



CHERIE BOOTH QC HONOURS MUSIC FOR AUTISM AT No 10 DOWNING STREET

Cherie Booth, QC, wife of the Prime Minister Tony Blair, honoured Music for Autism for its service to individuals with autism and their families at a champagne reception held at 10 Downing Street on 30 January, 2007. The 40 guests at the reception, who have all been intimately involved with Music for Autism in the United Kingdom, included the charity's founders, board members, generous donors, and friends. Ms. Booth has made a tradition of these receptions at Downing Street to honour the work of charitable organizations such as Music for Autism.

"We are delighted that Ms. Booth has taken such an interest in our charity and has honoured us in this way," said Music for Autism founder John Lubbock.

Ms. Booth and guests of Music for Autism were treated to musical selections performed by Derek Paravicini, an extraordinarily talented pianist who is blind with severe learning difficulties. Paravicini took requests from the audience, and was accompanied by his family and long-time teacher, Dr. Adam Ockelford, Director of Rushton School and Children's Home at the Royal National Institute of the Blind. Derek is well known to us in Oxford as he has played brilliantly at the concerts held by **Music for Autism/OASIS** at the Jacqueline du Pre concert hall.

Following the concert and reception with Ms. Booth, guests were given a tour of 10 Downing Street including the Private and State Dining Rooms and the Cabinet Room.

Christine Cairns, Music for Autism founder, summed up what all of the reception guests felt at the conclusion of the evening, "Ms. Booth's speech was straight from the heart. She was so sincere, and we are all so grateful for her honouring our charity."