

Press Release

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The Royal Philharmonic Society launches new website at www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk

Question: Which famous fictional detective attended a Philharmonic Society Concert in 1891?

Answer: at www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk *

The Royal Philharmonic Society's new website goes online on **Monday 3 October**. As the society approaches its bicentenary in 2013, www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk creates a cohesive picture of the RPS – past, present and future.

The new website pulls together the many facets of the society, offering a clear pathway through the society's creative projects and its work to support composers and musicians and uniting this with details of the society's prestigious history of concert-giving.

The easy to navigate site includes:

- Spotlights on the RPS's creative projects: from orchestral residency scheme *Composer in the House* to *Notes into Letters* – a new project which presents writers creative responses to music, with downloadable texts and music; *the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme* to *Encore*, offering another chance to hear neglected chamber works.
- Dedicated areas detailing the society's extensive support for composers and musicians, and its commissions for new music.
- Sections for young composers and musicians, with details of opportunities for awards and bursaries and how to apply.
- Information about the society's full spectrum of awards, including the prestigious RPS Music Awards
- A focus on the society's high profile talks and discussion programme, including RPS Annual Lectures and speeches.
- An area for the society's members, donors and supporters and those wishing to join them, and a chance to 'meet' the RPS creative team and members.
- A 'press' section featuring downloadable press releases and news.

As the RPS moves towards its bicentenary in 2013, the site also offers the chance to delve into the society's illustrious history, revealing the bridge between the mission of the society's founding fathers to perform publicly '*in the most perfect manner possible, the best and most approved music*' and the RPS's continuing support for music and musicians.

An archive section includes key moments in the society's history, and its close relationship with specific composers, including Beethoven, Wagner and Mendelssohn. A changing front page "Did You Know?" section spills the beans on some lesser-known RPS facts (including the answer to the question above). Simply click on the RPS logo to find a new fact...

Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director, comments:

"We invite people to discover our rich patchwork of creative projects, fascinating history and the vibrant ways in which we champion music, and very much hope that music professionals, music lovers and the plain curious, enjoy exploring the site."

Further press information:

Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787

sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

* In 'The Red Headed League', Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson attended a performance by the violinist Sarasate at a Society concert in 1891.