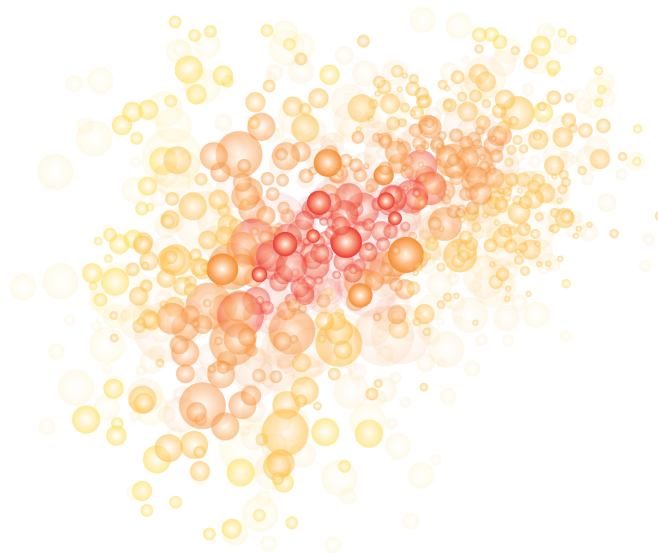




THE UK'S LIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS



Press Release

For release: Thursday 24 November

Nominations now open for the RPS Music Awards

Nominations open today (24 November) for the RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards, the UK's leading professional awards celebrating creativity, excellence and understanding in live classical music, presented in association with BBC Radio 3.

Who were the musicians, conductors, singers, ensembles and talented young artists to make their mark in 2011? Which organisations, festivals and events inspired, surprised and delighted? What artistic highpoints made us think afresh about music?

Nominations for outstanding musical achievement during the calendar year 1 January – 31 December 2011 are now sought from RPS members and members of the music profession, and can be made via an online form at www.rpsmusicawards.com. Those wishing to join the RPS list of official nominators should email web@royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk with their details for consideration.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

"The RPS Music Awards bring the highest calibre work of the classical music profession to public attention. In difficult financial times the advocacy of this respected and independent Society is a powerful endorsement for any artist or performing group."

Nominations will remain open until 31 January 2012.

With 13 categories*, the RPS Music Awards offer the broadest spectrum of recognition for excellence both in and away from the concert hall. Every nomination is considered by independent juries, with shortlisted nominations announced in April 2012. RPS Music Award winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Tuesday 8 May 2012 at the Dorchester Hotel.

This year, two categories have been amended to reflect the wider breadth of work now being undertaken to engage new audiences and performers: The RPS Music Award for Education becomes the **RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation**, and the RPS Music Award for Audience Development is now the **RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement**. Nomination criteria for these, and all 13 awards, are included at the end of this release.

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3, and with the generous support of individual award sponsors, including BBC Music Magazine, David W Bowerman CBE, Peter Bull, Musicians Benevolent Fund, The Guardian, Rosenblatt Recitals, Yellow Car Charitable Trust and an Anonymous Donor.

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Notes:

There are 13 RPS Music Award categories each judged by independent juries by the three core values of the Royal Philharmonic Society: creativity, excellence and understanding and on the following criteria:

<p>Audiences and Engagement</p>	<p>For an outstanding initiative by an organisation or individual to engage new and existing audiences with classical music. The scope of the award embraces marketing, communication, creative programming, imaginative use of technology and innovative presentation. The jury will consider work that happened or concluded in 2011 and will want to see evidence of plans for sustaining these audiences in the future.</p>
<p>Chamber Music and Song</p>	<p>For an outstanding contribution to the performance of chamber music or song by an ensemble, individual or organisation in the UK during 2011.</p>
<p>Chamber-Scale Composition</p>	<p>For chamber works receiving their first UK performance in 2011. Nominations in this category will usually be scored for no more than 15 performers. The RPS reserves the right to decide in which of the two composition categories any work will be considered.</p>
<p>Concert Series and Festivals</p>	<p>For the creative and cohesive programming and presentation of a series or festival which took place or concluded in the UK in 2011.</p>
<p>Conductor</p>	<p>In any context, for UK performances in 2011.</p>
<p>Creative Communication</p>	<p>For a compelling and imaginative vehicle which furthered the understanding of classical music in any medium (written or spoken word, video, audio, digital, online). The category excludes straight concert relays. The nomination must have been made publicly available in the UK for the first time during 2011.</p>
<p>Ensemble</p>	<p>Any group of musicians, no smaller than three performing together regularly. (UK performances during 2011)</p>
<p>Instrumentalist</p>	<p>Solo performer on any instrument, in any context, for UK performances during 2011.</p>
<p>Large-Scale Composition</p>	<p>For large-scale works receiving their first UK performance in 2011. Nominations in this category will usually be scored for more than 15 performers. The RPS reserves the right to decide in which of the two composition categories any work will be considered.</p>
<p>Learning and Participation</p>	<p>For a project/initiative/organisation which inspired wider participation in music-making during 2011 and which created high quality musical experience and understanding. The jury will want to see a legacy of skills and enterprise carried forward.</p>
<p>Opera and Music Theatre</p>	<p>For the musical and artistic excellence of a production, company (either large or small-scale), or of an individual within the UK during 2011.</p>
<p>Singer</p>	<p>Solo singer in any context, for UK performances during 2011.</p>
<p>Young Artists</p>	<p>Solo artist or chamber ensemble making their first significant impact in the UK during 2011.</p>