

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***The World Rejoicing* – postponement for a year**

The five countries which commissioned Edward Gregson to write the test piece for their National Brass Band competitions (in the UK, the British Open) for 2020/21, have agreed that because of the ongoing uncertain situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, a revised schedule is to be implemented for the use of *The World Rejoicing*.

The British Open, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, have already announced the postponement of their competitions for 2020 as originally intended, leaving only Norway to make their decision about their competition in February 2021. However, after further discussion with all five countries, it has been agreed to delay the use of the commissioned test piece.

This means that the actual premiere of *The World Rejoicing* will now take place in Birmingham in September 2021, followed by the various European country premieres in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, and Norway.

Edward Gregson commented:

*Obviously, like everyone else in the musical world, I am very disappointed and frustrated by the havoc that the pandemic has caused to music-making everywhere, and for the financial hardship and social disruption it has caused to so many people. For the brass band community, it has meant the postponement and cancellation of so many events, with the result that bands' commitment to rehearsing and performing has had to be put on hold.*

*In the case of *The World Rejoicing*, the fact that all of the five European countries which commissioned the work have agreed to postpone the project for a year means that we can still keep to the original scheduled premieres. I only hope that the title of the work will now be a prophetic phrase for all our lives returning to some kind of normality.*

Any bands who have pre-ordered and paid for the performing material will be fully reimbursed if they so wish. Otherwise they will be sent the performing material at the appropriate time in 2021.

**For further information please contact:**

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