



## Press Release

From the Susan Chilcott Scholarship in association with the Royal Philharmonic Society  
Patron: Placido Domingo

For release: 9 June 2011

### Winners announced of Susan Chilcott Scholarship 2011 £19,000 boost to young singers



Nine singers have been awarded Susan Chilcott Scholarships in 2011. The scholarships, which this year totalled £19,000, will support the singers in a range of practical ways – from enabling further conservatoire studies to specialist vocal and language training and support in creating promotional CDs and websites.

Susan Chilcott, one of the greatest English operatic stars of her generation, died of breast cancer in 2003 aged 40.

Susan came from a modest background but with the help of family and her own determination she rose to the top of her profession. In 2005, friends and colleagues established a scholarship in her name to help talented singers of limited financial means to fulfil their potential.

The Susan Chilcott Scholarship, presented in association with the Royal Philharmonic Society, is intended to enable talented British singers, aged 21 and over, to develop their careers by continued study at a recognised conservatoire or with a recognised teacher. Awards are also available for singers wishing to study a specific repertoire with a singer or teacher, or for language tuition. To date, over a six-year period the scholarship has supported 52 singers to the tune of £126,000.

This year 62 singers applied to the Susan Chilcott Scholarship, with the strongest applicants asked to audition before a distinguished panel. Following these auditions, the panel, chaired by **Neal Davies**, and featuring **Pamela Bullock, Susan Bullock, Iain Burnside, Ian Rosenblatt** and **Mollie Petrie** (Susan Chilcott's teacher) selected nine singers and awarded £19,000. This year the awards go to singers between 25 and 43 years of age, at different stages of their professional development. They include:

- Mezzo-soprano and YCAT artist **Kathryn Rudge** who receives support for specialist vocal training, and coaching at ENO.
- Tenor **Matthew Long**, receives a Susan Chilcott Scholarship to support further studies on the post-graduate vocal performance course at Royal College of Music.
- Mezzo-soprano **Magdalen Ashman**, receives support for further professional development, including an audition tour of Germany, language tuition, a demo CD and website.
- Countertenor **Magid El-Bushra**, who will receive funds towards private tuition and language courses.
- Baritone **Tristan Stocks**, who will also receive support for private tuition and travel.
- Four students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will receive scholarships towards course fees, coaching and expenses: baritones **Ashley Riches** and **Ben McAteer**, mezzo soprano **Marta Fontanals-Simmons** and tenor **Adam Smith**.

**Iain Burnside**, Chair of the Susan Chilcott Scholarship comments:

*"It is a delight to be able to help these nine, fine, very different singers. These are tough times to be starting a career. We hope that the help being offered in Sue's name will empower these young artists and put air under their wings. We congratulate them all and will follow their progress with the greatest interest."*

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Photo caption: From left to right

Tristan Stocks, Matthew Long, Ashley Riches, Marta Fontanals-Simmons, Ben McAteer, Hugh Chilcott (Susan Chilcott's son), Magdalen Ashman, Adam Smith, Magid El-Bushra.