



Welcome to the City

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2012 Lord Mayor's Show. The Show is one of the world's oldest civic processions, dating back to the reign of King John. Around 6,500 participants will make their way along the three-mile route from Guildhall to St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Courts of Justice where I will swear the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign, before returning to Mansion House.

There is an especially international and notably musical flavour this year with floats representing Sweden, Finland, Hong Kong, Mexico, Gibraltar, Holland, Switzerland, Japan and the US. Charities, community groups, businesses and Livery Companies are here, along with Her Majesty's Forces, the City Police and people from all over the UK, not least Scotland. And you'll hear music from all over the world too.

At this time of economic uncertainty, the City's role in our society needs to be seen in perspective – and that needs rebalancing. This is a theme that I shall promote during the year. London is a global centre for philanthropy and the City's massive contribution to the economy and, for instance, the arts is well worth shouting about.

The Lady Mayoress joins me in wishing you a splendid day here in the City of London. We hope you enjoy the Show.

Alderman Roger Gifford

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London