

**Date: November/December 2012 – for immediate use**

## **Classical composer to release rock CD**

Well-known Scottish classical composer Julian Wagstaff (age 42) is to release a CD of acoustic rock songs entitled *Five Songs for Your Consideration* under his stage name Jules Reed. The composer is known for his opera *The Turing Test*, which was a sell-out hit on the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The opera was cited by the novelist Alexander McCall Smith as his cultural highlight of that year.

The new acoustic rock EP will be released at a special launch concert in Edinburgh's Pleasance Cabaret Bar on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012, where music fans will be able to purchase the CD at a discounted rate. Jules will perform all five songs live – plus many more – and will be joined on stage by vocalist Luci Holland (an old friend from his student days at Edinburgh University), and two local support acts.

Under his real name Julian Wagstaff, Jules holds a PhD in Music from Edinburgh University, and has worked with Scotland's top classical ensembles including the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Edinburgh Quartet and Hebrides Ensemble. But now the composer is relishing the challenges of writing, recording and performing rock music once again.

Jules said: "I began writing classical music about ten years ago, when I was accepted to study for a PhD in music at Edinburgh University following the success of my stage musical *John Paul Jones*. Before that I'd been playing guitar in a local band called Honey Pie. We were making good progress, playing gigs in medium-sized venues such as The Venue in Edinburgh (which is now an art gallery). But that all stopped when the demands of writing symphonies and opera began to take over my life."

Jules continued: "Earlier this year, with my studies long over and several classical commissions behind me, I decided the time was right to start writing, recording and performing rock music once more. I got in touch with producer Mick McGarr, who produced the *John Paul Jones* soundtrack CD, and two musicians I met while studying music at Edinburgh: Luci Holland on vocals and Andrew Johnston on piano. Gradually *Five Songs for Your Consideration* took shape. Some of the songs are re-worked versions of old Honey Pie songs and some are new. All are driven by the desire to say something meaningful about the world we live in, and how we relate to our fellow human beings."

Jules Reed's *Five Songs for Your Consideration* will be available through online outlets on CD and as electronic downloads from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012, the day after the launch concert.

In addition to his work in theatre, Julian Wagstaff has written a great deal of instrumental classical music. His Piano Quintet appears on the Edinburgh Quartet CD *Frontiers and Bridges*, produced by legendary Scottish producer Calum Malcolm.

Julian Wagstaff takes up a new post as Composer in Residence at the School of Chemistry, Edinburgh University, in early 2013. He is published by Europa Edition.

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Jules Reed is the rock 'alter ego' of classical composer Julian Wagstaff.

Please visit the Press page at [www.julesreed.com](http://www.julesreed.com) for high quality, reproducible images.

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### **Online Resources**

Jules Reed website: [www.julesreed.com](http://www.julesreed.com)

Julian Wagstaff's website: [www.julianwagstaff.com](http://www.julianwagstaff.com)

### **CD Launch Concert Details**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 7.00pm. First act on at 7.30pm. Venue closes 11.00pm

Pleasance Cabaret Bar, 60 The Pleasance, Edinburgh

Performers: Jules Reed with Luci Holland, plus support from Cluny Sheeler and Calum Mason

Tickets: £6.00 (£5.00 student/unwaged) from [www.julesreed.com](http://www.julesreed.com) or 07932 596533, or on the door (subject to availability)

For press tickets please call 07932 596533.