



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Sir James Galway
Date:	10 February 2010
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay, Acting Director of Development, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council has been approached by Sir William Hastings (Chairman of Hastings Hotel Group), in relation to proposing an acknowledgement from the Council for the contribution made by Sir James Galway to the City of Belfast during his 70th birthday year.

Members will be aware that Belfast's music receives high international praise and we have a unique opportunity to attract cultural tourists through music. Music and musicians, solo artists and bands are often someone's first introduction to the unique appeals of this City and region. A number of new music tourism products and initiatives are being developed in order to promote Belfast's rich musical heritage, musicians, and profile Belfast as a music destination.

Key Issues

Sir James Galway OBE (born 8 December 1939) became one of the first flute players to establish an international career as a soloist. Belfast born, Sir James went on to study in London and Paris before embarking on his orchestral career in such prestigious orchestras as the Sadlers Wells and Royal Covent Garden Operas, The BBC, Royal Philharmonic and London Symphonies, and taking up the coveted position of solo flautist with the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert Von Karajan. Since 1975, when Sir James launched his solo career, he has continuously performed with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, participated in chamber music engagements, popular music concerts and given master classes. As one of the most recorded classical artists performing today, Sir James has made himself a legend, a modern musical master whose virtuosity on the flute is equalled only by his limitless

ambitions and vision. Through his extensive touring, over 30 million albums sold and frequent international television appearances, Sir James has endeared himself to millions worldwide.

Awards: Order of the British Empire, 1979; received Grand Prix du Disque for his recording of Mozart concertos; presented record of the year awards from both *Billboard* and *Cashbox* magazines; musician of the year, Musical America, 1997; Knighthood, 2001; President's merit award, Recording Academy, 2004; outstanding contribution to classical music, Classic Brits Awards, 2005.

It is requested that Committee approve support of £1,500 in the form of a reception and a locally produced piece of art in recognition of Sir James Galway.

Resource Implications

The support of £1,500 to be provided within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Development Committee approve support of £1,500 in order to recognise Sir James Galway.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement, a policy in relation to the acknowledgment of significant citizens will be presented to the next Development Committee:

Timeline: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay