

CLASSIC *f*M



**For immediate release**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**SEVEN YOUNG COMPOSERS COMMISSIONED BY CLASSIC FM  
AND ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY TO WRITE NEW MUSIC  
FOR STATION'S 25<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Seven young composers all under the age of 25 have been chosen by a panel of judges from Classic FM and the Royal Philharmonic Society to write a new piece of classical music each to celebrate the radio station's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**The Classic FM 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commissions in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Society** (RPS) have been created to champion Britain's outstanding young musical talent and are part of a year of celebrations for the UK's most popular classical music station. The RPS is one of the most important commissioners of composers since Beethoven.

Aged between 16 and 23 years old, the seven composers from London, Cambridge and Surrey were chosen from almost 200 applicants. 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 5.4 million listeners across the UK. In addition, some winners will be paired with one of the station's events, such as its 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Classic FM Live at London's Royal Albert Hall, both in September, where their work will be premiered.

The winners are: Alexander Woolf (21) and Alexia Sloane (16) from Cambridge; Jack Pepper (17) from Epsom; Benjamin Rimmer (23) from Stamford in Lincolnshire; Dani Howard (23), who was born in Hong Kong and now lives in London, Marco Galvani (22) from Prenton on the Wirral and Oliver Muxworthy (23) from Uckfield in East Sussex.

Any person born on or after Classic FM's first broadcast on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1992 could apply. When the station launched, its aim was to make classical music relevant to everyone, and this mission remains at the core of Classic FM today.

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Entrants needed to demonstrate an ability to write accessible classical music, for varying sizes of ensemble, ranging from full orchestra, brass and choral ensembles, to flute and piano. Each work was then reviewed by a panel of distinguished judges including Debbie Wiseman, Errollyn Wallen, Paul Mealar and Stephen McNeff. From nearly 200 entrants, seven individuals have been appointed as Classic FM's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Composers.

Rosemary Johnson, executive director of the Royal Philharmonic Society, said: "How exciting it is to give these very young creative people such an interesting challenge and the opportunity to write for such big audiences. They have all demonstrated how up for it they are!"

Sam Jackson, Classic FM's managing editor said: "Over 350,000 Classic FM listeners are younger than the station itself – and in this, our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday year, we're so excited to be showcasing the music of these seven brilliant composers to our wider audience of 5.4 million people. The Royal Philharmonic Society very much shares Classic FM's mission of bringing classical music to as many people as possible, and their support of new music is second to none. Together, we're looking forward to seeing how these young musicians rise to the challenge of composing for Classic FM!"

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

**- ENDS -**

**Notes for editors**

**Young composers:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Composition</b>
<b>Alexander Woolf</b>	21	Cambridge	Three-minute piece for flute and piano, to be performed by Sir James Galway and an accompanist and to be recorded for broadcast on Classic FM.
<b>Alexia Sloane</b>	16	Cambridge	Three-minute piece musicians to be confirmed, to be recorded for broadcast on Classic FM.
<b>Benjamin Rimmer</b>	23	Stamford, Lincolnshire	Five-minute piece for orchestra, to be performed live in concert by one of Classic FM's Partner Orchestras this

			year.
<b>Dani Howard</b>	23	Hong Kong, now living in London	Five-minute piece for orchestra, to be performed live at Classic FM's 25 <sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September.
<b>Jack Pepper</b>	17	Epsom	Two-minute fanfare for Brass, to be performed by students of the Royal College of Music at the ABRSM's Shine event at The Barbican, hosted by Classic FM, on Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July.
<b>Marco Galvani</b>	22	Prenton on the Wirral	Four-minute piece for choir, to be performed live in concert and recorded for broadcast on Classic FM.
<b>Oliver Muxworthy</b>	23	Uxbridge, East Sussex	Five-minute piece for orchestra, to be performed live in concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Welsh Proms on Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July.

**About Classic FM:**

Classic FM is the UK's biggest single commercial radio station. It offers its 5.4 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 December 18<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

**About Global:**

Global is one of the world's leading Media & Entertainment groups.

With a portfolio of some of the largest and most respected media brands, events and artists, Global reaches more than 30 million people every week, including over 24 million on the radio alone.

As well as being home to the UK's biggest commercial radio business, Global has an entertainment division which spans artist management, music publishing, touring, events, and is also the second biggest festival company in the UK.

Global's headquarters are in London's iconic Leicester Square. Global has more than 1,600 people working at 25 broadcast centres and offices around the UK.

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.

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**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,

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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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