

Press Release

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Percussionist Evelyn Glennie awarded Honorary Membership of the Royal Philharmonic Society

The percussionist **Evelyn Glennie** has been made an Honorary Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society in recognition of her outstanding services to music, as a pioneering percussionist and a passionate advocate for music education. She is the 138th recipient since the first honorary membership was made to Carl Maria von Weber in 1826 and the first percussionist to receive the award. Illustrious Honorary Members have included **Rossini** (1839), **Brahms** (1882), **Clara Schumann** (1887), **Stravinsky** (1921), **Aaron Copland** (1970), **Paul Sacher** (1991) and **Lady Evelyn Barbirolli** (2001). Recent recipients have included founder of El Sistema **José Antonio Abreu** (2008) **Sir Brian McMaster** (2009) **Graham Johnson**, **Fanny Waterman** (2010) **George Benjamin**, **Tony Fell**, **Mark Elder** (2011) **John Stephens** (2012), **Dr Ahmad Sarmast**, **Rosemary Nalden**, **Aaron Dworkin**, **Ricardo Castro**, **Armand Diangienda** (2013) **Martin Campbell-White**, **Marin Alsop** (2014).

In its full citation, the Council of the Royal Philharmonic Society says:

“Evelyn Glennie is the first person in western musical history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist. She has fired the enthusiasm of audiences, engaged a whole new generation of performers, actively campaigns for music education and is constantly redefining our expectations of percussion. She has also demonstrated forcibly that it is possible with a serious hearing impairment to perform music at the highest possible level and in so doing she has given us a completely different understanding of how we listen.”

Her advice to young people is to “grab on to any opportunity that comes your way, but also to practice the art of creating your own opportunities”. No one has proved that more forcibly than Evelyn herself. She a great ambassador for music and an extraordinary role model for all performers striving to achieve their goals.”

The presentation of the certificate of Honorary Membership will be made on Friday 25th September at the Wigmore Hall, at the launch of *Musical Routes: A New Landscape for Music Education*, an independently commissioned report into the provision of musical education for school-aged children and young people in England by Sarah Derbyshire MBE in partnership with Royal Philharmonic Society.

Further press information from:

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If you would like to attend the presentation and the launch of the Musical Routes report at 10am on Friday 25 September, please do contact Sophie on the numbers above, or email robin@philharmonicsociety.uk

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Notes:

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 at the start of their careers, 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 encourages people to listen and talk about music through a series of events, talks and debates.