

EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH, 2006

THE VICTOR SALVI FOUNDATION present new harp
to
HRH The Prince of Wales

The Victor Salvi Foundation has had the honour of presenting to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales a specially made harp for the position of Royal Harpist. Overseen by the distinguished performer and harp maker Victor Salvi, it was unveiled at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales on July 5th, with a performance by the current Royal Harpist Jemima Phillips.

The position of Royal Harpist was originally established in Queen Victoria's reign but lapsed for many years until being 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, Catrin Finch was asked to continue for a further two years. In 2004 Jemima Phillips succeeded her. The Victor Salvi Foundation has known Catrin Finch since she was awarded first prize in the Lily Laskine International Harp Competition in 1999 (sponsored by the Victor Salvi Foundation).

The Victor Salvi Foundation has great pleasure in continuing their support for the position of the Royal Harpist. The Foundation is delighted to have designed and built a harp specifically for that role, to be presented as a gift to His Royal Highness. The design incorporates The Prince of Wales Feathers, Daffodils (the Welsh national flower and also a symbol of affection), The Dragon (the national symbol of Wales and representing protection) and Double Spoons (symbolizing a couple being together for all time).

HRH The Prince of Wales has been involved in the creation of the new harp from the beginning, following its progress with great interest, thus restoring the ancient tradition of creating a harp to reflect the character of its owner.

Salvi Harps used their most experienced carvers and gilders at their head quarters in Piasco, near Turin in Italy and they have spent more than six months in building this magnificent and unique instrument.

Wales has been an important centre for the Victor Salvi Foundation for many years. Through this gift to HRH The Prince of Wales, the Foundation not only wanted to provide an instrument for the Royal Harpist to play but one that would incorporate symbols that most represented HRH and the Welsh people. Victor and Julia Salvi therefore enlisted the help of one of the most renowned Welsh art dealers, Richard Philp who, along with their own designer Serena Dalmasso, created the designs for the new Prince of Wales's Harp, in collaboration with Victor Salvi Foundation. The Prince of Wales's Harp is to reside at Clarence House, in London.

Victor Salvi said of this project: *It has been a great privilege to work with such wonderful craftsmen and designers over the past year. The finished instrument is, I believe, one of great distinction and I am enormously proud that His Royal Highness has agreed to accept our gift.*

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