



**Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

**Media Release**

**30 January 2009**

## **Online whodunit *The Lost Book* unites animation, music and literature**

"The most interesting collaborative book-writing experiment of the decade". Jasper Fforde

[www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net)

**The first episode of interactive online animated whodunit, *The Lost Book*, is launched today, with graphics by Binary Fable and accompanying soundtrack commissioned and performed by musicians of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.** Binary Fable has written the first episode, jam-packed with clues, which can be seen at [www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net). **The rest of the story remains in the hands of the public** who can suggest plot developments to take forward the story of investigative journalist Aileen Adler and her dog Watson. Each month between now and July, the storylines will be pulled together into the next episode, animated and published online.

***The Lost Book* encourages people to read and tell stories.** It is a partner project to the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust's 2009 reading campaign, The Lost World Read 2009, which will be using free books, online resources and events to get people reading *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle. The Lost World Read is the largest collaborative reading project ever seen in the UK.

**Director of Binary Fable and animator, Helen Jackson, said today:**

"The beauty of *The Lost Book* is that it brings together different artforms and encourages creativity on lots of different levels. And while it's a partner project to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Bristol's The Lost World Read, the website allows it to be truly global; it's already got an international following from around the world, including

a real-life Aileen Adler (who shares her name with *The Lost Book's* own central character) based in Texas!"

**The Scottish Chamber Orchestra has commissioned three composers to score the music to the web series.** Each composer will write the original soundtrack for two episodes and the resulting compositions will be recorded by musicians from the Orchestra.

The soundtrack to the first episode has been written by professional composer Alexis Bennett. Alexis studied on the Royal College of Music's Composition for Screen course under Dario Marianelli and Joseph Horowitz. His music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 and in film festivals throughout the world. Alexis will also compose the music for the sixth and final episode of *The Lost Book*. The soundtracks for episodes two to five will be written by two composers early in their careers, Michael Ferguson and Blair Mowat, both recent graduates from the Masters in Film Music course at the University of Bristol, a partner city in The Lost World Read 2009.

Followers of *The Lost Book* will also be able to participate in the City of Literature's **microstory competition which encourages the audience to create the 'lost' book that has been stolen.** Internationally-renowned fiction writer, **Jasper Fforde, has written a prologue** that introduces "a tale of ancient legend, modern greed and good old-fashioned adventure." Each week, entrants are invited to contribute the next 100 words and tell the story of a perilous expedition into the Interior of Southern Venezuela.

**The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is running a soundtrack competition open to composers of any age, all over the world.** The challenge is to write new music for episode one of *The Lost Book*. Resources for entrants include tips from composer Alexis Bennett and sound designer Stephen Gilmour.

Further information about The Lost World Read can be found at <http://www.cityofliterature.com/>

**-ENDS-**

For further information please contact the SCO press office; Lauren Johnston-Smith on 0131 478 8338 or Sheena Macrae on 0131 478 8340, or email [laurenjs@sco.org.uk](mailto:laurenjs@sco.org.uk) or [sheena.macrae@sco.org.uk](mailto:sheena.macrae@sco.org.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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**TOAD NEWS  
INTERNATIONAL**

### What is The Lost Book?

The Lost Book is a collaborative adventure in storytelling. It's taking place online and it's open to anyone. At its heart is an animated web series that people can get involved with: becoming part of the storywriting team.

### The Lost Book web series

The web series follows the adventures of investigative journalist Aileen Adler and her dog Watson. A priceless book has been stolen and... and what?! We don't yet know – it will be up to the audience to decide where the story goes. Episode one is jam-packed with clues to help people join Aileen and Watson's investigation.

### The Lost Book microstory competition

"The most interesting collaborative book-writing experiment of the decade"  
*Jasper Fforde*

We're also asking the audience to create the book that has been stolen, week by week. Top novelist Jasper Fforde has written a prologue that introduces "a tale of ancient legend, modern greed and good old-fashioned adventure." Each week, entrants are invited to contribute the next 100 words and tell the story of a perilous expedition into the Interior of Southern Venezuela.

### The Lost Book soundtrack competition

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is running a soundtrack competition open to composers of any age, all over the world. The challenge is to write new music for episode one of The Lost Book. Resources for entrants include tips from composer Alexis Bennett and sound designer Stephen Gilmour.

### Why?

The Lost Book is a part of The Lost World Read 2009, a UK-wide reading campaign celebrating Arthur Conan Doyle's 150th birthday and Charles Darwin's bicentenary. The Lost World Read is bringing people together to read a classic adventure tale of a lost plateau, discovery and dinosaurs — *The Lost World*.

The Lost Book gives both reluctant and enthusiastic readers a different way of engaging with the themes of *The Lost World*. It uses animation and the internet's capacity for discussion to encourage people to get involved with telling stories as well as reading and watching stories.

## **Binary Fable**

The Lost Book was developed by animators Binary Fable. Binary Fable Limited is an award-winning young company founded by Helen Jackson and Adam Brewster in 2007 and based in Edinburgh.

Binary Fable's last project, About Here, is an animated series for mobile phone telling place-based stories, funded by Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Screen and NESTA. Each film is humorous and accessible, providing stories and characters that people can engage with. Episode 1, About Culross Abbey, was selected as "Best Animation" at the Mobifest Toronto 08 film festival.

## **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

A particularly exciting part of The Lost Book is the partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO). The SCO have commissioned three composers to score the web series: each will write the music for two episodes. Players from the SCO will participate in six recording sessions to produce an original soundtrack for every episode.

## **The Lost World Read**

The Lost World Read 2009 is the largest ever UK collaborative reading campaign. It brings together existing initiatives such as the Glasgow City Read, One Book - One Edinburgh and the Bristol Great Reading Adventure. At least 250,000 people are expected to participate in the cities and regions, by reading books, participating in debates and using the project website.

## **BookCrossing.com**

BookCrossing is a way of sharing books and following their journeys. BookCrossing.com is supporting The Lost Book and there will be lots of BookCrossing activities during the project: release challenges, wild releases and booktrays linked to *The Lost World*. The Lost Book is also lucky enough to have books provided by sponsors Canongate specifically for BookCrossing; these books will help spread the word about The Lost Book from March to June 2009.

## **How?**

The web series will be produced by Binary Fable, with a story developed from audience suggestions and original music commissioned and recorded by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

The Lost Book website allows all the interaction between the audience and the project team:

- Anyone can make suggestions for the web series, simply by leaving a comment on the website.
- People can vote on others' suggestions in the sidebar polls.
- The microstory competition and soundtrack competition can be entered online.
- Schools resources allowing classes to create their own animation and soundtrack can be downloaded.
- "Making of..." information keeps everyone up-to-date during production of the web series.
- "One Minute Interviews" introduce the project team to the audience.

## **When?**

Episode one – 30 January 2009.

Episode two – 06 March 2009.

Episode three – 09 April 2009.

Episode four – 15 May 2009.

Episode five – 19 June 2009.

Episode six – 24 July 2009.

**Where:** [www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net)