

CLASSIC *f*M



**For immediate release**

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**CLASSIC FM LAUNCHES 25<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY COMMISSIONS  
WITH THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

**UK'S MOST POPULAR CLASSICAL MUSIC STATION COMMISSIONS NEW MUSIC BY  
YOUNG COMPOSERS**

Classic FM has teamed up with the Royal Philharmonic Society to commission six brand new pieces of classical music written by composers who are no older than the station itself.

**The Classic FM 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commissions, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS)**, launches today, as part of a year-long celebration for the UK's number one classical music station. Alongside twelve months of special programmes, live concerts and events, Classic FM has joined forces with the RPS, one of the most important commissioners of composers since Beethoven, to look to the future and champion Britain's outstanding young musical talent.

Young composers from all corners of the UK who were born on or after Classic FM's first broadcast on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1992 are welcome to apply. When the station launched, its central mission was to make classical music relevant to everyone, and this mission remains at the core of Classic FM today. Entrants will therefore need to demonstrate an ability to write accessible classical music, for varying sizes of ensemble.

Each work will be reviewed by a panel of distinguished judges, including Classic FM's Composer in Residence, Debbie Wiseman. From there, six individuals will be appointed as Classic FM's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Composers. Each winner will be paired with one of the station's events, including Classic FM Live at London's Royal Albert Hall and the 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, where their work will be premiered. With varying ensemble sizes, each composer will be paid for their work, which will be recorded live and broadcast on-air to Classic FM's 5.3 million listeners throughout the UK.

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Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director of the Royal Philharmonic Society, said: "The Royal Philharmonic Society is one of the UK's most important commissioners of music, with an unparalleled track record of supporting composers – from commissioning Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to supporting the brightest talent from a new generation. We are hugely excited to celebrate Classic FM's quarter century with a project which has such deep roots in the Society and its history and also allows Classic FM listeners and audiences at live events right across the country to hear the diverse, rich music of today's young composers."

Sam Jackson, Classic FM's managing editor said: "We're looking forward to celebrating a range of young composers this year, none of whom were born when Classic FM began broadcasting back in 1992. Just under half a million under-25-year-olds now listen to Classic FM each week – and this exciting new initiative with the Royal Philharmonic Society will help us to showcase a wealth of young musical talent in this country."

**For full details of The Classic FM 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commissions, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Society, visit [ClassicFM.com](http://ClassicFM.com)**

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**About Classic FM:**

Classic FM is the UK's biggest single commercial radio station. It offers its 5.3 million weekly listeners a wide variety of programmes, hosted by a range of award-winning broadcasters and musicians including John Suchet, Alan Titchmarsh, Bill Turnbull, Myleene Klass, Alexander Armstrong, Aled Jones, Alex James, Margherita Taylor, Nicholas Owen, Charlotte Green and Anne-Marie Minhall. Since its launch in 1992, Classic FM has aimed to break down the barriers to classical music and in so doing, introduce an entirely new audience to the genre. Source: *RAJAR / Ipsos-MORI / RSMB, period ending September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

**About Global Radio:**

Global Radio is the UK's biggest commercial radio company and home to the country's three biggest commercial radio brands Heart, Capital and Smooth. Together Global brands reach 24.6 million people every week on the radio alone. Source: *RAJAR / Ipsos-MORI / RSMB, period ending September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

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**About Global:**

Global is one of the world's leading media and entertainment groups. Global has three divisions, Global Radio, Global Television and Global Entertainment. Ashley Tabor is Founder & Executive President, Stephen Miron is Group CEO, Richard Park is Group Executive Director & Director of Broadcasting and Lord Allen is Chairman. Tabor created Global in 2007.

**About the Royal Philharmonic Society:**

The Royal Philharmonic Society unites the music profession and its audiences to create a vibrant future for music: supporting and working creatively with talented young performers and composers, championing excellence, and encouraging audiences to listen to, and talk about, great music. The Society has been at the heart of music for over 200 years, with direct links to Beethoven (it commissioned the composer's Ninth Symphony), Mendelssohn, Wagner and many of the iconic figures of classical music.

**Champions of Excellence:** The Society sets the standard and lets the world know about the finest classical music making. From its historic Gold Medal to the annual RPS Music Awards for live music, recognition by the RPS is a guarantee of outstanding music achievement.

**Young Musicians:** The RPS invests in talented young performers, offering much needed funding to buy instruments, teaching tailored to their individual needs, or the chance to be mentored by an experienced, established performer.

**Composers:** The Society supports new music through commissioning new work, repeat performances, workshops, residency schemes and encouraging interaction between composers and audiences.

**Audiences:** The RPS is a voice for music, putting music at the centre of cultural life. Whether a regular listener or just beginning to explore classical music, the RPS actively promotes greater engagement with live music performance and encourages people to listen and talk about music through events and debate. [www.philharmonicsociety.uk](http://www.philharmonicsociety.uk)

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