

3rd May 2016

To whom it may concern

Re: Closure of Fairfield Halls, Croydon

I was very concerned to hear the news that the council are proposing to close Fairfield Halls, Croydon for a minimum period of 2 years. Without a guarantee of precisely when the hall would reopen and in what guise, this leaves the local and wider community with a huge number of concerns surrounding the longevity of this superb building.

As Artistic Director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, and soon to be Music Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, I want to add my own thoughts to the debate whilst also reiterating what a huge loss this hall would be, not only to Croydon, but to the whole of the UK. Fairfield Hall has a rich history of programming excellent classical music concerts – aided by its fantastic, bright acoustic. By closing this hall and leaving it to the fate of unclear, unsure redevelopment plans, we lose a centre of creativity covering a whole range of artistic events, not only in my own sphere of classical music, but concerts of other music genres, family events, comedy and so on.

I would like to join the clamours to ask the council to reconsider its decision to close the halls in July ahead of a two-year refurbishment. There seems to be no significant reason why the improvements cannot be made slowly over time whilst maintaining the use of the hall as much as possible, thereby continuing its significant role in the lives of local people and wider audiences. We cannot sit back and allow such a centre of expression, culture and community to be lost.

Yours faithfully,



Sir Simon Rattle, OM CBE