

Queen Elizabeth naming ceremony 'a privilege'

By Chris Robinson

BBC News, Ocean Terminal, Southampton

It was a special day for Southampton's Ocean Terminal and for Cunard, the penultimate event six years in the making. Security was tight as final preparations were put in place to welcome the Queen to name the newest addition to the luxury cruise company's world-famous fleet, the 92,000-tonne Queen Elizabeth. About 2,000 guests were invited, many of whom were dressed in elegant clothes to match the splendour of the ceremony with plenty of pomp and circumstance. The sounds of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the choir of the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus echoed through the special arena at Southampton's Ocean Terminal.

For first violinist Tim Fisher, it was a "privilege" to have played. "It was amazing to think that the orchestra played for the ceremony, it was a big moment," said Mr Fisher, from Poole. "On stage there was a certain buzz - how many times in your career are you invited to play for the naming of a ship?"

