



PRESS RELEASE

8 April 2019

MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON TO HOST MICHAEL TIPPETT PENNY LECTURE

Date: Friday 3 May 2019

Venue: Emma Cons Hall, Morley College London, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Morley College London is excited to announce that its summer programme of Penny Lectures will begin on Friday 3 May, with **Michael Tippett – The Biography**, hosted by writer and broadcaster Oliver Soden and run in collaboration with Insiders/Outsiders Festival.

Tippett was appointed Director of Music at Morley during the Second World War and was instrumental in developing the music department at the College, extending the musical repertoire enjoyed in the UK, and supporting the refugee community by hiring refugee musicians such as Walter Bergmann, Mátyás Seiber, and Walter Goehr. He revived the Morley College Choir and, despite the wartime blackouts and destruction, he staged a number of popular concerts that showcased the neglected works of Monteverdi and Purcell alongside contemporary pieces by Stravinsky and Bartók. A lifelong pacifist, he completed one of his best-known works – *A Child of Our Time*, inspired by reports of Jewish persecution in Germany – while working at Morley. Following a brief imprisonment for Tippett, *A Child of Our Time* received its premiere in 1943, and featured the Morley College Choir along with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists from Sadler's Wells Opera.

At the upcoming Penny Lecture, Oliver Soden will introduce his new biography of Tippett, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. His lecture will also include live performances of Tippett's work, featuring the talents of Morley's staff and students.

Tickets are available online from the Morley website and advance bookings are strongly advised. Donations for the Morley Bursary Fund will be collected on the day of the lecture, and copies of *Michael Tippett: The Biography* will be available to purchase.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Morley College London

Morley College London is one of the UK's largest and oldest specialist providers of adult education. Founded by Emma Cons in 1889 to address the learning needs of the working class people of Waterloo and Lambeth, Morley was the first institution of its kind to admit both men and women on an equal footing, and aimed to make education accessible to people who were less fortunate socially and financially. This sense of mission and spirit of inclusion towards the most disadvantaged in society has been a guiding principle in everything Morley has done throughout its history, and its original

philanthropic, charitable foundation continues to be a distinguishing feature of the College to the present day.

Today the College offers nearly three thousand courses at all levels, from part-time, unaccredited courses to full-time accredited courses, with arts subjects being particularly well-represented. Morley has offered six HND programmes across its three core schools of study since September 2017, and from September 2019 will offer top-up Bachelor's degree years in Fashion and Music. Morley's main centre at Westminster Bridge Road near Waterloo is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment to improve its accessibility for people with disabilities, and the College has recently launched its own radio station.

About Penny Lectures at Morley

Penny Lectures are a Morley tradition that dates back to when the College was first founded. Originally intended as a way of making educational lectures by eminent scientists accessible to the public, with an admission fee of just a penny, the popularity of the Penny Lectures attracted substantial philanthropic funding for the development of the College. The tradition was revived in 2015 to mark the 125th anniversary of Morley, and recent Penny Lectures have featured writer and historian Marc Morris, earth scientist Dr Javier Cuadros, and modern literature academic Dr Clara Jones. Entry to the lectures remains at the original cost of a penny as a reflection of Emma Cons' vision, and all donations are added to the Morley College London Bursary Fund.

About Insiders/Outsiders Festival

Insiders/Outsiders is a nationwide arts festival celebrating refugees from Nazi Europe and their contribution to British culture. The festival coincides with the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and runs from March 2019 until March 2020.

Insiders/Outsiders highlights the indelible contribution of the artists, photographers, writers, architects, designers, actors, film-makers, dancers and musicians as well as publishers, art historians, dealers and collectors who, in fleeing Nazi-dominated Europe in the 1930s and 1940s, greatly enriched this country's culture.

Insiders/Outsiders brings together exhibitions, concerts, dance and theatre performances, film screenings, walks, lectures and poetry readings in cultural institutions across the UK. More information is available at www.insidersoutsidersfestival.org.

For further information, please contact Morley College London's PR and Marketing Officer by phone on **020 7450 1803**, or by email on leah.holmes@morleycollege.ac.uk. A selection of press assets, including images and logos, is available from the Morley Media Centre at www.morleycollege.ac.uk/media-centre.