

Press Release

For release: Monday 19 October 2015



Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians recital

(in aid of the RPS Young Musicians Programme)

Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 6.45pm
49 Queen's Gate Terrace, London, SW7 5PN

Marta Kowalczyk, violin

(Winner of the 2015 RPS Emily Anderson Prize for Violinist)

Beethoven: *Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor*

Ruisi Quartet

(Winners of the 2015 RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for String Trio or Quartet)

Haydn: *String Quartet Op. 33 No. 2 'The Joke'*

Clare Hammond, piano

(Mentored by Anne Queffélec on the RPS/YCAT Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme)

Scriabin: *Sonata No. 5, Op. 53*

Kapustin: *Two Studies in Different Intervals, from Op. 68*

There's a rare chance to see the outstanding talents of **RPS Young Musicians**, violinist **Marta Kowalczyk**, pianist **Clare Hammond** and the **Ruisi Quartet**, in an intimate recital on **Wednesday 11 November**, in aid of the RPS Young Musicians Programme.

The Royal Philharmonic Society's thriving Young Musicians Programme is based on the quiet idea of serious intellectual engagement and striving for artistic excellence. It supports the serious musical development of young musicians at the start of their careers. It's not flashy, or about fast-tracking young talent, but about giving young musicians valuable time to mature and grow in confidence, helping with the tools of the trade, and providing them with tailor-made opportunities for mentoring, specialist study and coaching. The Society makes an annual commitment to around 30 young musicians, and alumni include Stephen Hough and Alina Ibragimova.

In June 2015, the Ruisi Quartet were awarded the £5000 RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for young string players, and Marta Kowalczyk, the £2500 RPS Emily Anderson Prize for young violinists. For the past year, pianist Clare Hammond has been working alongside French pianist **Anne Queffélec** as part of the RPS/YCAT Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme. The scheme was established by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Young Classical Artists Trust in memory of the great British tenor (and RPS Council member) Philip Langridge, and pairs the UK's finest young performers with leading musicians.

For 2015/16 season, the RPS Young Musicians Programme is supporting outstanding talent of the next generation, from first year music students to nascent young professionals. This year, grants totaling over £65,000 are facilitating musical development across this spectrum – from help towards the purchase of quality instruments for music students and enabling further advanced study abroad with the best in the business, to the commissioning of new music from some of the UK's most striking young composers.

Admission to the evening, which is in aid of the RPS Young Musicians Programme, is £40, which includes talk, wine, buffet supper and a donation. Book online at: www.philharmonicsociety.uk/whats_on/ymrecital_2015

**Further press information from:
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Some news from RPS Young Musicians...

- In July, **Marta Kowalczyk** was awarded the Grand Prix and two Special Prizes (for the best Beethoven and Penderecki Sonatas) at the 2015 Beethoven International Chamber Music Competition).
- **Clare Hammond**, features as the piano playing, young incarnation of Maggie Smith's character in the new feature film, "*The Lady in the Van*" – on release in the UK from 13 November
- Pianist **Richard Uttley** (Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme partnership with Rolf Hind), will give the premiere of *Lines and Spaces*, a new RPS commission by **Naomi Pinnock** at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival on 21 November.
- Violinist **Kristine Balanas** (2015 Julius Isserlis Scholarship) will make her London Philharmonic Orchestra debut in Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op.63* at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne on 15 November.
- Composer **Hunter Coblentz** (RPS Composition Prize 2015) has been selected for the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Young Composers Programme, and will be composing a cello concerto for their 2016 concert season. He also recently won a SOCAN Foundation Young Canadian Composers Award, and was placed second in the Antonin Dvorak Composition Final in Prague in July.
- Composer **Desmond Clarke** (RPS Composition Prize 2015) has been selected for the inaugural Royal Scottish National Orchestra Composers Hub, and will be writing an orchestral piece for the RSNO in 2016. His 'figures in folded rooms' for quintet and electronics was premiered in Santiago de Compostela in September, and *Void Songs*, for viola and orchestra, will be premiered by the Melos Sinfonia in January 2016.
- It was recently confirmed that **Dani Howard** (RPS Composition Prize 2015) will write her prize-winning commission for Sheffield's Music in the Round. Dani also won the Royal College of Music Concerto Competition in July 2015; her winning work, *Velvet Spires*, for large string orchestra and percussion will be performed by the RCM Philharmonic Orchestra in February 2016.
- Having purchased a new Powell Aurimite flute (with the help of the RPS Sir John Barbirolli Foundation), **Georgina Silverton** is about to enter her second year at Birmingham Conservatoire.

Keep up to date on news for the RPS Young Musicians (past and present) via @royalphilsoc www.philharmonicsociety.uk

NOTES: Featured Musicians in RPS Young Musicians Recital – 11 November

The Ruisi Quartet - Alessandro Ruisi (violin), his brother Max Ruisi (cello), Guy Button (violin) and Asher Zaccardelli (viola) - are the second winners of the RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for young string players which was inaugurated in 2014. Formed in 2012, the quartet performs regularly throughout the UK at venues including Wigmore Hall and King's Place, and this season has been in residence at the Royal College of Music as part of the Artist Diploma in Chamber Music course. The quartet was also chosen to take part in the Spring 2015 IMS Prussia Cove masterclasses with Farenco Rados and Rita Wagner. ruisiquartet.com

Marta Kowalczyk (b.1991) is currently studying for a Master of Arts at the Royal Academy of Music with Professor György Pauk, Marta is a laureate of numerous prizes and international competitions including a former winner of the Eurovision Young Musicians, representing her country at the final event in Vienna in 2008. She has appeared as a recitalist and soloist across Europe, and made her Wigmore Hall recital debut in January 2015. martakowalczyk.com

Acclaimed as a pianist of "amazing power and panache" (The Telegraph), **Clare Hammond** is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and is developing a "reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes" (BBC Music Magazine, 'Rising Star'). In 2014 she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' in Warsaw, world premieres of works by 10 composers, and three broadcasts for BBC Radio.

Hammond's latest disc release, 'Etude', has received unanimous critical praise for its "unfaltering bravura and conviction" (Gramophone), was selected as Critic's Choice by Classical Music Magazine, and the BBC Music Magazine stated that "this array of wizardry is not for the faint hearted". clarehammond.com