

Press Release

Date: 17/11/05

Ivor Novello Statue Appeal

Wales is to commemorate Ivor Novello, the world famous actor, composer and writer, with a statue. Swansea sculptor Peter Nicholas is working on the 12 foot statue, to be sited facing the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay.

The man behind the idea, Hilary David of Cardiff, who commissioned the statue, has raised £30,000 of the £75,000 target of the appeal.

"It amazed me that, apart from a small plaque on the wall of a Cardiff house where he once lived, Wales has not honoured the man whose work was acclaimed throughout the world", he said.

The appeal will be launched in Cardiff on Monday 21 November 2005, the day that Wales for the first time hosts the Royal Variety Show.

Welsh born, Welsh speaking Ivor Novello, a film idol in Britain and the USA, also wrote dramas and film scripts, but it was his song writing and musical shows, including *Glamorous Night*, *The Dancing Years* and *King's Rhapsody* that won him international acclaim. Songs from the shows were sung, hummed and whistled throughout the world. In the First World War he served on the western front as a pilot in the Royal Naval Air Service, surviving two crash landings. His *Keep the home fires burning*, is one of the greatest war songs ever written.

Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and former Lord Mayor of Cardiff, who has set up the fund raising group, said,

--more--

-2-

"Although Ivor Novello died over fifty years ago, his tunes are a wonderful legacy. He did Wales proud, and Wales will now show its pride in him".

For donations to the appeal, leaflets will be available from public libraries in Cardiff, or please visit www.novellowales.com.

--ends--

For further information please contact: Peter Gill – 02929 377312

Email: peter.gill@petergill.com

Appendix

Ivor Novello published 120 songs. His greatest ever was the hugely popular World War I song *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, for which he wrote the music in 1914. Ivor starred in 22 films, acted on stage, wrote 30 plays and became an impresario. Welsh-born and Welsh speaking, Ivor was undoubtedly the most successful and distinguished theatrical composer of his time. His plays included *The Truth Game* and *Symphony in Two Flats* and he had a long run of successes with his musical plays and comedies *Glamorous Night* (1935), *Careless Rapture* (1936), *Crest of the Wave* (1937), *The Dancing Years* (1939), *Perchance to Dream* (1945) and *King's Rhapsody* (1949). A multi-talented star, he also wrote reviews, dramas and film scripts and also took the stage as a serious actor, playing Shakespeare's *Henry V* in 1938. On his death in 1951, he left his home, Redroofs, in Berkshire, as a charity for needy actors.