



“The City really could be called the original Big Society”

Hector, 18, hopes to follow his sister into film-making.

Roger also had a daughter Augusta, who died aged two in 1992 after developing kidney cancer. The tragedy spurred him, his friends and family to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

He says: “We had the idea of doing classical music concerts for children and had some wonderful performances, including *Peter and the Wolf* conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton and a Haydn trumpet concerto played on a garden hose by Crispian Steele-Perkins. We raised over £100,000 for the charity here and in Japan.”

On the family’s return, Roger made a conscious decision to become more involved in the City. He joined the Worshipful Company of Musicians, which encourages and promotes musical performance, becoming a Liveryman in 2005 and Court Assistant in 2009.

“I had attended a Haberdashers’ dinner in the Eighties and always wanted to join a Livery Company. The Musicians clearly suited my interests and it went from there,”

says Roger. He has become closely involved with the Livery movement and was Master of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers in 2010/11. He is also sponsoring Alderman for the Guild of Public Relations Practitioners and a Member of the Cordwainers and the Security Professionals Companies. He was elected Alderman for the Ward of Cordwainer in the City of London in 2004 and re-elected in 2011.

Roger also finds time to chair the English Chamber Orchestra charity and The Tenebrae choir, in addition to being a trustee of The St Paul’s Cathedral Foundation and the choir school. He has founded and chaired two major Nordic music festivals in the last decade. ‘From Sweden’ included around 45 concerts of Swedish music and musicians all over London in 2004/5, while three years later ‘Sibelius and Beyond’ focussed on 20th century Finnish music.

“I love Nordic culture and am very proud of what we achieved with those festivals,” says Roger, who received the Commander of the Order of

the Polar Star from Sweden and Commander of the Order of the Lion from Finland as a result of his commitment to the two countries.

CITY AND SOCIETY

Undoubtedly, the incoming Lord Mayor’s first-hand knowledge of the Square Mile’s financial offering will be invaluable in the coming year as he will be a vital ambassador of the City of London both in the UK and abroad. “I’m excited to be promoting the City at this time and helping more people to understand banking’s proper role in society,” says Roger. “There hasn’t been a banker as a Lord Mayor for some time, but as I’ve worked with international companies for some 35 years, perhaps I am reasonably well-placed to talk about the City’s role as Europe’s major financial centre and a leading global marketplace.

“As well as facilitating business by extending the credit that allows industry to function and expand, the City is an enormous contributor through taxes and jobs. The financial and professional services industry – including maritime, commodities, insurance and fund management – accounts for about nine per cent of UK GDP and 12 per cent of UK tax receipts.”

Above and beyond the money that it produces for the UK, Roger points out that the City also ploughs huge sums of money back into British society voluntarily.

He concludes: “In the coming year, I want to promote the City as a global centre for philanthropy, meaning both as a place to manage charitable funds as well as a centre for social investment and philanthropic activity. This is evidenced by the generosity of businesses, of individuals, of the Livery Companies and their huge support for schools and other charitable activities. It has actually been going on for many, many years. The City really could be called the original Big Society.”