



Press Release

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Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme latest awards to young musicians total £42,500

- **£22,500 to student musicians to help purchase instruments - the tools of the trade**
- **£20,000 to commission and support performances by six emerging young composers**

Sharp rise in applications for RPS grants indicates increasing squeeze on resources for young musicians.

Against an increasingly difficult financial climate for young musicians and composers, the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme provides much needed grants and awards to outstanding talent of the next generation. The latest awards announced, to composers and student musicians, total £42,500.

Each year, the RPS supports around 30 young musicians during crucial years of study and nascent professional life. The RPS Young Musicians Programme is broad in scope and ambitious in its aims. It includes professional mentoring that pairs extraordinary young musicians with distinguished artists, support for outstanding young singers, awards for string players, and commissions new works and offers mentoring opportunities for emerging composers. The RPS also offers non-repayable grants to help music students purchase the quality instruments that can make a profound difference to their musical development and celebrates the achievements of school-aged musicians and composers. As part of its commitment to mentoring musicians, the Society has also recently joined forces with *Women Conductors* on a series of workshops designed to encourage more women to conduct.

Every year, applications outstrip available funds, but this year, there has been a marked increase in the level of funding applied for. Applications to the RPS Composition Prize were up by a third, and the RPS Instrument Purchase Grants, in awarding a total of £22,500 for the purchase of instruments for music students, has only been able to provide an eighth of the money requested.

These awards have been made possible by the annual RPS Music Awards Appeal, which this year raised £20,000, and by the generous support of the ABRSM, the exam board of the Royal

Schools of Music, The Kathleen Hannay Memorial Charity, and the Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Foundation (Instrument Grants) and Britten-Pears Foundation, The Garrick Charitable Trust, Presteigne Festival and the Susan Bradshaw Composers' Fund (Emerging Composers).

Rosie Johnson, RPS Executive Director comments: *"These are difficult times for students, and for talented musicians and composers entering the profession. There is no shortage of talent, determination and passion and this bodes extremely well for the future. The RPS is tremendously grateful to all our donors, members and those in the music industry who support our work. Yet even with their support, each year we are having to turn down applications from outstanding young musicians because current needs far outstrip the funds we have available, and we're concerned that many young musicians are struggling to meet their full potential because they lack appropriate instruments, or opportunity for advanced training and performance. Through its Young Musicians Programme, RPS is well placed to do more; it's time for everyone who loves music to become involved. We'd welcome your support."*

The most recent RPS Young Musicians Programme awards are:

- **£20,000 to commission and support the work of emerging composers:** six new works commissioned by the RPS Composition Prize for performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra as part of Music of Today series, at Cheltenham and Presteigne Festivals, and for Music in the Round, Sheffield in 2017.
- **£22,500 support for the purchase of new instruments for music students**

Other recently announced awards include:

- £10,000 Chilcott Award for Young Singers awarded to soprano **Soraya Mafi**
- £5,000 RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for young string players went to the **Castalian String Quartet**.
- Cellist and BBC Young Musician of the Year, **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**, was the first winner of the RPS Duet Prize for young musicians; **Freya Ireland** was announced as the winner of the RPS Duet Prize for young composers. Each receives £1,500 and a performance at a UK music festival.

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Further details about the Royal Philharmonic Society's work with young musicians and composers, and how you can become involved at www.philharmonicsociety.uk

Biographies of young composers and musicians at www.philharmonicsociety.uk

Details of the July 2016

Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme Awards:

Royal Philharmonic Society – supporting emerging composers

Six composers have been selected by a distinguished jury to write new works for performance at prestigious venues in 2017 through the Royal Philharmonic Society's annual Composition Prize for composers. The prize is for composers who are currently studying for a first degree or master's degree at a UK university/conservatoire or those who have successfully completed a first degree or master's degree at a UK university/conservatoire since 2008.

The composers, selected anonymously from 120 applicants by the RPS Composition Prize jury of composers **Unsup Chin** and **Christian Mason**, and musician/conductor **David Corkhill** are:

Donghoon Shin, **Gareth Moorcraft** and **Lisa Illean** (who will write for the Philharmonia's Music of Today and join the Philharmonia Orchestra's Young Composers Academy, in partnership with the RPS) and **Darren Bloom**, who will write a new chamber work for the 2017 Cheltenham Festival. All will receive £3,000 in prize money.

A £1,000 RPS commission for performance at Presteigne Festival 2017 has been awarded to **Jack Sheen**.

Patrick Brennan receives £1000 to write a new work commissioned for Music in The Round with support from the Garrick Charitable Trust.

Royal Philharmonic Society – Helping with the tools of the trade

The Royal Philharmonic Society offers financial assistance to help music students purchase their own instruments essential to their professional studies through the RPS Instrument Purchase Grants. In a welcome change from the model of student loans, the Society provides one-off non-repayable awards. Payback comes purely in the form of the startling musical progress that can be made on an appropriate, quality instrument.

This year, the awards panel decided to make awards totalling £22,500. The Fund will help towards the purchase of instruments for 17 music students from nine conservatoires nationwide. Instruments include a violin, tenor horn, French horn, double bass, guitar, alto and tenor saxophone, two bassoons, cello, soprano saxophone, and drumkit, snare drum, Eb clarinet, flute headjoint and cello bow.