

Press Release

For release: 10 June 2015



Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme

Support for String Players:

- **Ruisi Quartet** wins RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize
- Violinist **Marta Kowalczyk** wins RPS Emily Anderson Prize

RPS Duet Prizes:

- **Two new prizes for school-aged composers and instrumentalists launched**
- **RPS Music Awards Appeal in aid of the RPS Young Musicians Programme raises £36,000... and counting**

Outstanding young string players have been recognised through two special awards as part of the **Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme**. The **Ruisi Quartet** has been awarded the **RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize** for young string players and **Marta Kowalczyk** the **RPS Emily Anderson Prize** for young violinists. Elected following recent YCAT Trust auditions, the **Ruisi Quartet** will receive £5,000 towards professional development, and violinist **Marta Kowalczyk** £2,500.

And, in a new initiative, the RPS has joined forces with the Duet Group* to create two prizes for secondary school-aged composers and instrumentalists, part of a wider scheme to strengthen links between exceptional young musicians, their teachers and the music profession.

The RPS is grateful to all those who have donated to the RPS Music Awards Appeal, which was launched at the awards dinner on 5 May and so far has raised over £36,000 in support of the RPS's work with young musicians.

About the RPS Young Musicians Programme

The Royal Philharmonic Society's thriving Young Musicians Programme is based on the quiet idea of serious intellectual engagement and striving for artistic excellence. It supports the serious musical development of young musicians at the start of their careers. It's not flashy, or about fast-tracking young talent, but about giving young musicians valuable time to mature and grow in confidence, helping with the tools of the trade, and providing them with tailor-made opportunities for mentoring, specialist study, coaching. The Society makes an annual commitment to around 30 young musicians, and alumni include Stephen Hough and Alina Ibragimova. Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director of the RPS comments:

"In 2012, RPS Gold Medallist Mitsuko Uchida, in addressing the RPS Music Awards, spoke of her never-ending quest to improve and understand; to get a little better every day. She ended by saying that she remained 'hopeful'. This quest is what lies at the very heart of the RPS Young Musicians Programme, and I hope, that by recognising these young talents, and by offering them careful guidance, we can help some exceptional young musicians to lay strong foundations on which to build an outstanding musical career."

The RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize and RPS Emily Anderson Prize

The **Ruisi Quartet** - **Alessandro Ruisi** (violin), his brother **Max Ruisi** (cello), **Guy Button** (violin) and **Asher Zaccardelli** (viola) - are the second winners of the RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for young string players which was inaugurated in 2014. Formed in 2012, the quartet performs regularly throughout the UK at venues including Wigmore Hall and King's Place, and this season has been in residence at the Royal College of Music as part of the Artist Diploma in Chamber Music course. The quartet was also chosen to take part in the Spring 2015 IMS Prussia Cove masterclasses with Farenc Rados and Rita Wagner.

www.ruisiquartet.com

Marta Kowalczyk (b.1991) has won the longstanding RPS Emily Anderson Prize for young violinists, following in the footsteps of her compatriot Maria Wloszczowska who scooped the prize in 2013. Currently studying for a Master of Arts at the Royal Academy of Music with Professor György Pauk, Marta is a laureate of numerous prizes and international competitions including a former winner of the Eurovision Young Musicians, representing her country at the final event in Vienna in 2008. She has appeared as a recitalist and soloist across Europe, and made her Wigmore Hall recital debut in January 2015. martakowalczyk.com

About Albert and Eugenie Frost, and Emily Anderson

The RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize is supported by the music trust set up in memory of businessman and music philanthropist Albert Frost and his wife Eugenie. Frost, who died aged 96 in 2010, was a keen violinist with a passion for chamber music and during his lifetime, was an active supporter of a range of musical and other causes. In his later years he was a member of the Arts Council and the appeal committee of the Royal Opera House, a deputy chairman of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, chairman of the Robert Mayer Trust for Youth and Music and of the City of London Carl Flesch international violin competition, and was a driving force in establishing the Loan Fund for Musical Instruments to encourage young British string players. The Trust has also offered additional support to the RPS Emily Anderson Prize, which was established in 1967 under the will of the editor of the letters of Mozart and Beethoven.

RPS Duet Prizes launched

The RPS and the Duet Group* have come together to launch two new prizes for outstanding young instrumentalists and composers of secondary school age as part of 'Ensemble Philharmonic' a new project designed to build links between exceptional young musicians and secondary music departments, and the music profession. The RPS Duet Prizes, supported by the Duet Group Charitable Foundation, aims to encourage and recognise musical excellence in formative years.

The new RPS Duet Prizes will be awarded for the first time in 2016, and on a biennial basis thereafter. They are open to student musicians from schools and Hubs, but not specialist music schools, who are under the age of 18 on 31st August 2016.

The winner of the **Young Instrumentalist Prize** will receive £1500 to assist their musical development and a public recital at a National Music Festival. The entry deadline is 16 October 2015.

The winner of the **Young Composer Prize** will also receive £1500 to assist their musical development and a UK performance of a commissioned composition, details to be agreed between the winner, and an RPS nominated ensemble. The entry deadline is 20 November 2015.

Full details of the RPS Duet Prizes and how to enter/deadlines at: www.philharmonicsociety.uk

** The Duet Group is the leading organisation for leasing, servicing and maintaining musical instruments for individual musicians, schools, conservatoires and universities. It supports young musicians through the Duet Group Charitable Foundation. www.duetgroup.co.uk*

Supporting the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme RPS Music Awards Appeal raises £36,000 ... and counting

The Royal Philharmonic Society receives no public funding and its work for young artists is supported by donations from charitable trusts, organisations and individuals. This year's RPS Music Awards Appeal, launched at the awards dinner on 5 May has so far raised over £36,000 towards the RPS Young Musicians Programme, with further donations pledged. Rosemary Johnson comments:

"I want to thank the RPS Council and guests at this year's RPS Music Awards who have so generously donated to the appeal and to ask all those who love music, and are yet to contribute, to consider supporting the RPS's work with young musicians. Costs of training are spiraling and many really talented performers stumble once they leave the safety net of an educational institution, bowed down by the need to earn a living while still honing their technique and establishing their careers. Even a small amount of support, offered at the right time, can absolutely revolutionise a life or a career and the RPS is adept at making a little funding go a long way."

Further information about how to support the RPS Young Musicians Programme can be found at philharmonicsociety.uk

Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787
sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

philharmonicsociety.uk

twitter @royalphilsoc

facebook @royalphilsoc