




## Press Release

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### Royal Philharmonic Society Summer events 2012

- **June: RPS Composition Prize - Philharmonia Composers Academy**  
RPS Composition Prize-winning young composers **Stef Conner, Phil Dawson and David Curington** unveil their new work for players of the Philharmonia – Thursday 28 June
- **July: Cheltenham Festival**
- **BBC Singers** give world premiere of **Lauri Supponen's 'The Dordrecht Humaphone'**, winner of **Royal Philharmonic Society/Susan Bradshaw Composers' Fund Prize** - Thursday 5 July
- **Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme showcase:**  
**Philip Higham** (cello); **Alexandra Dariescu** (piano), **Kathryn Rudge, Helen Sherman** (mezzo soprano) – Tuesday 10 July
- **Encore: Chamber Music - Another chance to hear ....**  
Giles Swayne's *String Quartet No. 3* – Sunday 8 July 
- **July: RPS Drummond Fund for New Music for Dance: Battle!**
- **Aurora Orchestra**, choreographer **Mickaël 'Marso' Rivière** and new score for chamber orchestra and breakers by **Julian Philips** - 3 July, Deal Festival; 13 July, LSO St Luke's; 15 July, Canada Square, Canary Wharf
- **August: Royal Philharmonic Society at the BBC Proms**
- **Encore: Chamber Music - Another chance to hear ....**  
Hugh Wood's *String Quartet No. 4*   
Escher Quartet, Cadogan Hall, Monday 20 August
- **August: Presteigne Festival**
- **Encore: Chamber Music - Another chance to hear ....**  
David Matthews' **String Quartet No. 3**   
Carducci Quartet, Saturday 25 August

Full details at [www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk)

Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850  
07711 551 787 [sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk) [sophiecohenpr.com](http://sophiecohenpr.com)

## Royal Philharmonic Society – Summer 2012

The Royal Philharmonic Society's support for young composers, musicians and new music finds full voice in July and August with a series of events at Cheltenham and Presteigne Festivals, the BBC Proms and on tour in London and the South East. The RPS celebrates its Bicentenary in 2013, and the support it offers a wide range of musicians, at all stages of their careers, has direct precedent in the work of the society's fore-founders (who, amongst many new works, commissioned Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony).

### Royal Philharmonic Society: Philharmonia Orchestra/ Music of Today

The culminating concert of Music of Today features the Philharmonia Orchestra's Young Composers Academy and is supported by the Royal Philharmonic Society. The concert sees new works from RPS composition prize-winning young composers **Stef Conner**, **Phil Dawson** and **David Curington** being performed under the baton of British composer-conductor David Robert Coleman. Over the course of the year they have worked closely with musicians, composers and Unsuk Chin, the Artistic Director of the Music of Today series.

Thursday 28 June at 6pm, Royal Festival Hall

### Royal Philharmonic Society at Cheltenham Festival

The RPS's close association with Cheltenham Festival continues with the premiere of a new commission, a showcase for talented young musicians and another chance to hear a neglected work by one of the country's most distinguished composers.

Lauri Supponen – premiere

Thursday 5 July at 8pm, Cheltenham College Chapel

A Royal Philharmonic Society/Susan Bradshaw Composers' Fund commission by Finnish composer **Lauri Supponen** is one of four world premieres in a programme of contemporary choral riches performed by the **BBC Singers**. The programme also features birthday tributes to Hugh Wood at 80 and Judith Bingham at 60, and a new Mass by Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara.

Encore: Giles Swayne's *String Quartet No.3*

Sunday 8 July at 7.30pm, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

BBC Broadcast – 14 July 2012 – Hear and Now – BBC Radio 3

**Giles Swayne's *String Quartet No.3*** is the seventh work to be performed in the Encore series, an initiative by the Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3 that offers performances of works that have been unjustly neglected from the concert stage. The current series focuses on chamber music and showcases a total of twelve works from across the repertoire by living British composers.

Written (and last performed) in 1993 and composed in memory of a friend, Swayne's work is full of invention, and the occasional surprise (such as when the melody of 'Waltzing Matilda' emerges in the final bars). As part of Encore\*, ***String Quartet No.3*** will also be choreographed for the first time in the autumn of 2012.

**Giles Swayne** discusses his third string quartet with **Tom Hutchinson** from the Royal Philharmonic Society prior to a performance of this work in a concert by the **Castalian Quartet**. The String Quartet will also provide the score for a new dance work, to be premiered in Autumn 2012 as part of Encore.

### **Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme Showcase**

**Tuesday 10 July, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham and live on BBC Radio 3**

The **Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme** was established by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Young Classical Artists Trust in memory of the great British tenor Philip Langridge and pairs the UK's finest young performers with leading musicians. The Cheltenham Music Festival showcases the first four musicians who are benefiting from the scheme – **Philip Higham** (cello, who has been working with **Steven Isserlis**); **Alexandra Dariescu** (piano, who has been teamed with **Imogen Cooper**), **Kathryn Rudge** (mezzo soprano, who has worked with **Ann Murray**) and **Helen Sherman** (mezzo-soprano, who has been working with **Stephen Langridge**).

The concert, featuring works by Schubert, Mahler, Chopin, Constatinescu, Duparc and Britten will be presented live from the stage on BBC Radio 3, with presenter Martin Handley as compere.

The showcase also marks the launch of a new PLMS website on **4 July** at [www.langridgeartists.org](http://www.langridgeartists.org)

### **RPS Drummond Fund**

#### **Battle! – Aurora Orchestra/Julian Philips new score**

**3 July, Deal Festival; 13 July, LSO St Luke's; 15 July, Canada Square, Canary Wharf**

The RPS Drummond Fund supports an enticing new collaboration, which juxtaposes breaking (breakdance) and orchestral music. *Battle* sees Aurora collaborate with acclaimed breaker collective Bboy's Attic / Company Decalage and choreographer Mickaël 'Marso' Rivière. An explosive programme ranges from the virtuosic baroque fireworks of Biber's Battalia to an orchestral arrangement of Shostakovich's monumental third string quartet, and Julian Philips RPS Drummond Fund supported commission for chamber orchestra and breakers.

### **Encore at the Proms**

#### **Hugh Wood, String Quartet No.4; Escher Quartet**

**Monday 20 August at 1pm, Cadogan Hall, London SW1**  
**broadcast live on BBC Radio 3**

The fourth of **Hugh Wood**'s five string quartets is a masterly four-movement piece: music of passion and closely wrought integrity. Written in 1993, and dedicated to the Chilingirian Quartet, the quartet was last performed a decade ago. It follows a performance of Debussy's early quartet, String Quartet in G minor, which presaged the musical future with its sensual colour and improvisatory tone. The Escher Quartet performs in the 6<sup>th</sup> Chamber Music Prom of the summer season. Visit

[www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk) to explore the writing and workings of the quartet.

## **Encore at Presteigne Festival**

### **David Matthews, String Quartet No. 3; Carducci Quartet** **Saturday 25 August**

David Matthews fresh, airy third string quartet receives another hearing 18 years after its last live performance. The work, written in 1980, is remarkable for its simplicity – no unnecessary business, just chords and notes alternating with infinite tact and variety. This performance will be recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and will be accompanied by a short film by **Barrie Gavin**, to be shown in the autumn at [www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk)

*Encore is supported by The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Idlewild Trust, The Mercers' Company and PRS for Music Foundation.*

**Full details of all events at [www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk)**

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

**[www.cheltenhamfestivals.com](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com)**

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

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

**[www.auroraorchestra.com](http://www.auroraorchestra.com)**

**[www.presteignefestival.com](http://www.presteignefestival.com)**