

**MUSIC CLUB VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM
2 - 4 OCTOBER 2009**

I would just like to say a huge thank-you to Simon Wales, Managing Director of the Town Hall. I knew Simon when he worked for the LSO and we are so grateful to him for arranging our excellent seats for the gala performance of *Messiah* at the Town Hall and our private tour of Symphony Hall (see reports below).

Our visit to Symphony Hall was amazing. We were met by our guides and then taken into the Hall, where we were given a general lecture, followed by a fascinating talk by one of the acoustic engineers. We were told that the Hall is built only 98ft from a covered railway line. As a result, the Hall is mounted on rubber cushions, as is the railway track. Inside the Hall, the full works were demonstrated for us! Our chief guide, Tony Mullins, had some amusing tales to relate and took great delight in showing some of the group Simon Rattle's dressing room. In the large bathroom, a large bath had been installed – Sir Simon didn't like taking a shower!

Rosemary Frischer