



Hull Philharmonic Society

Registered Charity No 701112



## Executive Summary

Sounding the Deep was an ambitious and ground-breaking project for the Society. Its genesis was the composer Nigel Morgan's simple wish to write a piece of music for the orchestra, but his vision for the event turned out to be much broader and multi-layered, as are the oceans it depicts. It focussed on the life and writings of the American naturalist and explorer, William Beebe, represented by a bass soloist.

Sounding the Deep was performed on 17 March 2012 in Hull City Hall by the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra, under its regular conductor Andrew Penny, the bass James Gower, pupils from schools in Hull, the East Riding of Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire, together with students from Hull College and the University of Hull. The schools provided the Shoals - short pieces written for and developed with particular ensembles (a string dectet, a percussion octet, a cello and double bass ensemble, a string quartet and a wind quintet) and played between two performances of the orchestral work. From the University came the singers who performed "Deep Sea Diver" by the poet Robert Frances and the laptop musicians through whom the Shoals were mediated, and the College provided the dancers who opened and closed the show and the graphic design of the whole evening.

The event was made possible by the generosity of the St.Hugh's foundation, BP at Saltend, the Lincolnshire and East Riding music services, Hull City Council and Kingston Communications, and drew on the Society's own development fund.

Sounding the Deep was a long and sometimes difficult learning process for the Society and all the participants, but one which has made us all better able to tackle big projects and through that to diversify our offering to the people of Hull, the East Riding and North Lincolnshire.

**The St Hugh's Foundation**