders created this magnificent instrument under the watchful eye of company founder Victor Salvi."

The design of the Royal Harp incorporates the Prince of Wales feathers, daffodils (the Welsh national flower and symbol of affection), dragon (representing protection and the national symbol of Wales) and "double spoons" (representing an eternally bound couple). Noted Welsh art dealer Richard Philp and Salvi Harps designer Serena Dalmasso were responsible for finalizing the designs used in the creating the Royal Harp. "The involvement of HRH the Prince of Wales restores the ancient tradition of creating a harp to reflect the character of its owner," says Ghibaudo.

The position of Royal Harpist was discontinued during the reign of Queen Victoria and was restored in 2000 by HRH The Prince of Wales, when Catrin Finch became His Royal Highness' first Royal Harpist. Although the appointment normally lasts two years, she was invited to continue in this position for an additional two-year period. In 2004, Jemima Phillips succeeded her as Royal Harpist.

"It has been a great privilege to create this beautiful instrument for HRH The Prince of Wales," says Julia Salvi. "It is our hope that it will bring many hours of enjoyment to the Royal Family, the people of Wales, and ultimately the United Kingdom."

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ABOUT THE VICTOR SALVI FOUNDATION

The Victor Salvi Foundation was established in 2000 to promote the harp to a wider audience through a number of activities related to the instrument and its music. It is a non-profit organization founded in Chicago, USA, with programs running in Italy, the United Kingdom (Live Music Now), France and other parts of the world.

Some of its most important areas of support are the contribution to harp recitals around the world, sponsorship of international harp competitions and the presentation of selected prizewinners in debut concerts and recordings.

Other significant aspects of the foundation's work include the promotion of educational and research programs related to the harp and its uses, and the commissioning and publishing of new music to expand the instrument's repertoire.

Today, Victor Salvi is recognized and respected worldwide for these contributions and for his continuing support of harpists and harp-related activities. He has been the recipient of numerous awards recognizing his important contributions to the music world. In 2004 Mr. Salvi was made an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Music at a reception attended by HRH the Prince of Wales. In addition, he received the Distinguished Award for Service to the international harp community given by the World Harp Congress in 1996. His wife, Julia Salvi, president of the foundation, shares Victor's passion for promoting the harp and oversees all sponsored activities and events.

In addition to the promotion of the harp at the international level, the foundation manages the most comprehensive collection of antique harps in the world. The collection, Three Centuries of Harpmaking, explores the evolution of the harp in the last three hundred years. It showcases the fascinating history of the instrument and provides audiences the opportunity to see some of the world's finest instruments in traveling exhibitions. In January, 2006, the collection moved to its permanent home, The Victor Salvi Museum (Piasco, Italy). It is the only museum dedicated solely to the harp.

ABOUT SALVI HARPS

Founded by Victor Salvi, harpist and musical instrument innovator, Salvi Harps recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Recognized for its fine craftsmanship and excellence in sound quality, Salvi Harps can be found in the leading concert halls worldwide and in the homes of discerning musicians and others who appreciate excellence in music craftsmanship.

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