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Press Release

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‘Music for RoadPeace’ Inaugural Concert at London’s Wigmore Hall, on 26th November 2004, 7.30pm, performed by talented musicians Nicola Eimer and Remus Azoitei

A concert to benefit the work of RoadPeace, the charity working for people bereaved and injured through road crashes, will be held in the week following World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – in memory of Christopher Gray and all road crash victims, and to mark World Day.

It will be attended by the London Mayor’s Road Safety Ambassador and by representatives of the World Health Organisation and the French Embassy.

The concert came about because of the death of a young man – a schoolboy still who had just sat his A-levels – Christopher Gray from NW London, whom the pianist knew well. She therefore suggested a charity concert in his memory to his mother, who had become a member of RoadPeace, like so many other bereaved parents and relatives.

Sadly, Christopher’s death was not unique, but one of the many deaths on UK’s roads, the most common death among young people, especially young men. Many more are also injured, often disabled for life. The concert, which takes place just days after World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, when the countless millions of road victims worldwide are remembered, is therefore also dedicated to all those killed and injured on the road.

The World Health Organisation wishes to support World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, and the Head of the Road Injury Prevention Department of the WHO in Geneva is coming especially to support the concert. Jenny Jones, Green Party GLA member, will represent the Mayor of London. Many other supporters, members and relatives of road victims will attend the concert on 26th November, for which already many tickets have been sold, but more are available through:

the **Wigmore Hall box office 020 7935 2141** or **www.wigmore-hall.org.uk**

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Notes to Editors:

‘Road deaths and injuries shatter lives’

World Day of Remembrance was initiated by RoadPeace in 1993 – it is now observed in many countries and on many continents, commemorating millions of people killed and injured on the world’s roads.

In the UK, from 1940 – 2000 (60 years – a person’s lifetime), **17,586.625 million** people were reported injured and killed on UK’s roads – if we take under-reporting and the effect on families into account, then more than half the population is affected by road death and injury in their lifetime.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) published a major World Report on Road Injury Prevention on 7th April 2004, their anniversary day, which they dedicated, for the first time ever, to Safer Roads. The WHO has been elected by the 14th April UN General Assembly in New York to coordinate actions for addressing the ‘Global road safety crisis’, which claims 1.26 million lives each year, with over 50 million injured.