

## Press Release

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### Gareth Malone to give keynote speech at RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards

The UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music  
Presented in association with BBC Radio 3

Tuesday 8 May, Dorchester Hotel

[www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

Choirmaster and broadcaster **Gareth Malone** will be the keynote speaker at classical music's big night out – the RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3

The RPS Music Awards has a strong track record of thought-provoking keynote speeches by distinctive, outspoken voices from across the arts. Previous speakers have included artist **Grayson Perry**, playwright **Mark Ravenhill**, National Theatre Artistic Director **Nicholas Hytner** and Arts Council Chair **Dame Liz Forgan**.

The RPS Music Awards were the first – and remain one of the very few – awards to recognize outstanding contribution in the fields of Learning and Participation, and Audiences and Engagement. **Gareth Malone** has become synonymous with an inclusive approach to music making, encapsulated both by his award-winning BBC television documentaries *The Choir*, and by his work with music organizations such as Glyndebourne Youth Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra. In five documentary series, the multi-award winning *The Choir* has followed the transformative effect of choral singing on students, boys, the Hertfordshire town of South Oxhey, Glyndebourne Youth Opera in the creation of *The Knight Crew* and the Devon-based wives and girlfriends of military personnel deployed in Afghanistan (resulting in the hit single “Wherever you are” and the chart topping Military Wives CD *In My Dreams*).

**Shortlists for the RPS Music Awards will be announced on Tuesday 17 April.**

The awards ceremony takes place on the evening of Tuesday 8 May at the Dorchester Hotel, London with the silver lyre awards trophies presented by one of the UK's finest tenors, **John Mark Ainsley**, himself a winner of the RPS Music Award for Singer in 2007.

## Sponsors

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3. The society is grateful for BBC Radio 3's continuing support – the eighth year that the awards have been presented in association with BBC Radio 3 - and to its individual award sponsors, donors and supporters: **BBC Music Magazine, David W. Bowerman CBE, Peter Bull, the Incorporated Society of Musicians** (who will sponsor the RPS Music Award for Opera and Music Theatre for the first time) the **Musicians Benevolent Fund, Rosenblatt Recital Series, the Yellow Car Charitable Trust** and an **anonymous donor**.

The RPS Music Award for Chamber-Scale Composition is being presented in memory of former Royal Philharmonic Society Chairman **Tony Fell**, who died in December 2011.

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## Notes

### About the RPS Music Awards

The annual RPS Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, are the highest recognition for live classical music in the UK. Awards, in thirteen categories, are decided by independent panels consisting of some of the music industry's most distinguished practitioners. The awards honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations. The list of previous winners reads like a *Who's Who* of classical music. This year's RPS Music Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in 2011.

[www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

Follow the latest news and views on the RPS Music Awards at:

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### RPS Music Awards on BBC Radio 3

The RPS Music Awards will feature on BBC Radio 3, with a special programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards on Sunday 13 May , 2-4pm.

[www.bbc.co.uk/radio3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3)