



*At the heart of music for 200 years*

## Press Release

For release: 19 September 2012

### Autumn Events 2012

#### Talks – Debates – Performances – Commissions

This autumn, the Royal Philharmonic Society ventures nationwide and overseas to Prague, with a series of talks and debates on pressing musical matters and live performances that turn the spotlight on distinguished neglected works from the contemporary chamber repertoire.

#### Understanding music: Talks

##### Tom Service on new music

**Music as Alchemy – Sunday 7 October – Kings Place at 5pm**

**The Five Myths about Contemporary Music – Monday 8 October – Kings Place at 7pm**

As part of the Notes & Letters festival and in association with the RPS, critic, broadcaster and RPS Council member Tom Service fronts two spoken word events at Kings Place in October.

**Music as Alchemy** delves into the rehearsal rooms of some of the most inspirational orchestral partnerships in the world and reveals how the catalysts of place, time, and personal history are alchemised into the indelible magic of life-changing performances.

**The Five Myths about Contemporary Music** – Tom Service chairs a panel with **Nicholas Snowman**, previously Director General of the Southbank Centre, **Andrew Burke** of the London Sinfonietta, composer **Judith Weir** CBE and other luminaries from the world of contemporary music to explore common misconceptions of contemporary classical music.

The *Notes & Letters Festival* is associated with the Royal Philharmonic Society's *Notes into Letters* Project, bringing the worlds of music and word together. Launched by the RPS in 2008, the project seeks to create new writing drawing inspiration from the musical canon.

## Understanding music: Debates

### Who needs classical when we've got dubstep, grime and house?

Prague: Tuesday 9 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm Crossclub, Plynární 23, Praha 7, 170 00, CZ

The Royal Philharmonic Society joins forces with the Institute of Ideas for two debates that put the pulse on pressing issues in the arts today.

The first debate takes place at the Crossclub in Prague, which has built a reputation for lively, popular club nights that mix classical and non-classical music. The debate asks whether we can truly understand music unless we try to make judgements of quality, and asks how we define who's better – Mozart or Madonna? Dvorák or Dizzee Rascal? Beethoven or the Beatles?

Panel:

**Alan Miller** (chair) – co-director, NY Salon; co-founder, London's Truman Brewery

**Dolan Cummings** – associate fellow, Institute of Ideas and editor of *Culture Wars* and *Debating Humanism*

**Tom Hutchinson** – Arts project manager, Royal Philharmonic Society; clarinettist

**Jan Nemeč** – aka DJ RaveBoy, underground philosopher and cultural activist

**Karel Veselý** – freelance music journalist, author *Hudba ohne* (*Fire Music*) and *Tribes*.

### In search of originality: navigating the creative canon

London: Sunday 20 October at 3pm, Fountain Room, Barbican

The Royal Philharmonic Society returns to the annual Battle of Ideas to probe how significant artistic heritage relates to wider society. Is the enthusiasm for the likes of Wagner and Leonardo, Picasso and Puccini keeping the culture of the past fresh, alive and relevant to a contemporary audience, or simply providing a nostalgic greatest hits package, with little connection to work created today

Panel:

**Dr Tiffany Jenkins** (chair) – sociologist and cultural commentator; arts and society director, Institute of Ideas

**Professor Joe Friggieri** – head of philosophy, University of Malta, poet, playwright, theatre director and three-times winner of National Literary Prize

**Piers Hellawell** – composer, professor of composition, The Queen's University, Belfast

**Karl Horro** – architect, writer and Middle East commentator

**Jane McAdam Freud** – sculptor and multi-disciplinary artist; teacher in sculpture, Central St. Martins, University of the Arts London and Morley College, London

**Igor Toronyi-Lalic** – critic, curator and documentary film-maker, co-founder theartsdesk.com

## Creative thinking for music: Performances

### Encore: Chamber Music

#### In association with BBC Radio 3

*Encore*, gives repeat performances, broadcasts and additional creative programming to works by living British composers which otherwise might be lost from view.

### Brian Ferneyhough: Prometheus

12 October: Nottingham

*Encore; Chamber Music* continues this October with **Brian Ferneyhough's** 1967 epic masterpiece *Prometheus*, performed by the Northern Sinfonia as part of Nottingham Classic's AFTER:Hours series alongside new works by Dobrinka Tabakova and Gavin Higgins.

As well as the performance – the first since 2003 - *Encore* has commissioned a short film from award winning film maker **Ruth Paxton**, produced by **Maja Borg**, which will be premiered at the concert and shown at the **London Short Film Festival** in January 2013.

Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham NG1 5ND

Price: Free to ticket holders for the main concert at 19.30 / £3 for non-ticket holders.

Concert begins 20 minutes after the end of the 19.30 concert.

### Philip Cashian: String Quartet

14 November: Leeds    16 November: Manchester    19 November: Huddersfield

In November, the spotlight is on **Philip Cashian's** *String Quartet*, which receives performances by the **Zelkova Quartet** at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Royal College of Music in Manchester and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the first performances of the work for sixteen years.

As part of *Encore*, the work is set to new choreography by **Jennifer-Lynn Crawford**, performed by dancers from the **Northern School of Contemporary Dance**, the first time Philip Cashian will have worked with dance. Described by the New York Times as '*agile, imaginative and light-filled*', Cashian's *String Quartet* will be performed alongside his piano quartet. *Music for the Night Sky*, featuring pianist **Jung Ouyang**.

14 November: Leeds

Northern School of Contemporary Dance, 7.30pm (with new choreography)

16 November: Manchester

Royal Northern College of Music, 6.30pm (with new choreography)

19 November: Huddersfield

St Paul's Hall, 1pm (concert only); 5pm (with new choreography)

Performances of both *Encore* works will be recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

## Creative thinking for music: Commissions

### Composer in the House

In partnership with the Performing Rights Society Foundation for Music

### Huw Watkins: Composer in the House at the Orchestra of the Swan

Tuesday 16 October at 6.45pm, Stratford

Huw Watkins has just begun work as the RPS/PRS for Music Foundation Composer in the House at the Orchestra of the Swan, a scheme which aims to re-establish composers at the heart of orchestral life.

Widely admired as both composer and pianist, Huw Watkins debuts his first commission for the orchestra, a 'Short' in this pre-concert event – the hors d'oeuvres to a two-year association with the orchestra which will include two major commissions and a series of projects both on and off the concert platform.

Composer in the House enables composers and performers alike to have space to create new work, whilst inviting audiences to engage actively with new music through long-term involvement with a composer.

### Royal Philharmonic Society

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

*philharmonic: adj. devoted to music*

The Royal Philharmonic Society has been at the heart of music for 200 years. The RPS is for people who love music and live music making and who want to ensure a vibrant future for classical music. It offers support to talented young performers and composers, champions excellence and encourages audiences to listen, and talk about, great music.

Full details of all events can be found at  
[www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk)

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