

Press Release

For release: 4.30pm (UK time) on Thursday 31 March 2016



Opera, singers, composers, conductors, instrumentalists, ensembles ... and gaming apps...

Shortlists announced for Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

The UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music
Presented in association with BBC Radio 3

www.rpsmusicawards.com

Shortlists have been announced for this year's Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards. Some of the best-known names in classical music are vying for the UK's top prizes for live classical music, alongside invigorating new artists and the often-unsung heroes who are inspiring audiences with classical music across the UK.

The shortlists offer a plethora of both homegrown and international talent, and put the spotlight on projects that bring a new dimension to the way we engage with classical music – whether in the concert hall, via gaming apps, listening to classical music in a multi-story car park or opera in a disused warehouse, or as a choir of 2000 singers.*

Amongst those in contention for the UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music, presented in association with BBC Radio 3 are:

- Singers **Iestyn Davies, Andrew Watts and Roderick Williams.**
- Conductors **Sakari Oramo, Vasily Petrenko and Mark Wigglesworth.**
- Pianists **Daniil Trifonov, Maria João Pires** and violinist **Christian Tetzlaff.**
- Young artists: mezzo-soprano **Kathryn Rudge**, and pianists **James Baillieu** and **Clare Hammond.**
- Composers: **Kaija Saariaho, Julian Anderson, Edmund Finnis, Rebecca Saunders, Christian Mason, Luca Francesconi** and **Gavin Higgins.**
- Creative Communication: **Philip Glass** for his memoir *Words without Music*; a global exploration of *The Other Classical Musics* edited by journalist, **Michael Church**, and **Julian Johnson's** *Out of Time*, an examination of music and the making of modernity.
- Shortlisted organisations include the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Birmingham Opera Company** (with a double shortlisting), the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Streetwise Opera, Orchestra of the Age of**

Enlightenment, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Opera Holland Park, Nash Ensemble, Cavatina Music Trust, Philharmonia Orchestra and the UK's first black and minority ethnic orchestra, Chineke!

Winners for this year's awards, which celebrate outstanding musical achievement in the calendar year 2015, will be announced on Tuesday 10 May at a glittering ceremony at The Brewery in the City of London, with a special programme dedicated to the awards broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 11 May at 19.30.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

"If classical music is sometimes regarded as something of a closed book, then the shortlists for this year's RPS Music Awards throw open the pages. They are brimming with youth, honour distinguished musicians and the most brilliant musical minds, champion imaginative, ever-evolving ways of communicating about and participating in music, and show that those who love classical music are determined to inspire a new, and diverse generation.

I hope that the RPS Music Awards deliver a clear message: classical music offers joyous, sometimes profound, often uplifting experiences – and it's for everyone, regardless of who they are, or where they come from!"

Shortlists and winners of the RPS Music Awards are selected by fully independent juries comprising of leading members of the music industry, from suggestions made by RPS Members and music professionals across the UK. Previous winners read as a who's who of classical music. www.rpsmusicawards.com

Sponsors

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3.

Individual Award sponsors are: **ABRSM**, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music; **The Boltini Trust**; **Boosey and Hawkes** (in memory of former RPS Chairman, Tony Fell); **BBC Music Magazine**; the **Bowerman Charitable Trust**; **Rosenblatt Recitals**; **Schott Music**; **The Stradivari Trust**; **Yellow Car Charitable Trust**.

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*** Steve Reich Clapping Music App – London Sinfonietta/Touchpress/Queen Mary University London; Multi-Story Orchestra – both shortlisted for RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement; Birmingham Opera Company – The Ice Break, shortlisted for Opera and Music Theatre Award, and for RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement; Seven Seeds – shortlisted for RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation.**

See the following pages for further information on individual award categories.

The shortlists:

RPS Music Awards for Singer, Conductor and Young Artists

There are musical highs and lows in the Singer category, with two countertenors, **Iestyn Davies** (a former winner of the RPS Music Award for Young Artists) and **Andrew Watts** shortlisted alongside baritone **Roderick Williams** for the RPS Music Award for Singer.

The RPS Music Award for Conductor shortlist is: **Sakari Oramo**, Finnish Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra; **Vasily Petrenko**, Russian Chief Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and Music Director of English National Opera, **Mark Wigglesworth**.

The outstanding international shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist features: 25-year-old Russian pianist **Daniil Trifonov**; distinguished Portuguese pianist **Maria João Pires** and German violinist **Christian Tetzlaff**.

Supporting the serious development of young musicians is a central focus of the Royal Philharmonic Society's work; the society's thriving Young Musicians Programme is based on the quiet idea of serious intellectual engagement and striving for artistic excellence. The shortlisted musicians for the RPS Music Award for Young Artists embody these ideals. They are: **Kathryn Rudge** (mezzo-soprano) and pianists **James Baillieu** and **Clare Hammond**.

Composer Awards

The shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Chamber-Scale Composition features two works created during residencies - **Edmund Finnis**, Composer-in-Association with London Contemporary Orchestra, for his violin concerto *Shades Lengthen*, and Wigmore Hall Composer in Residence, **Julian Anderson** for *Van Gogh Blue*. Finnish composer, **Kaija Saariaho**'s piano trio, *Light and Matter*, co-commissioned and premiered by Britten Sinfonia, completes the list.

The shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Large-Scale Composition features two works that received their UK premiere at the BBC Proms - **Christian Mason**'s *Open To Infinity: A Grain of Sand* and **Luca Francesconi**'s violin concerto, *Duende, the Dark Notes*. They are joined by **Gavin Higgins**' *Dark Arteries* for brass band, written for Rambert Dance Company to mark the 30th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike, and **Rebecca Saunders**, who is a previous double-winner of the Chamber-Scale Composition Award, for *Alba: for solo trumpet and orchestra*.

Opera and Music Theatre, Ensemble, Chamber Music and Song, and Concert Series and Festival Awards

The shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Opera and Music Theatre, offers three hugely contrasting productions: race riots, drugs and electric guitars in **Birmingham Opera Company**'s promenade production of Michael Tippett's *The Ice Break*, staged in a disused Birmingham warehouse; a mad king and crumbling family brought sumptuously to life in Barry

Kosky's production of Handel's *Saul* for **Glyndebourne Opera**; heartbreak, jealousy and comedy in **Opera Holland Park's** staging of Puccini's opera trio, *Il Trittico*.

The UK's newest orchestra, **Chineke!** the country's first black and minority ethnic orchestra, is shortlisted for the **Ensemble Award** alongside the venerable **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** (aged 175), the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** and Ireland's **Fidelio Trio**.

The **Chamber Music and Song Award** features music making, small in scale, but large in ambition: the **Carducci String Quartet 'Shostakovich 15'** complete cycle of the composer's quartets; the **Cavatina Chamber Music Trust**, the enlightened idea of Simon and the late Pamela Majaro, which "brings chamber music to young people, and young people to chamber music" and worked with over 8,000 children in 2015; Scotland's genre-busting **Mr McFall's Chamber**, which turned 20 in 2015, and the **Nash Ensemble**, which celebrated its first half century in 2015.

The **RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals** shortlist features **The Cumnock Tryst**, an annual four day festival in Ayrshire, founded by composer James MacMillan; **Minimalism Unwrapped**, a 40-concert series that "looks at ways in which composers have wiped the slate clean across time" at **Kings Place**, London, and the **Philharmonia's City of Light: Paris 1900-1950**, with concerts and events exploring the work of seminal French composers on London's Southbank, at the Royal College of Music, in Cardiff and on tour.

Audiences and Engagement, Learning and Participation, and Creative Communication Awards

The **RPS Music Awards** were the first to recognise outstanding achievements in music education and audience engagement, and over the years have shone the spotlight on an extraordinary array of projects, many of which often take place away from the media spotlight. This year is no exception.

There's a diverse line-up for the **RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement**: **London Sinfonietta/Touchpress/Queen Mary University London's** Steve Reich *Clapping Music* App has been developed as part of a project that aims to explore if gaming experiences can help people learn musical skills; **Multi-Story orchestra** brings classical music to unexpected places, including a summer season in a multi-story Peckham car park; **Birmingham Opera Company's** *The Ice Break* engaged 10,000 participants in events across all 10 districts of Birmingham, with over 200 performers from the local community performing in six sell-out performances of the production.

The award for **Learning and Participation** features: BBC Music's **Ten Pieces**, commissioned and produced by **BBC Learning** and delivered in conjunction with the **BBC Performing Groups**, which aims to introduce the world of classical music to a new generation of children and inspire them to develop their own creative responses to ten pieces of music; **Triborough Music Hub: Seven Seeds** - led by Triborough Music Hub, a new version of the Persephone myth by John Barber, with a cast of over 2000 young singers, and Aurora Orchestra, students of both the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music and the Bach Choir. **Streetwise Opera**, a charity

that aims to help people who have experienced homelessness make positive changes in their lives, commissioned and staged two operas in 2015 - *People Watch* (music: Stef Conner) and *To the Silkwood Tree* (music: John Barber/libretto: Hazel Gould). The **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** have been hitting the road for *Watercycle*, a two year project which aims to support long-term standards of music education teaching across the country by delivering three-day residencies in areas of the UK where music education faces its greatest struggle. *Watercycle* has also raised over £10,000 for Water Aid by asking participating children to collect pennies in water bottles.

In a particularly strong year for books, the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication includes a composer's personal memoir of a life in music, an exploration of great traditions in classical music around the globe, and a study of how music offers insights into the nature of modernity and what music can tell us about modern life. The shortlist is: **Philip Glass - *Words Without Music*** (Faber and Faber); *The Other Classical Musics: Fifteen Great Traditions* - edited by **Michael Church** (Boydell Press) and **Julian Joseph - *Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity*** (Oxford University Press).

Award	Shortlist
Audiences and Engagement	Multi-Story Steve Reich Clapping Music App - London Sinfonietta / Touchpress / Queen Mary University of London The Ice Break - Birmingham Opera Company
Chamber Music and Song	Carducci String Quartet 'Shostakovich 15' Cavatina Chamber Music Trust Mr McFall's Chamber Nash Ensemble
Chamber-Scale Composition sponsored by Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell	Edmund Finnis: Shades Lengthen Julian Anderson: Van Gogh Blue Kaija Saariaho: Light and Matter
Concert Series and Festivals sponsored by Schott Music	Kings Place: Minimalism Unwrapped Philharmonia Orchestra: City of Light: Paris 1900-1950 The Cumnock Tryst
Conductor sponsored by BBC Music Magazine	Mark Wigglesworth Sakari Oramo Vasily Petrenko
Creative Communication	Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity by Julian Johnson (OUP) The Other Classical Musics: Fifteen Great Traditions edited by Michael Church (Boydell Press) Words Without Music by Philip Glass (Faber & Faber)
Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust	Chineke! Orchestra Fidelio Trio National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
Instrumentalist donated by The Stradivari Trust	Christian Tetzlaff (violin) Daniil Trifonov (piano) Maria João Pires (piano)
Large-Scale Composition donated by the Boltini Trust	Christian Mason: Open to Infinity: A Grain of Sand Gavin Higgins: Dark Arteries Luca Francesconi: Duende, The Dark Notes: violin concerto Rebecca Saunders: Alba: for solo trumpet & orchestra
Learning and Participation sponsored by the ABRSM, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music	BBC: Ten Pieces Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: Watercycle Tri-Borough Music Hub: Seven Seeds Streetwise Opera: Little Opera Season
Opera and Music Theatre	Birmingham Opera Company: The Ice Break (Tippett) Glyndebourne: Saul (Handel) Opera Holland Park: Il Trittico (Puccini)
Singer sponsored by Rosenblatt Recitals	Andrew Watts Iestyn Davies Roderick Williams
Young Artists donated by the Bowerman Charitable Trust	Clare Hammond (piano) James Baillieu (piano) Kathryn Rudge (mezzo-soprano)

Notes:

About the Royal Philharmonic Society

The Royal Philharmonic Society unites the music profession and its audiences to create a vibrant future for music: supporting and working creatively with talented young performers and composers, championing excellence, and encouraging audiences to listen to, and talk about, great music. The Society has been at the heart of music for over 200 years, with direct links to Beethoven (it commissioned the composer's Ninth Symphony), Mendelssohn, Wagner and many of the iconic figures of classical music.

CHAMPIONS OF EXCELLENCE: The Society sets the standard and lets the world know about the finest classical music making. From its historic Gold Medal to the annual RPS Music Awards for live music, recognition by the RPS is a guarantee of outstanding music achievement.

YOUNG MUSICIANS: The RPS invests in talented young performers at the start of their careers, offering much needed funding to buy instruments, teaching tailored to their individual needs, or the chance to be mentored by an experienced, established performer.

COMPOSERS: The Society supports new music through commissioning new work, repeat performances, workshops, residency schemes and encouraging interaction between composers and audiences.

AUDIENCES: The RPS is a voice for music, putting music at the centre of cultural life. Whether a regular listener or just beginning to explore classical music, the RPS encourages people to listen and talk about music through a series of events, talks and debates.

www.philharmonicsociety.uk

About BBC Radio 3

Radio 3 broadcasts high-quality, distinctive classical music and cultural programming, alongside regular arts and ideas programmes, jazz and world music. The station has four dedicated jazz strands, is the only network station with a regular world music show and features more live classical music programming than any other. Radio 3 broadcasts every Prom live and more than 600 complete concerts a year - alongside daily speech programming, 90 full-length operas, over 25 drama commissions and over 20 new BBC music commissions a year. Radio 3 is the most significant commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent, from composers to writers and new young performers, through schemes such as New Generation Artists, BBC Classical, Jazz and World Introducing, and New Generation Thinkers.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio3