



Press Release

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György Kurtág and András Schiff to be awarded Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal

The influential composer, **György Kurtág**, and the distinguished pianist **András Schiff**, are to be awarded one of music's most esteemed honours, the **Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal**. The medals will be presented in London in December, the culmination of a year of transatlantic concerts, talks, exhibitions and events celebrating the bicentenary of the Royal Philharmonic Society throughout 2013.

The Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, the Royal Philharmonic Society's highest honour, was created to commemorate the centenary of Beethoven's birth in 1870 and celebrates the close relationship between the Society and the composer (the RPS commissioned Beethoven's 9th Symphony and championed his work). **György Kurtág** and **András Schiff** join an illustrious list of current RPS Gold Medallists: **Sir Simon Rattle, Dame Janet Baker, Daniel Barenboim, Dame Mitsuko Uchida, Thomas Quasthoff, Sir Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Alfred Brendel, Plácido Domingo, Pierre Boulez** and **Claudio Abbado**.

György Kurtág

Presentation: Sunday 1 December at 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

New music has been at the forefront of the Society's work since its inception; Hungarian composer **György Kurtág** (b. 1926) follows composing greats such as **Brahms, Britten, Sibelius, Walton, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov, Richard Strauss, Stravinsky, Delius, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Lutoslawski, Ligeti, Messiaen, Henri Dutilleux** and **Elliott Carter** in becoming a Gold Medallist.

He will be presented with the medal at a concert on London's South Bank on Sunday 1 December, in which he will appear as a duettist alongside his pianist wife, Márta in a programme that includes excerpts from Kurtág's humorous, quirky piano miniatures, *Játékok*.

András Schiff

Presentation: Saturday 21 December at 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, London

The RPS Gold Medal will be presented to András Schiff on his 60th birthday, following a recital of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* at Wigmore Hall on Saturday 21 December, the culmination of Schiff's all-Bach recital series at the hall during November and December.

András Schiff was a former pupil of György Kurtág and joins a distinguished list of outstanding pianist recipients of the RPS Gold Medal including **Artur Schnabel, Clifford Curzon, Sviatoslav Richter, Vladimir Horowitz, Claudio Arrau** and current Gold medallists **Daniel Barenboim, Alfred Brendel** and **Mitsuko Uchida**.

Full details of the Royal Philharmonic Society and its work can be found at rps200.org

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