



Press Release:

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Shortlists announced for Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards

- **Nominations reveal extraordinary breadth of music making: from music in offices to opera houses**
- **Conductor Claudio Abbado, pianist Maurizio Pollini and composer Harrison Birtwistle amongst major international names shortlisted**
- **Douglas Gordon becomes first visual artist to be nominated for an RPS Music Award**

Shortlists have been announced for the Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards, the UK's most prestigious accolade for live classical music, presented in association with BBC Radio 3.

- Conductors **Claudio Abbado**, **Gianandrea Noseda** and **Donald Runnicles**, composers **Thomas Adès** and **Harrison Birtwistle**, pianists **Maurizio Pollini**, **Marc-André Hamelin** and violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** are amongst the major international names to make the cut.
- There are multiple nominations for **English National Opera** and **Royal Opera House** productions and singers, a brace of nominations for East London's **Spitalfields Music** and the **Royal Academy of Music**, and a first time nomination for the pioneering **Music in Offices**, which brings music to the workplace, and for Cornwall's **Eden Project**.
- An enticing shortlist for the prestigious Singer award gives the nod to singers who have played a Playboy centrefold (**Eva-Maria Westbroek** in *Anna Nicole*); a former SS Guard (**Michelle Breedt** in *The Passenger*); a tortured Russian poet (**Toby Spence** in *Eugene Onegin*) and Pollux, the divine son of Zeus (**Roderick Williams** in *Castor and Pollux*).
- A bright new generation of musical talent is represented by the inclusion of cellist **Oliver Coates**, 19 year old Proms-opening pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** and one of the UK's most admired young sopranos, **Sophie Bevan**.
- Scottish artist **Douglas Gordon** becomes the first visual artist to make the RPS Music Awards shortlists, nominated in the Creative Communication category for his film installation **K364**, which explored "the battle between history and the fleeting beauty of music."

This year's RPS Music Awards shortlists are for outstanding achievement in 2011. Reaching the parts that many awards simply fail to, they reveal that:

- classical music is often finding a happy home where you least expect it: from offices to a former clay pit, galleries, parks, churches and schools
- There is no shortage of emerging musical talent (both professional and non-professional) – the need to support music making in the UK has never been greater
- You are never far away from good music – projects from North, South, East and West of England and Scotland are all shortlisted.
- Closer links between distinguished artists and younger musicians are resulting in bold initiatives, exemplified by a double-nomination for the **Royal Academy of Music**.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

“The RPS Music Awards allow the classical music world to tell everyone about what we do best. And there is much to celebrate, both in terms of talent and innovation from UK based organisations and artists, and from the international stars who continue to enrich our cultural life so greatly. In the current climate, when the role of culture is being questioned in the face of very real practical considerations, it’s all the more important that we don’t take our rich musical life for granted, but shout loudly about our achievements in the concert hall, and as you will see from these shortlists, well beyond.”

The annual RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, are the highest recognition for live classical music in the UK. Awards in 13 categories are decided by independent juries featuring some of the music industry’s most distinguished practitioners. The awards honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations. The list of previous winners reads like a Who’s Who of classical music.

RPS Music Awards winners will be announced at the RPS Music Awards ceremony at London’s Dorchester Hotel presented by BBC Radio 3’s **Katie Derham** and **Petroc Trelawny** on Tuesday 8 May, with the silver lyre trophies presented by **John Mark Ainsley**. **Gareth Malone** is the keynote speaker. BBC Radio 3 will broadcast a special RPS Music Awards programme on Sunday 13 May at 2pm.

The Royal Philharmonic Society is grateful to BBC Radio 3 for their support, and to individual award sponsors: **David W Bowerman CBE, Peter Bull, BBC Music Magazine, Incorporated Society of Musicians, Rosenblatt Recitals, Musicians Benevolent Fund, the Yellow Car Charitable Trust** and **an anonymous donor**. The award for Chamber-Scale Composition is being presented in memory of former RPS Chairman, **Tony Fell**, who died in December 2011.

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The Shortlists

International Conductors, Composers and Musicians

Claudio Abbado is nominated for the RPS Music Award for Conductor for his revelatory performances of Bruckner with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra at the Royal Festival, alongside two conductors who have made significant contributions to two BBC orchestras: **Gianandrea Noseda** for his final season as Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic and **Donald Runnicles**, for far reaching, adventurous programmes as Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and at the BBC Proms and Aldeburgh Festival.

Two pianists contend for the prestigious RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist: Late night Liszt at the BBC Proms with Canadian pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** and **Maurizio Pollini**'s five concert Royal Festival Hall piano recital series encompassing Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Debussy, Boulez, Schumann, Liszt and Stockhausen. German violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** completes the instrumentalist shortlist, for outstanding 2011 performances with the CBSO, London Philharmonic and Philharmonia Orchestras.

There's a distinguished list of contenders for the award for Large-Scale Composition, with **Harrison Birtwistle**, **Graham Fitkin**, **Jonathan Harvey** and previous RPS chamber-scale composition award winner **Rebecca Saunders** in contention for the prestigious award. The stylistically varied Chamber-Scale Composition award shortlist features **Thomas Adès**, **Sally Beamish**, **Martin Butler** and **Gary Carpenter**.

Opera

There's high drama in the shortlists for the Opera and Music Theatre award, which features Master of the Queen's Music **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies**'s tales of 20th century student protest, *Kommilitonen!*, co-commissioned by the **Royal Academy of Music** and Juilliard School; the **Royal Opera House** Puccini hat-trick *Il trittico*, directed by Richard Jones; and Deborah Warner's acclaimed **ENO** production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

Tenor **Toby Spence**, who sang the part of Russian poet Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* is shortlisted for the prestigious Singer award alongside *Il trittico* and ROH's *Anna Nicole* star, soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek**, South African mezzo-soprano **Michelle Breedt** for her role as former SS Guard Liese in ENO's production of Meiczyslaw Weinberg's forgotten masterwork *The Passenger* and **Roderick Williams**, who took the role of Pollux in Rameau's *Castor and Pollux*, also at ENO.

Opera Holland Park is shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals for a vintage season featuring six productions, from Mascagni to Mozart with lashings of Puccini and an acclaimed *Rigoletto* for good measure.

Young Artists

A bright young generation of musicians is represented by contrasting artists: 19 year old **Benjamin Grosvenor** makes the cut for the second year running following a season which saw him open the 2011 BBC Proms; cellist **Oliver Coates** makes the list for Young Artists

for his Harmonic series of events as part of his role as Artist in Residence at the Southbank Centre and performances as a soloist and with the Aurora Orchestra; soprano **Sophie Bevan** is shortlisted for a break-through year which included the roles of Yum Yum in *The Mikado* and *Télaire in Castor and Pollux* with ENO and Pamina in *The Magic Flute* at Garsington Opera.

Music Nation...

There's a strong presence in the shortlists for music making North of the border, with shortlisted nominations for **MINIMAL**, Glasgow Music's festival which brings New York downtown minimalism to Scotland (Concert Series and Festivals category), **The National Youth Choir of Scotland** (shortlisted for the Ensemble award for its work in developing not just an exceptional national choir, but expanding choral provision across Scotland, alongside the **Pavel Haas Quartet**, Artists in Residence at Glasgow Royal Concert Halls); **Donald Runnicles** in the Conductor category, Glasgow-born artist **Douglas Gordon** in the Creative Communication category and Scottish-based composer **Sally Beamish** for a work which was written on the island of Harris in the Chamber-Scale Composition category.

The vibrancy of music making up and down the UK is also reflected in shortlisted nominations that venture from Cornwall (the **Eden Project's** first "slow art" project *Cape Farewell/Unplugged – Winning the Clay*) to the North West, with recognition for Manchester based BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's Chief Conductor **Gianandrea Noseda** and a shortlisted nomination for **Music in the Round** series of informal chamber concerts in Sheffield and the North West (in the Chamber Music and Song category alongside experimental music exponents **Apartment House**). To the East, **Aldeburgh Festival 2011** is shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals, (alongside **Opera Holland Park**, Glasgow's **MINIMAL** and the **Royal Academy of Music/Kohn Foundation's** eight-year project to perform all **JS Bach's Cantatas** with a mix of world-class performers and young artists.) **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** waves the flag for the Midlands, shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Ensemble. Contemporary vocal ensemble **EXAUDI** completes the Ensemble shortlist.

Taking part...

The new Learning and Participation category reveals a richly inventive seam of work away from the concert hall. **Music in Offices** is shortlisted for its work in celebrating and promoting the power and benefits of music in the office environment. **Eden Project's** *Cape Farewell/Unplugged* worked with a host of local organisations, choirs and music groups to create a new work inspired by Cornwall's folk traditions and mining history.

Spitalfields Music took a young composer/librettist, a cast of over 200 local residents and school children, and members of The Sixteen and created *We Are Shadows*, a production that had as its starting point the unedifying fact that in London, you are never more than three meters away from a rat.

Spitalfields Music also chalks up a nomination in the Audiences and Engagement category, for its direct, practical *Buy One, Donate One* scheme, which encourages ticket buyers for its Summer and Winter Festivals to 'gift' an additional ticket to those who can't afford to attend and to enable people from across the Tower Hamlets community to enjoy their first experience of live classical music. **BBC Horrible Histories Prom**, which married the popular children's books and television series with live music and introduced young audiences to Lully, Mozart and Henry VIII's Tudor hits and much more, completes the shortlist.

Creative Communication...

Artist **Douglas Gordon** becomes the first visual artist to feature in the RPS Music Awards shortlists, for his split-screen film installation *K364* at London's Gagosian Gallery, which follows Israeli musicians of Polish descent, Avri Levitan and Roi Shiloah, on a train journey from Berlin to Poland, and culminates in a performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E flat major. A particularly strong and varied shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication also features a book, **György Ligeti: Of Foreign Lands and Strange Sounds**, a collection of essays by Ligeti and a series of eminent contributors, co-edited by Wolfgang Marx and Ligeti's assistant for 20 years, Louise Duchesneau (Boydell Press); BBC Radio 3's **Hear and Now Fifty**, a year-long series of exploratory features on works by 50 composers from the second half of the 20th century, nominated by 50 figures from the worlds of new music and the arts and which were all made available for free download, and BBC 4 landmark series, **Symphony**, which featured complementary programming on BBC Radio 3 and illuminated the symphonic tradition on television and radio.

RPS Music Awards, in association with BBC Radio 3

The Shortlists

| Award | Shortlist |
|---|--|
| Audiences and Engagement | BBC Proms - Horrible Histories Prom Spitalfields Music: Buy One, Donate One |
| Chamber Music and Song donated by David W Bowerman CBE | Apartment House Music in the Round |
| Chamber-Scale Composition In memory of Tony Fell | Thomas Ades: The Four Quarters Sally Beamish: Reed Stanzas (String Quartet No.3) Martin Butler: Rondes d'Automne Gary Carpenter: Piano Trio |
| Concert Series and Festivals | Aldeburgh Festival 2011 Glasgow Music: MINIMAL Opera Holland Park RAM: Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series |
| Conductor supported by BBC Music Magazine | Claudio Abbado Gianandrea Noseda Donald Runnicles |
| Creative Communication | BBC Radio 3: Hear and Now 50 BBC Four and BBC Radio 3: Symphony György Ligeti: Of Foreign Lands and Strange Sounds - edited by Louise Duchesneau and Wolfgang Marx (Boydell Press) K364 - Douglas Gordon Gagosian Gallery |

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| Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust | Birmingham Contemporary Music Group Exaudi National Youth Choir of Scotland Pavel Haas Quartet |
| Instrumentalist supported by Musicians Benevolent Fund | Marc-André Hamelin Maurizio Pollini Christian Tetzlaff |
| Large-Scale Composition donated anonymously | Harrison Birtwistle: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra Graham Fitkin: Cello Concerto Jonathan Harvey: Messages Rebecca Saunders: Stasis |
| Learning and Participation | Cape Farewell / Eden Project: Unplugged - Winning The Clay Music in Offices Spitalfields Music: We Are Shadows |
| Opera and Music Theatre donated by the Incorporated Society of Musicians | ENO: Eugene Onegin RAM: Kommilitonen! ROH: Il Trittico |
| Singer donated by Rosenblatt Recitals | Michelle Breedt Toby Spence Eva-Maria Westbroek Roderick Williams |
| Young Artists donated by Peter Bull | Sophie Bevan Oliver Coates Benjamin Grosvenor |

Notes to editors:

About the Royal Philharmonic Society

The Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] celebrates its bicentenary in 2013. It was formed on 24 January 1813 with the aim 'to promote the performance, in the most perfect manner possible of the best and most approved instrumental music', which it did principally by giving regular public orchestral concerts in London, including through two world wars.

Today the RPS seeks to create a future for music through the encouragement of creativity, the promotion of understanding and the recognition of excellence. To mark the achievements of distinguished practitioners across the industry the Society presents the annual RPS Music Awards, the UK's leading awards for live music; the Leslie Boosey Award, for those who have made an outstanding contribution to further contemporary music in the UK, often in a 'back stage' capacity – from programmers to publishers; the newly launched Salomon Prize, for orchestral musicians; Honorary Membership of the Royal Philharmonic Society, for services to music and which has been awarded to composers, conductors, performers, patrons, commentators programmers and educationalists; and the society's highest honour, the RPS Gold Medal. Current recipients of the RPS Gold Medal are: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Janet Baker, Bernard Haitink, Alfred Brendel, Colin Davis, Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Simon Rattle, Placido Domingo, Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Henri Dutilleux, Thomas Quasthoff and Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

The Society's artistic activities focus on composers and young musicians and through a programme of audience development, awards and lectures it seeks to raise the public consciousness of the finest music making today and to create a forum for debate about the direction of classical music.

www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk

About BBC Radio 3

BBC Radio 3 is the home of classical music. The station also broadcasts jazz, world music, arts programmes and drama. Last year BBC Radio 3 broadcast over 600 complete concerts and operas from venues and festivals across the UK and beyond. BBC Radio 3 is the home of The BBC Proms and broadcasts every concert live. It supports composers, writers and new young performers and last year broadcast over 30 new drama productions.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio3