



Press Release

For release: strictly embargoed until
16.30hrs (UK time), Tuesday 31 March
2015

Shortlists announced for the Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards

Outstanding international musicians and organisations from across Britain contend the UK's most coveted live classical music awards presented in association with BBC Radio 3

rpsmusicawards.com

The shortlists for this year's **Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards** have been announced.

The **RPS Music Awards**, presented in association with **BBC Radio 3**, are the UK's highest recognition for live classical music. This year's awards celebrate outstanding achievement in 2014.

- Making the cut are leading lights from the world of classical music, including: international singing stars Swedish soprano **Nina Stemme**, English tenor **Mark Padmore** and German baritone **Christian Gerhaher**; conductors **John Eliot Gardiner**, **Andris Nelsons** and **Vasily Petrenko**; percussionist **Colin Currie**, violist **Lawrence Power** and violinist **James Ehnes**; composers **Hans Abrahamsen**, **Julian Anderson**, **John Casken**, **Graham Fitkin**, **Simon Holt** and **Liza Lim**.
- There's some welcome good news for **English National Opera**, shortlisted in the Opera and Music Theatre Category, and double nominations for **Oxford Lieder Festival**, the **Royal Opera House**, and for the **Arditti Quartet** in the year it celebrated its 40th birthday.
- There's also a strong showing for younger artists: all the solo instrumentalists and three quarters of the conductors featured on the shortlists are under 40.
- A ground breaking music project for people living with dementia, a new work for 1000 'shouting' voices premiered in a Birmingham shopping center, and music making in a multi-story car park in Peckham also get the nod, just a few of the extraordinarily imaginative, participatory events to make the shortlists.

John Gilhooly, RPS Chairman, comments:

"This is an incredibly exciting time for classical music in the UK and these shortlists show the wonderful diversity of musical activity nationwide and a common purpose that drives the very finest work. This is an outstanding line-up of forward-looking, clear-sighted musicians and organisations that ceaselessly strive for excellence and have a deeply ingrained desire to communicate to as many people as possible. This communication, whether in concert halls, or in schools and the community or through new media, is of crucial importance to the future of classical music and it is thrilling to see it so passionately articulated by both our major music institutions and at a local level. "

The RPS Music Awards, in 13 categories, chosen by independent juries made up of leading figures from across the music industry, reflect the extraordinary breadth of work taking place up and down the country. Previous winners read as both a who's who of classical music, and a compendium of the outstanding music that takes place in myriad locations – big and small - across the UK, every day.

Winners will be announced at the RPS Music Awards dinner on the evening of Tuesday 5 May at the Brewery in the City of London.

A programme dedicated to the awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Monday 11 May at 19.30hrs.

Full details at www.rpsmusicawards.com

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3, with individual awards supported by ABRSM - the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music, BBC Music Magazine, Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell, Bowerman Charitable Trust, Incorporated Society of Musicians, Rosenblatt Recitals, Schott Music, The Stradivari Trust and the Yellow Car Charitable Trust.

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THE SHORTLISTS – FURTHER DETAILS

OPERA AND MUSIC THEATRE/SINGER

There's some welcome good news for **English National Opera**, which contests the Opera and Music Theatre category alongside two acclaimed productions of hugely different scales: the **Royal Opera House's** production of Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and Welsh composer **John Metcalf's** opera based on Dylan Thomas's celebrated radio play *Under Milk Wood* at the Taliesin Arts Centre in Swansea and on tour in Wales. A powerhouse international line-up for the Singer award features tenor **Mark Padmore**, shortlisted for a body of work including Evangelist in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Berlin Philharmonic at the Proms and the London premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's *Songs of the Same Earth* at Wigmore Hall, soprano **Nina Stemme**, for *Isolde in Tristan and Isolde* at the Royal Opera House and the title role in Strauss's *Salome* at the BBC Proms and baritone **Christian Gerhaher** for recitals at Wigmore Hall and *Christus* in the *St Matthew Passion* alongside Mark Padmore.

CONDUCTOR

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's Chief Conductor, **Vasily Petrenko**, Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, **Andris Nelsons** and the distinguished British conductor **John Eliot Gardiner** are the shortlist for the prestigious Conductor category.

INSTRUMENTALISTS AND YOUNG ARTISTS

Outstanding young musicians featured in the shortlists include the Colombian conductor, **Andrés Orozco-Estrada**, who becomes Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra from 2015-16 season, New York's **JACK Quartet** and soprano **Mary Bevan** (all in the Young Artists category). All three shortlisted musicians in the Instrumentalist category, **Colin Currie**, **James Ehnes** and **Lawrence Power**, and two of the shortlisted Conductors, **Andris Nelsons** and **Vasily Petrenko**, are also aged under 40.

MUSIC MAKING THROUGHOUT THE UK RECOGNISED

It's a good year for music making across the UK, with shortlisted events and organisations from Scotland, the South West, the North West, Wales and the North East. **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**, **Manchester Camerata**, **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**, **Oxford Lieder Festival**, **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic**, **SAGE Gateshead** and **East Neuk Festival** are amongst those making the cut.

CONCERT SERIES AND FESTIVALS/ENSEMBLE/CHAMBER MUSIC

East Neuk Festival, a music festival in rural Fife (which won the RPS Music Award for Audience Development in 2007) is shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals alongside the **Oxford Lieder Festival**, which in 2014 featured every song

Schubert ever wrote, and the Barbican's celebration of composer Harrison Birtwistle at 80.

The **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** is shortlisted for the Ensemble award (which it previously won in 2008), alongside the **Arditti Quartet**, which celebrated its 40th birthday in 2014, and, for the second year in a row, classical music young guns, the **London Contemporary Orchestra**.

Oxford Lieder Festival and the **Arditti Quartet** both receive two shortlisted nominations, also going head-to-head in the RPS Music Award for Chamber Music category.

COMPOSERS

Danish composer **Hans Abrahamsen's** 'Ophelia' song cycle *Let Me Tell You*, which received its UK premiere with soprano Barbara Hannigan and the CBSO at Symphony Hall, Birmingham in June 2014, **Simon Holt's** flute concerto, *Morpheus Awakes*, premiered at the BBC Proms by Emanuel Pahud and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and **John Casken's** oboe concerto, *Appolinaire's Bird*, premiered by the Hallé Orchestra in April 2014 are the shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Large-Scale Composition. The Award for Chamber-Scale Composition has an equally impressive line up: **Julian Anderson's** *String Quartet No.2*, premiered by the Arditti Quartet at Wigmore Hall in May 2014; **Graham Fitkin's** *Distil*, premiered by the Smith Quartet and percussionist Joby Burgess at Cheltenham Festival 2014, and Australian composer **Liza Lim's** *Winding Bodies; 3 Knots*, which was premiered by the Cikada Ensemble at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in November.

AUDIENCES & ENGAGEMENT/LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION/CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

Music in the Mind, **Manchester Camerata's** pioneering music therapy project for people living with dementia, the **South Bank Centre's** *War Requiem* project, an intensive programme of events and learning resources centred around Britten's masterpiece and culminating in a performance by young musicians, and the wide-ranging educational work of the SAGE Gateshead, which celebrated its first decade in 2014, compete for the RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation. An equally imaginative line up for the Audiences and Engagement award features new music premiered in a Birmingham shopping center, site specific work created for a multi-story car park in Peckham, and an ingenious mix of pioneering digital and live performance introducing new audiences to classical music in Devon and Cornwall. The shortlist is: American composer David Lang's **CROWD OUT** for 1000 shouting voices, produced by **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** in partnership with Spitalfields Music; **Multi-Story**; **iOrchestra**, with the **Philharmonia** leading a consortium of local South West arts organisations.

The RPS Music Award for Creative Communication is between two books and a digital, behind the scenes exploration of an opera performance. The shortlist is: *Wild Tracks – A Conversation Diary with Harrison Birtwistle* by Observer music critic, **Fiona Maddocks** (Faber Books); pianist **Graham Johnson**'s definitive, scholarly three volume encyclopedia of Schubert's vocal music with piano, *Franz Schubert; The Complete Songs* (Yale University Press); the **Royal Opera House** for *The Opera Machine*, an online multi-angled view of the intricate theatrical process behind the scenes at a ROH Covent Garden performance of Wagner's *Die Walküre*.

RPS MUSIC AWARDS – THE SHORTLISTS AT A GLANCE

Award	Shortlist
Audiences and Engagement	Crowd Out: David Lang/Birmingham Contemporary Music Group/Spitalfields Music Multi-Story Philharmonia iOrchestra (SW England)
Chamber Music and Song	Arditti Quartet Oxford Lieder
Chamber-Scale Composition sponsored by Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell	Graham Fitkin: Distil Julian Anderson: String Quartet No.2 Liza Lim: Winding Bodies, 3 Knots
Concert Series and Festivals sponsored by Schott Music	Barbican: Birtwistle at 80 East Neuk Festival Oxford Lieder
Conductor sponsored by BBC Music Magazine	Andris Nelsons John Eliot Gardiner Vasily Petrenko
Creative Communication	Fiona Maddocks: <i>Wild Tracks – Conversations with Harrison Birtwistle</i> (Faber Books) Graham Johnson: <i>Franz Schubert; The Complete Songs</i> Volumes 1,2 & 3 (Yale University Press) Royal Opera House: <i>The Opera Machine</i>

<p>Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust</p>	<p>Arditti Quartet</p> <p>London Contemporary Orchestra</p> <p>Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra</p>
<p>Instrumentalist donated by The Stradivari Trust</p>	<p>Colin Currie</p> <p>James Ehnes</p> <p>Lawrence Power</p>
<p>Large-Scale Composition donated anonymously</p>	<p>Hans Abrahamsen: Let me tell you...</p> <p>John Casken: Apollinaire's Bird</p> <p>Simon Holt: Morpheus Wakes</p>
<p>Learning and Participation sponsored by the ABRSM, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music</p>	<p>Manchester Camerata: Music in Mind</p> <p>Britten's War Requiem, Southbank Centre</p> <p>Sage Gateshead</p>
<p>Opera and Music Theatre sponsored by the Incorporated Society of Musicians</p>	<p>English National Opera</p> <p>Royal Opera House: Die Frau ohne Schatten</p> <p>Taliesin Arts Centre: Under Milk Wood by John Metcalf</p>
<p>Singer sponsored by Rosenblatt Recitals</p>	<p>Christian Gerhaher</p> <p>Mark Padmore</p> <p>Nine Stemme</p>
<p>Young Artists donated by the Bowerman Charitable Trust</p>	<p>Andrés Orozco-Estrada</p> <p>JACK Quartet</p> <p>Mary Bevan</p>

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.

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 features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms - broadcasting 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 and New Generation Thinkers.

bbc.co.uk/radio3