



*Work No. 1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes*

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2012: Press Release**

## **An Invitation for Bell Ringers to Lead Thousands of People in the UK's Biggest Olympic Celebration**

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012, *Work No. 1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes* by Turner Prize-winning artist and musician **Martin Creed**, will be performed by thousands of people across the UK for the London 2012 Festival to celebrate the first day of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Anyone can take part by simply registering to ring a bell at [www.allthebells.com](http://www.allthebells.com). The time for the event has been confirmed as 08:12 and the event will be broadcast by the BBC to a potential live audience of over 10 million people across the UK on TV, radio and online - including BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 2 Chris Evans Breakfast Show and BBC local radio stations.

Martin Creed appreciates that it will be difficult for change-ringers to ring their bells for just three minutes and has said that he is happy for bells to be rung for longer and that ringers can ring their bells in their usual style or in a peal from their tower team's choosing. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) is keen to encourage as much Olympic ringing as possible, on 27 July and on other major dates, and supports those who wish to do so, both those who will take part in All The Bells, and those ringing in more conventional ways on other occasions.

Hundreds of church bell ringers across the UK have already signed up to take part in this nationwide celebration and they will be joined by thousands of people across the country. Alan Regin, Steeple Keeper at Christ Church Spitalfields, has enthusiastically stated: "*This is not the usual type of ringing that we normally do but at Christ Church Spitalfields we say 'Why Not!'. We have a great opportunity to mark an important historical event which most are unlikely to experience again in their lifetimes. There are no rules for this one – whether you follow the title of Martin's work to the letter or whether you ring out with a more standard method the nation will hear us united. The sound of English bells will welcome in the London 2012 Olympic Games and you couldn't ask for anything more English than that.*"

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Archbishop Vincent Gerard Nichols, has given All The Bells his best wishes, the Church of England have sent messages to all 44 diocese encouraging their participation, and The Dean of Derry, Dr. William Morton has stated: "*The simultaneous ringing of bells in every city, town, village and community across the*

*country on the 27th July is an imaginative and attractive initiative. I commend the plan and am urging those in my own diocese to become actively involved...As the oldest peal in Ireland, I am delighted to arrange for the bells of St Columb's Cathedral to ring out in honour of the Olympics 2012, and, with other bell towers across the country, herald the excitement and anticipation of the Games."*

All The Bells has captured the imagination of many organisations, including The Churches Conservation Trust, The Royal Navy and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, The British Army, The RAF, The Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers, The National Theatre, The National Football Museum, The Sports Heritage Network, Discovering Places, Arts Council and Creative Scotland, The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain, The Mayor of London, The Archbishop of Westminster, Dame Evelyn Glennie, The British Federation of Youth Marching Band Organisations, The Girl Guide Association, Mumsnet, The National Federation of Women's Institutes, The Royal British Legion and many more.

This unique London 2012 Festival commission is the Cultural Olympiad's biggest community project and offers everyone in the country the amazing opportunity to be part of a work by a Turner Prize-winning artist and London 2012's history. Martin Creed has said: *'It's by people and for people. On the morning of the opening of the Games it's a massive signal that something is happening.'*

Anyone can take part by ringing any kind of bell for three minutes - from experienced change ringing experts of tower bells to enthusiastic children with hand bells, bicycle bells and doorbells. To get involved all individuals, communities and organisations are encouraged to register at [www.allthebells.com](http://www.allthebells.com) and register their interest in taking part on the day or register the own bell ringing event for others to join. Everyone who signs up will be able to download an exclusive Martin Creed ringtone, Work No. 1372. The Official London 2012 Join In App incorporates a line of Martin's composition as a shake and play feature.

The sound of thousands of bells across the country ringing out at the same time to mark this historical moment will be a thrilling experience and a nationwide celebration.

Ruth Mackenzie, Director, Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival, said: *'The commission shows the Festival's commitment to world-class artists and to the values of participation. Martin Creed's wonderful idea gets everyone involved in the opening day of the Games not just as an audience but as an integral part of the work.'*

#### Notes to Editors

Further to previous announcements please note that the start time of this event is now 08:12 and not 08:00.

This work is part of the London 2012 Festival, which is the finale of the four-year Cultural Olympiad and is funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. It has been commissioned by Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their historic, built and natural environment.

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Throughout history bells have traditionally been rung to mark moments in time, whether it be bells across the UK ringing to signify the end of World War II, the bell at the Tower of London, rung in the past as an alarm to warn of attack (and still rung today to alert visitors to leave), and back as far as the Romans who used bells to announce special celebrations and processions.

### **Martin Creed biography:**

Martin Creed was born in Wakefield, England, in 1968, and from 1986-90 attended the Slade School of Art in London. In 1993 his Work No. 81, 'a one inch cube of masking tape in the middle of every wall in a building' was installed in the offices of the London firm, Starkmann Ltd, and since then Creed has had numerous solo exhibitions and projects around the world. Words and music have always been an integral part of Creed's practice. From the artist's point of view 'talks are works and words are work'. Using few notes and words Creed delivers compelling messages in tracks such as 'Words' and 'Thinking / Not Thinking'. Work No.673 was commissioned for the opening of an exclusive fashion collection in 2008. For the work, Creed's orchestra was seated one behind another on a long, narrow stage running down the length of the space. This was followed by Work No. 955 for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In 2009 Work No. 994 was premiered by the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra. Creed has often combined art, talking, choreography and music, specifically in Work No. 1020. Premiered in October 2009 and jointly commissioned by Sadler's Wells and Freize Art Fair, it is a new work in which Creed has choreographed a piece for five classically trained dancers. The work includes some of Creed's short films and compositions performed by his own band.

Work No. 1197: All the bells in the country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes presents a truly celebratory work for the first day of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers**

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel, the majority of whom practise the art of change ringing.

Kate Flavell, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, stated in her blog in March 2012: "We have been involved in further discussion with the Cultural Olympiad section of LOCOG (the London Organising Committee) and I am delighted to be able to advise that they have now told us: "We would like to encourage your members to ring their bells in their usual style, and to ring a peal of their bell tower team's choosing. Bells can certainly be rung for longer than three minutes if teams so wish." So please bear this in mind when deciding what and when to ring. As I have said before, we are really keen to encourage as much Olympic ringing as possible, including on 27 July and on other major dates - perhaps in celebration of Team GB winning Gold, or any local connection with any winners. Whenever there is outdoor broadcasting near a church with bells, we want ringing to be heard. Visiting sportsmen and women should go home with memories of Britain as a ringing isle."

**For further information and examples of registered bell-ringing events please contact:**

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