

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Shortlists announced for Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

- **Cultural Olympiad leaves its mark**  
Events featured in nationwide London 2012 Festival going for gold in five categories
- **Operas inspired by a murderous Roman Emperor, Oscar Wilde's "Earnest" and childhood literary monsters all make the grade in a good year for contemporary music**

The Royal Philharmonic Society has announced the shortlists for the RPS Music Awards, the highest recognition for live classical music in the UK. The RPS Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, are for outstanding achievement in the UK during 2012. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 14 May.

The best of British feature alongside leading international artists, reflecting the UK's global reputation as a 'powerhouse' of live classical music. The lists reflect the strength of music making nationwide, the impact of the London 2012 Festival, and a glorious year for contemporary music, with new music featuring widely across the shortlists.

Singers, Instrumentalists, Conductors and Young Artists

Big names up for the prestigious awards include three of the UK's most acclaimed singers: **Bryn Terfel; Sarah Connolly and Alice Coote**; American tenor **Bryan Hymel**; pianists **Steven Osborne, Francesco Piemontesi** and percussionist **Colin Currie** (a former winner of the RPS Music Award for Young Artists). The conductor award is contested by three artistic leaders who emphatically made their mark in 2012: **Richard Farnes**, Music Director of Opera North; **Kirill Karabits**, Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and **Andris Nelsons**, Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Young Artists given the nod are pianist **Daniil Trifonov**, baritone **Duncan Rock** and the **Heath Quartet**.

London 2012 Festival events going for gold

The impact of the London 2012 Festival is reflected in a diverse range of nominations: **The Big Concert** in Raploch, Sterling (broadcast live on BBC TV) which saw Gustavo Dudamel conduct **Sistema Scotland** young musicians; **New Music 20x12**, PRS for Music Foundation's series of 20 commissions which celebrated the quality and imagination of new music in the UK in collaboration with Southbank Centre, BBC Radio 3 and NMC Recordings; **Cycle Song**, a spectacular community opera in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, which celebrated the life and achievements of local Olympic hero, cyclist

Albert 'Lal' White; LSO On Track Orchestra at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games; **Birmingham Opera Company's** production of Stockhausen's *Mittwoch aus Licht*, which featured music played from helicopters and a cast of hundreds, and **Ex Cathedra**, the Birmingham-based vocal ensemble that played a central role in the production all feature in the shortlists (see full list of categories at the end of this release).

#### Ensemble; Chamber Music and Song

Leading chamber orchestra, **Britten Sinfonia** joins **Ex Cathedra** on a shortlist for the Ensemble Award that also turns a rare spotlight on Covent Garden's 'unsung' musical heroes, the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**. An equally diverse shortlist for the award for Chamber Music and Song features Sheffield-based **Music in the Round**, the largest promoter of chamber music outside London, the **Elias String Quartet** for the opening concerts of their *Beethoven Project* string quartet cycle and vocal ensemble **EXAUDI**, which is currently celebrating its tenth birthday.

#### Opera and Music Theatre

There's a strong contemporary flavour to the Opera & Music Theatre Award, with nominations for **ENO's** production of Detlev Glanert's *Caligula*, Netia Jones' acclaimed Oliver Knussen double-bill, *Where the Wild Things Are and Higglety, Pigglety Pop* (Aldeburgh Festival/Barbican) and Birmingham Opera's *Mittwoch aus Licht*. **English Touring Opera**, with an Autumn 2012 season that featured three 20<sup>th</sup> century operas, *The Lighthouse* by Peter Maxwell Davies, Britten's *Albert Herring* and Victor Ullmann's *The Emperor of Atlantis*, completes the shortlist.

#### Large-Scale and Chamber-Scale Composition; Concert Series and Festivals

A heavy-weight list of contenders for the Large-Scale Composition award features **Harrison Birtwistle's** *In Broken Images*, composed after the antiphonal music of Gabrieli and premiered by the London Sinfonietta; **Julian Anderson's** *The Discovery of Heaven*, written in his role as Composer in Residence at the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Irish composer **Gerald Barry's** opera *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which received its British premiere in a concert version by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group at the Barbican (and is soon to receive its UK stage premiere at Royal Opera House Linbury Studio Theatre). **Colin Matthews** for *String Quartet No. 4* (which was premiered by the Elias String Quartet), **Tansy Davies's** piano concerto *Nature* (premiered by BCMG) and **Rebecca Saunders** for *Fletch*, premiered by the Arditti Quartet, are the distinguished shortlist for Chamber-Scale Composition. **sound Festival 2012**, that embraced a network of local organisations in North East Scotland to produce a varied programme of events exploring new music, features alongside an outstanding year for the **BBC Proms** and **New Music 20x12** in a Concert Series and Festivals shortlist that shows the power of bold, imaginative programming.

#### Widening participation and engagement

The RPS Music Awards also take serious note of those who are widening participation and engagement in music through education and outreach work, and those who creatively communicate its power across a range of media. Three award categories celebrate world-leaders in the field.

## Audiences and Engagement

Alongside **The Big Concert** on the shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement are the **Philharmonia Orchestra's Universe of Sound** at the Science Museum, which allowed audiences to conduct, play and step inside a virtual orchestra's performance of Holst's *The Planets* and a new companion piece by Joby Talbot, and **University of Southampton Turner Sims' Musical Alphabet**, an A-Z of music across the city in 26 hours.

## Creative Communication

The award for Creative Communication features journalist and BBC Radio 3 presenter **Tom Service**, for two books – *Thomas Adès: Full of Noises*, a collection of conversations with the composer, and his enthralling study of conductors, *Music As Alchemy*. Soprano **Jane Manning's** book, *Voicing Pierrot*, a scholarly insight and personal journey into Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, which Manning has performed over 100 times, and **Classic FM**, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2012, complete the shortlist.

## Learning and Participation

Drake Music Scotland's *Technophonia* by **Oliver Searle**, a New Music 20x12 commission, which brought together cutting edge music interfaces played by young disabled musicians and a group of their peers on conventional orchestral and electronic instruments for an event at Southbank Centre, joins the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's** touring project, *Anthem for a Child* which criss-crossed England, reaching 5000 children with workshops and performances, **LSO On Track Orchestra** and **Cycle Song** on the shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation.

## About the RPS Music Awards

Presented in association with BBC Radio 3, the RPS Music Awards are the highest recognition for live classical music in the United Kingdom. This year, they are presented as part of RPS200, a celebration of the Bicentenary of the Royal Philharmonic Society throughout 2013.

Awards in 13 categories are chosen by eminent independent juries from the music profession and are unique in the breadth of musical achievement they span – from performers, composers and inspirational arts organisations to learning, participation and engagement. This year's awards are for achievement in the UK during 2012. The list of winners since 1989 reads as a roll call of the finest living musicians.

John Gilhooly Royal Philharmonic Society Chairman comments:

*"2012 was a truly outstanding year for live classical music in the UK, from Aberdeen to Southampton and all areas in between; with over 300 individual nominations to consider, our juries were spoilt for choice. There's a pervading sense of artistic optimism and determination that seems to belie the difficult times we live in. The commitment, talent and boldness reflected in music, whether in our finest concert halls and opera houses, or in our streets and communities, should make those who ask 'do the arts really matter?' think twice."*

## **RPS Music Awards Ceremony – Tuesday 14 May**

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3. Award winners will be announced at the **RPS Music Awards ceremony at London's Dorchester Hotel on the evening of Tuesday 14 May**, with winners receiving their trophies from RPS Gold Medallist **Dame Janet Baker** and BBC Radio 3's **Sara Mohr-Pietsch** and **Sean Rafferty** as hosts of classical music's big night out. A special programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards will be broadcast on **BBC Radio 3 at 2pm on Sunday 19 May**.

### **Special awards to mark 200 years of the Royal Philharmonic Society**

The Royal Philharmonic Society is celebrating 200 years at the heart of music throughout 2013. As part of the Society's Bicentenary celebrations, for the first time the RPS Music Awards will look beyond the UK and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of visionary music-makers on four continents through a series of special awards, presented with the support of the British Council. Further details to be announced shortly.

### **RPS Music Awards sponsors**

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3, with international support from the British Council. The Society is grateful to sponsors of individual awards: **Boosey & Hawkes**, in memory of **Tony Fell** (Chamber-Scale Composition); **BBC Music Magazine** (Conductor); **Peter Bull** (Young Artists); **Incorporated Society of Musicians** (Opera and Music Theatre); **Lalita Carlton-Jones** (Concert Series and Festivals); **Musicians Benevolent Fund** (Instrumentalist); **Rosenblatt Recitals** (Singer) **The Yellow Car Charitable Trust** (Ensemble) and an **anonymous donor** (Large-Scale composition).

### **Further press information from:**

**Sophie Cohen** on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787  
[sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk)

Further details about the RPS Music Awards shortlisted artists, organisations and events can be viewed at [www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

## RPS Music Awards – Shortlists

Award	Shortlist
<b>Audiences and Engagement</b>	Southampton's Musical Alphabet (Turner Sims) The Big Concert (Sistema Scotland, Opening Night of London 2012 Festival) Universe of Sound: (Philharmonia Orchestra)
<b>Chamber Music and Song</b>	Elias Quartet Exaudi Music in the Round
<b>Chamber-Scale Composition</b> Supported by Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell	Colin Matthews: <i>String Quartet No. 4</i> Rebecca Saunders: <i>Fletch</i> Tansy Davies: <i>Nature</i>
<b>Concert Series and Festivals</b> donated by Lalita Carlton-Jones	BBC Proms New Music 20x12 (PRS for Music Foundation) sound Festival (North East Scotland)
<b>Conductor</b> supported by BBC Music Magazine	Andris Nelsons Kirill Karabits Richard Farnes
<b>Creative Communication</b>	Classic fm Jane Manning: <i>Voicing Pierrot</i> Tom Service for Tom Adès: <i>Full of Noises and Music as Alchemy</i> (Faber)
<b>Ensemble</b> donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust	Britten Sinfonia Ex Cathedra Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
<b>Instrumentalist</b> supported by Musicians Benevolent Fund	Colin Currie (percussion) Francesco Piemontesi (piano) Steven Osborne (piano)
<b>Large-Scale Composition</b> donated anonymously	Gerald Barry: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Harrison Birtwistle: <i>In Broken Images</i> Julian Anderson: <i>The Discovery of Heaven</i>
<b>Learning and Participation</b>	<i>Anthem for a Child</i> (Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) <i>Cycle Song</i> (Proper Job Theatre Company and Scunthorpe Co-operative Junior Choir) Drake Music Scotland: <i>Technophonia</i> by Oliver Searle (New Music 20x12) LSO On Track at the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics
<b>Opera and Music Theatre</b> donated by the Incorporated Society of Musicians	<i>Caligula</i> (ENO) English Touring Opera (autumn season) Knussen doublebill (Aldeburgh/Barbican) <i>Mittwoch aus Licht</i> (Birmingham Opera Company)
<b>Singer</b> donated by Rosenblatt Recitals	Alice Coote Bryan Hymel Bryn Terfel Sarah Connolly
<b>Young Artists</b> donated by Peter Bull	Daniil Trifonov (piano) Duncan Rock (baritone) Heath Quartet

## **About the Royal Philharmonic Society**

*philharmonic: adj. devoted to music; music loving*

The Royal Philharmonic Society is celebrating its bicentenary throughout 2013. The Society is for people who love music and live music making and who want to ensure a vibrant future for classical music. It offers support to talented young performers and composers, champions excellence and encourages audiences to listen, and talk about, great music. The Society's work is supported by many leading musicians, including distinguished RPS Gold Medallists Sir Simon Rattle, Dame Janet Baker, Dame Mitsuko Uchida, Thomas Quasthoff, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Alfred Brendel, Placido Domingo, Pierre Boulez, Claudio Abbado and Henri Dutilleux. The RPS receives no public funding. It is a registered charity supported by member subscriptions, partnerships and the generosity of individual donors.

The history of the Royal Philharmonic Society is also the history of two centuries of classical music in Britain. In 1813, the aims of the fledgling Philharmonic Society were 'to promote the performance, in the most perfect manner possible, of the best and most approved instrumental music' and to 'encourage an appreciation by the public in the art of music'. The Philharmonic Society was determined to make a case for serious music and lost no time in forming associations with composers, including Beethoven. Audiences for Philharmonic Society concerts were unified in 'one great object: the love of their art.' By founding the Philharmonic Society, British musicians opened the doors to the world's best music and performers, and created a channel of communication that has hummed ever since. These aims hold true today and 200 years on, the Society still stands at the heart of music in the UK.

## **About BBC Radio 3**

BBC Radio 3 has over 2 million listeners and is the home of classical music. The station also broadcasts a wide range of cultural programming including jazz, world music, arts and over 30 new drama programmes a year. BBC Radio 3 features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms, broadcasting every Prom live and over 600 complete concerts a year. The station is also the largest commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent; composers, writers and new young performers through schemes such as World Routes Academy, New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers.

**[www.bbc.co.uk/radio3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3)**