



## Press Release

For release: 13 September 2013

### RPS200 – AUTUMN EVENTS

Royal Philharmonic Society 2013 Bicentenary celebrations head into autumn with concerts, talks and exhibitions in New York and across the UK

- Roger Wright to give RPS Annual Lecture at Lincoln Center, NYC
- New York Philharmonic gives US Premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Frieze*
- Juilliard School and The Morgan Library bring together for the first time two historic scores of the Society's most famous commission, Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony
- Key works by Brahms, Berlioz, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Messiaen from the Society's illustrious history to be performed in Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester
- Recent RPS commissions by Wolfgang Rihm, Judith Weir, Kenneth Hesketh and Huw Watkins and short new works by the next generation of young composers feature in RPS autumn line-up
- RPS Young Musicians take centre stage in special concert.
- Royal Philharmonic Society debate at the *Battle of Ideas* asks how we can protect music pupils from abuse without destroying the ability of music teachers to pass on their complex specialist skills to future generations.
- George Benjamin features in day of discussion on the future direction of new music

The Royal Philharmonic Society Bicentenary programme continues this autumn, with events straddling both sides of the Atlantic.

Autumn RPS200 events feature major works from the Society's extraordinary list of commissions and premieres alongside the very latest RPS commissions. Away from the concert platform, the Society is in full voice, with Director of the BBC Proms and Controller of BBC Radio 3, Roger Wright, giving the first RPS Lecture outside the UK, composer George Benjamin offering his thoughts on the future of new music, and the Society investigating the practical and artistic impact of recent cases of abuse in music schools on one-to-one music teaching. The outstanding talent of young artists from the RPS Young Musicians Programme is spotlighted in a special concert. The Programme recently awarded over £81,000 to help the development of the next generation of talent.

**FULL DETAILS OF ALL RPS200 EVENTS AT [rps200.org](http://rps200.org)**

**RPS200 in New York City**  
**25 September – 1 December 2013**

The New York Philharmonic, the Juilliard School and the Morgan Library & Museum lead the RPS's New York Bicentenary celebrations.

The RPS's New York season, *Philharmonic Pioneers – Beethoven, the Big Apple and Beyond*, celebrates the genius of Beethoven, the very best in new music and the bold pioneers of Philharmonic Societies on both sides of the Atlantic. New York's own Philharmonic Society, formed in 1842, has strong parallels with the RPS.

**Concerts:**

**Alan Gilbert** conducts the New York Philharmonic in a programme pairing Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the U.S. Premiere of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's** *Frieze*, a new work that was written in response to that enduring masterpiece, co-commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society, New York Philharmonic and BBC Radio 3 (**3-5, 8, 9 October, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center**).

The Juilliard School is collaborating in several events. The RPS Executive Director **Rosemary Johnson** and RPS Projects Coordinator **Tom Hutchinson** hold a public discussion with conductor, author, and teacher **Joel Sachs**, whose New Juilliard Ensemble performs the US premieres of two RPS commissions, by Judith Weir and Magnus Lindberg, later that evening. (**Sunday 29 September**)

**Exhibitions:**

The Royal Philharmonic Society's copyist's score of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, annotated by the composer, is displayed publicly alongside the Juilliard School's own original copyist's score for the first time since 1824. (**30 September – 4 October, Library, The Juilliard School/8 October – 1 December, The Morgan Library and Museum**). On **Thursday, October 1**, Juilliard hosts a doctoral forum with Dr. Nicolas Bell, curator of the Music Collections at the British Library.

The RPS's New York bicentennial celebrations also include an exhibition exploring the pioneering spirit of the founders of both the Royal Philharmonic Society and the New York Philharmonic at the Bruno Walter Gallery at Avery Fisher Hall (25 September – 23 November). Artifacts from both archives will be on display including materials relating to the 1846 U.S. premiere of the Ninth Symphony, which was the first time the "Ode to Joy" was translated into English, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic. The original choral parts, hand-written translation, and printing plates – all of which are housed in the New York Philharmonic Archives – will be on view alongside correspondence, scores and memorabilia from the RPS Archive at the British Library. Dr Nicolas Bell, curator of the RPS Archive at the British Library, will give talks detailing the commissioning and creation of Beethoven's great symphony.

**Royal Philharmonic Society Lecture:**

**Roger Wright – "The Future of Music -We're all in this together"**

Roger Wright, Director of BBC Proms and Controller of BBC Radio 3, offers his thoughts on the future of classical music in the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Lecture (the first to be delivered outside the UK). Often controversial and always engaging, the RPS Lecture asks leading figures to reflect on the shape of music today and in the future. Previous distinguished speakers have included Master of the Queen's Music Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and New Yorker critic Alex Ross. **Wednesday 9 October, Kaplan Penthouse, Lincoln Center**

## RPS200 in the UK

### Concerts: RPS Key Works

The Hallé, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra join the nationwide RPS 200 celebrations with concerts featuring key works from two centuries of RPS commissions and premiere performances.

#### **Brahms: A German Requiem/Liverpool Philharmonic/the Hallé**

The Liverpool Philharmonic, under Vasily Petrenko performs Philharmonic Society Gold Medallist, Brahms' A German Requiem, first performed in the UK by the Philharmonic Society in 1873.

**Saturday 14 September, Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool**

A *German Requiem* is also performed by the Hallé in October, alongside Wolfgang Rihm's acclaimed *A Tribute (Über die Linie VIII)*, one of a group of new works by distinguished international composers commissioned by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Britten-Pears Foundation to celebrate the centenary of Britten's birth and the bicentenary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, and premiered at Aldeburgh Festival earlier this year. Markus Stenz conducts

**Thursday 24 October, Bridgewater Hall**

#### **Berlioz: Harold in Italy; Benvenuto Cellini Overture; Roméo and Juliette/ London Symphony Orchestra**

The London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev, celebrates the music of Berlioz during November and features an RPS200 performance of the *Overture Benvenuto Cellini*, which was given its UK premiere by the Philharmonic Society in 1841, *Harold in Italy*, which was first performed by the Philharmonic Society in 1853 and *Roméo and Juliette* (premiered 1881)

**Friday 1 November, Barbican Hall – Benvenuto Cellini Overture/Harold in Italy**

**Wednesday 6 November, Barbican Hall – Roméo and Juliette**

#### **Messiaen: Des Canyons aux Etoiles/London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Olivier Messiaen was made an RPS Gold Medallist in 1975, and his expansive orchestral work, *Des canyons aux étoiles* was first performed in the UK at a Royal Philharmonic Society concert the same year. Christoph Eschenbach conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the next chapter of the South Bank Centre's *Rest is Noise* Festival.

**Saturday 2 November, Royal Festival Hall**

#### **Dvorak: Symphony No.7/The Hallé**

Dvorak was a regular visitor and conductor at Philharmonic Society concerts at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His Seventh Symphony was given its world premiere by the Society on 22 April 1885. Andrew Gourlay conducts the Hallé Orchestra.

**Thursday 5 December, Bridgewater Hall**

#### **Tchaikovsky: Symphony No.6 "Pathétique"/City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

Tchaikovsky's final symphony was first performed by the Society in 1894. Andrew Litton conducts the CBSO in a programme that also includes Saint-Saën's *Piano Concerto No. 2* (another composer with whom the Society had strong associations, including commissioning his 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony).

**Wednesday 11 & Saturday 14 December, Symphony Hall, Birmingham**

## **Concerts: Recent RPS Commissions**

The Royal Philharmonic Society has commissioned over 20 new works for performance during its Bicentenary year from both distinguished and emerging composers. RPS200 this autumn runs the gamut, from major works by leading international composers to a series of 'shorts' and fanfares by student composers. Highlights include:

### **RPS/Britten-Pears Commissions**

As well as a second performance by the Hallé of Wolfgang Rihm's *A Tribute* (see above), there is also a second outing for Judith Weir's commission for chamber orchestra, *I give you the end of a golden string*, performed by three-time RPS Music Award winners Britten Sinfonia (who gave the world premiere of the work in June).

**Rihm: Thursday 24 October, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

**Weir: Sunday 17 – Sunday 24 November, Norwich, Cambridge and Milton Court Concert Hall, London**

### **Kenneth Hesketh – *Repetition of Change***

The latest RPS Drummond Fund commission from composer Kenneth Hesketh and artistic director of Phoenix Dance Theatre, Sharon Watson, uses movement to unravel our genetic code, taking the audience on a volatile journey through the fascinating world of DNA.

**Friday 11 October, Northern Stage Theatre, Newcastle**

**Tuesday 15 October, Hull New Theatre, Hull**

**Thursday 17 October, The Atkinson, Southport**

**Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 November, York Theatre Royal, York**

**Tuesday 19 – Saturday 23 November, Linbury Studio Theatre, London**

**Tuesday 28 November, The Curve, Leicester**

### **Huw Watkins: RPS/PRSF Composer in the House, Orchestra of the Swan**

As well as the premiere of his own new work for chamber orchestra in November, Huw Watkins has curated a series of 'short' works by student composers that will be premiered by the Orchestra of the Swan throughout the autumn as part of an RPS/PRSF scheme which places composers at heart of orchestral life.

**Huw Watkins premiere: Tuesday 19 November, Cockermouth**

**Thursday 21 November, Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon**

**'Shorts' premieres: Tuesday 15 October, Tuesday 12 November, Stratford upon Avon**

## **RPS200 Talks and Debates**

**As part of its remit to further an understanding of music, the RPS hosts lectures, debates and discussions throughout the season. This autumn, these include:**

### **RPS debate at the Battle of Ideas: One-to-One Music Tuition**

In the fifth year of its association with the Battle of Ideas, the RPS debate examines the pros and cons of one-to-one tuition in music schools.

Over recent months, the actions of predatory adults and their appalling effects on children and young people have hit the headlines, including recent convictions for sexual abuse at Chetham's School of Music and ongoing investigations here, and at other teaching institutions.

So, how do we protect pupils from abuse without destroying the ability of music teachers to pass on their complex specialist skills to future generations? Can specialist music schools survive, and how do we separate the exacting demands of music, and music teaching, from an alleged culture of abuse, intimidation and bullying?

Speakers including sociologist Professor Frank Furedi, author of *Moral Crusades in an Age of Mistrust; The Jimmy Savile Scandal*; Dr Helena Gaunt, Assistant Principal at Guildhall School of Music & Drama; composer Piers Hellawell; Professor Heather Piper, author of *Don't Touch*, from the Education and Social Research Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University and the RPS's Tom Hutchinson weigh up the evidence. Claire Fox, Director of the Institute of Ideas, chairs the discussion.

**Saturday 19 October at 1.30pm, Barbican Hall**

### **Which Future for Music?**

The Royal Philharmonic Society joins forces with the London Sinfonietta and the Rest is Noise Festival for a day looking at the future of composition and how composers are creating and redefining new music. The day includes RPS Honorary Member George Benjamin in conversation with writer and broadcaster Tom Service, and a panel discussion on what's next for new music, with Andrew Burke, Chief Executive of the London Sinfonietta, cellist Zoe Martlew, composer John Chantler and journalist and writer Paul Morley, chaired by Charlotte Higgins, chief arts writer for The Guardian.

**Sunday 8 December, South Bank Centre**

### **Pre-concert talks and debates**

Many of the RPS200 concerts this autumn feature RPS related pre-concert talks and events, with featured speakers including composer Robert Saxton, writers Paul Griffiths and David Cairns, social historian Leanne Langley, pianist Alexandra Dariescu, and Tom Hutchinson from the RPS. See [rps200.org](http://rps200.org) for full details

**Also...**

### **RPS Notes into Letters @ Kings Place and [rps200.org](http://rps200.org)**

Creative writing students from Goldsmiths and the Manchester School of Writing offer their responses to pieces from the classical canon alongside work that has been inspired by the concert experience. In addition, some of the UK's leading writers offer their thoughts on music and listening. Read their pieces for yourselves at the London Literature Weekend at Kings Place, and online at [rps200.org](http://rps200.org) **4-6 October, Kings Place, London**

## **RPS Young Musicians Programme**

The RPS Young Musicians programme offers a range of support to the next generation of outstanding musical talent. The Society recently awarded over £81,000 to help further the development of young musicians, from the purchase of instruments to facilitating opportunities for study abroad. This autumn, the society is presenting bite-sized premieres, reflections on Berlioz by young composers, and the chance to hear three of the Society's Young Musicians in concert.

### **Young Composers**

#### **RPS Fanfares**

22 year old composer Tom Harrold is the latest young composer to get all brassy with a newly commissioned RPS Fanfare to be premiered as part of the Battle of Ideas weekend of pithy discussion. In August, 18 year old composer Bertie Baigent was commissioned to write a fanfare for the unveiling of a plaque to mark the first UK performance of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony in Regent Street... and there will be further commissions for young composers in 2014.

**Saturday 19 October c. 10am Barbican**

#### **Berlioz-inspired new commissions**

Three composers from Guildhall School take the 'harmony' of Berlioz as a starting point in a series of new works commissioned by the RPS. Scored for voice and small ensemble including Berlioz's own instrument, the guitar, the concert features a contemporary take on Berlioz's "assembly of weird sounds" from composers Ella Jarman-Pinto, Ben Graves and Joshua Kaye.

**Friday 1 November at 6pm, Barbican Hall**

### **Young Instrumentalists**

**Concert: Richard Uttley, with Rolf Hind (piano), Ariana Kashefi (cello)**

#### **The Wu Quartet**

Pianist Richard Uttley (supported by the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme) and his mentor Rolf Hind, 2013 RPS Julius Isserlis Scholarship winner, cellist Ariana Kashefi and the Wu Quartet, winners of the 2013 Albert and Eugenie Frost prize for string players, perform works by Ravel, Schumann and Mendelssohn and Janacek. Tickets, priced £30 including drinks, buffet supper and a £10 donation to the RPS Young Musicians Programme.

**Thursday 7 November, 49 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7**

**FULL DETAILS OF ALL RPS200 EVENTS AT [rps200.org](http://rps200.org)**

**Follow the Royal Philharmonic Society on twitter @royalphilsoc**

**Further press information/photographs from:**

**Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787**

**[sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk)**