

PRESS RELEASE

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED OF RPS MUSIC AWARDS

Presented in association with BBC Radio 3

- **Sakari Oramo, Roderick Williams, Daniil Trifonov, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Multi-Story and Glyndebourne Festival Opera** feature in a list of winners that celebrates both youth and experience
- Opera director, **Graham Vick**, awarded **Honorary Membership of the Royal Philharmonic Society**

Special RPS Music Awards Broadcast:
BBC Radio 3, Wednesday 11 May at 19.30hrs

www.rpsmusicawards.com

#RPSMusicAwards

@RoyalPhilSoc

Youth, invention, musical brilliance - and an outbreak of classical music in a multi-story car park - are celebrated in the list of winners of this year's **Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards** (announced London, 10 May, PM), the UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music, presented in association with BBC Radio 3.

The winners, in thirteen categories, are:

- **Multi-Story**, for a 2015 concert season staged in the Bold Tendencies car park in Peckham, South London (winner of RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement for its *"ingenuity, simplicity and impact in the local community..."*)
- Russian virtuoso pianist **Daniil Trifonov**, still only 25 years old, won the RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist, commended by the jury for his *"technical brilliance, deep musicality and a fearless sense of adventure"*.
- Finnish conductor **Sakari Oramo**, Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra picked up the RPS Music Award for Conductor, impressing the jury with *"the combination of passion and searching intelligence he brought to a vast range of music"* throughout 2015.
- The Singer Award went to a *"consummate artist"*, baritone **Roderick Williams** for a *"remarkably wide-ranging year of song."*
- Pianist **Clare Hammond** (whose busy 2015 ranged from world premiere performances to a film debut as the younger incarnation of Maggie Smith's character, Miss Shepherd, in *The Lady in the Van*) won the RPS Music Award for Young Artists. The jury praised her *"commitment to new repertoire ... talent for creating inventive programmes and her compelling presence as a performer."*
- *"A beacon of excellence for decades"*, the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain**, won the Ensemble award, for its 2015 *"campaign to engage hundreds more teenagers with the orchestra"* at a *"time when music has such a precarious place in the schools' curriculum"*.

- **Glyndebourne Festival Opera** won the RPS Music Award for Opera and Music Theatre for Barry Kosky's "*brilliantly imaginative*" staging of Handel's *Saul* at Glyndebourne and on tour.
- The **Carducci String Quartet** took home the RPS Music Award for Chamber Music and Song for an "*heroic challenge*" - its 2015 complete cycle of Shostakovich quartets: "*great performances of great chamber music taken to venues that had not heard the like before.*"
- Composers **Julian Anderson** and **Luca Francesconi** won the two composition prizes: Wigmore Hall Composer-in-Residence, **Julian Anderson**, won the RPS Music Award for Chamber-Scale Composition for *Van Gogh Blue*, "*chamber music of exceptional quality ... which leads the listener in unexpected directions*"; **Francesconi** won the Large-Scale Composition Award for his flamenco inspired violin concerto *Duende: The Dark Notes*, a "*white knuckle ride of dramatic intent*" which received its UK premiere at the 2015 BBC Proms.
- **Tri-borough Music Hub** won the Learning and Participation Award for a retelling of the Persephone Myth, *Seven Seeds*, (music John Barber; libretto Hazel Gould) which involved 1200 young singers and performers from three London boroughs alongside several leading ensembles.
- **Kings Place** took home the RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals for its "*coming of age*" 40-concert series, *Minimalism Unwrapped* that "*spanned from early plainsong to the newest of the new.*"
- **Michael Church**, editor of *The Other Classical Musics* (Boydell Press), which "*paints fifteen compelling portraits of music traditions lateral to our own*", collected the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication. The jury described the book as "*a passport to new horizons.*"

Internationally renowned opera director **Graham Vick** was presented with **Honorary Membership of the Royal Philharmonic Society** (further details below).

A programme featuring highlights of the awards, music and interviews will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 19.30hrs (UK time) on Wednesday 11 May, and on BBC iPlayer.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, held at The Brewery in the City of London, RPS Chairman **John Gilhooly** saluted the shortlists and spoke of the importance of celebrating classical music and widening its reach: "*At the heart of all great music is the idea of looking outwards, of trying to make sense of the world around us, and articulating our thoughts and lives. And in the 21st century, this should be all lives!*"

Tonight the RPS wants to salute the amazing array of talent on offer in the UK – distinguished musicians, distinctive international musical voices, composers, conductors, instrumentalists and people of all ages, and from all walks of life who participate in music-making. And we want to say - in fact shout so loudly that it can't be ignored: this is for everyone. Music is about joy, and profundity, and understanding – and it's for you!"

It was a theme echoed by new RPS Honorary Member, **Graham Vick**, who was also the evening's guest speaker, and urged the music business to make a difference. "*Music effects change by touching humanity. Through music we can harness and share the richness of cultural background and identity, the breadth of life experience and alternative perspectives available in our expanding communities and enrich all our understanding*".

Alan Davey, Controller of BBC Radio 3, commenting on the winners of this year's awards said: *"BBC Radio 3 aims to connect our audiences with remarkable music and culture, so we're proud to share the RPS Music Awards with our millions of listeners. They shine a light on the transformative experience that encountering great music can bring, and celebrate work that reaches out to audiences through its virtuosic brilliance, imagination and bold ambition. I would like to congratulate all the winners, and am delighted that the BBC's pivotal role in the UK's musical life is reflected in awards for Sakari Oramo, Chief Conductor of BBC Symphony Orchestra and Luca Francesconi, whose violin concerto Duende was one of the shining moments of the 2015 BBC Proms. Together we can keep on changing the world through music."*

Graham Vick awarded Honorary Membership of the Royal Philharmonic Society

Graham Vick, Director of Birmingham Opera, was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society, the 139th recipient since the first Honorary Membership was made to Carl Maria von Weber in 1826. In its citation, the Royal Philharmonic Society said: *"Graham Vick has single-handedly changed the way we think about opera. An opera director of worldwide renown, everything he does stems from a passionate belief that opera that has excellence and accessibility at its core, speaks to everyone. He has taken opera out of the opera house and revitalised the repertoire, creating productions that engage both operatic newcomers and the most hardened devotees...The point of opera, he says, is "to spark a debate about the way you live your life, about the society you're in, the way we relate to each other and the choices we make."*

Illustrious Honorary Members have included Rossini (1839), Brahms (1882), Clara Schumann (1887), Stravinsky (1921), Aaron Copland (1970), Paul Sacher (1991) and Lady Evelyn Barbirolli (2001). Recent recipients have included founder of El Sistema José Antonio Abreu (2008) Sir Brian McMaster (2009) Graham Johnson, Fanny Waterman (2010) George Benjamin, Tony Fell, Mark Elder (2011) John Stephens (2012), Dr Ahmad Sarmast, Rosemary Nalden, Aaron Dworkin, Ricardo Castro, Armand Diangienda (2013) Martin Campbell-White, Marin Alsop (2014) and Evelyn Glennie (2015)

The Ceremony

The RPS Music Awards ceremony, which celebrated outstanding achievement in the calendar year 2015, was hosted by BBC Radio 3 presenters **Suzy Klein** and **Sara Mohr-Pietsch**. The awards evening included live performances from baritone **Roderick Williams**, members of Britain's first black and minority ethnic orchestra, **Chineke!** (shortlisted in the Ensemble Category), and members of the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain**. Silver lyre RPS trophies were presented to the winners by Canadian baritone **Gerald Finley**.

Sponsors

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with **BBC Radio 3**. Individual Award sponsors are: **ABRSM**, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music; **The Boltini Trust**; **Boosey and Hawkes** (in memory of former RPS Chairman, Tony Fell); **BBC Music Magazine**; the **Bowerman Charitable Trust**; **Rosenblatt Recitals**; **Schott Music**; **The Stradivari Trust** with support from Lark Insurance; **Yellow Car Charitable Trust**. The piano for the evening was generously supplied by **Steinway and Sons**.

Further press information from:
Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 07711 551 787
sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

RPS MUSIC AWARDS - THE WINNERS

Audiences and Engagement – Multi-Story
Chamber Music and Song – Carducci String Quartet
Chamber-Scale Composition – Julian Anderson – *Van Gogh Blue*
Concert Series and Festivals – Kings Place: *Minimalism Unwrapped*
Conductor – Sakari Oramo
Creative Communication – *The Other Classical Musics* (Boydell Press, edited by Michael Church)
Ensemble – National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain
Instrumentalist – Daniil Trifonov
Large-Scale Composition – Luca Francesconi – *Duende: The Dark Notes*
Learning and Participation – Tri-borough Music Hub – *Seven Seeds*
Opera and Music Theatre – Glyndebourne Festival Opera – *Saul*
Singer – Roderick Williams
Young Artists – Clare Hammond
Honorary Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society – Graham Vick

For full citations, visit www.rpsmusicawards.com or see the grid on the following pages...

NOTES TO EDITORS:

ABOUT THE RPS MUSIC AWARDS: The annual RPS Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, are the highest recognition for live classical music in the UK. Awards, in thirteen categories, are decided by independent panels consisting of 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. This year's RPS Music Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in 2015. www.rpsmusicawards.com

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. www.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 has four dedicated jazz strands, is the only network station with a regular world music show and features more live classical music programming than any other. Radio 3 broadcasts 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, BBC Classical, Jazz and World Introducing, and New Generation Thinkers. www.bbc.co.uk/radio3

Over for citations...

RPS MUSIC AWARDS – WINNERS AND CITATIONS

Award	Shortlist	CITATION
Audiences and Engagement	<p>Multi-Story</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Steve Reich Clapping Music App - London Sinfonietta / Touchpress / Queen Mary University of London The Ice Break - Birmingham Opera Company</p>	All three shortlisted organisations demonstrate a real commitment to changing the terms of engagement with, and growing the diversity of, their audiences. However, for its ingenuity and simplicity; for its impact in the local community; and as a model that can be replicated to create new audiences for classical music around the UK, the Award goes to Multi-Story .
Chamber Music and Song	<p>Carducci String Quartet: Shostakovich 15</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Cavatina Chamber Music Trust Mr McFall's Chamber Nash Ensemble</p>	The Carducci Quartet devoted 2015 to a heroic challenge that saw them perform all fifteen Shostakovich Quartets in over 60 concerts throughout the UK, including five complete cycles - one of which was presented in four concerts in one day at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. These were great performances of great chamber music taken to venues that had not heard the like before.
Chamber-Scale Composition sponsored by Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell	<p>Julian Anderson: Van Gogh Blue</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Edmund Finnis: Shades Lengthen Kaija Saariaho: Light and Matter</p>	The winning piece is chamber music writing of exceptional quality, imbued with rhythmic dynamism and instrumental colour, which lead the listener in unexpected directions. Building on the past with a freshness and clarity, the composer demonstrates a new flexibility and takes risks in a work that is spare, radiantly clear and perfectly heard. The Award goes to Julian Anderson's Van Gogh Blue .
Concert Series and Festivals sponsored by Schott Music	<p>Kings Place: Minimalism Unwrapped</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Philharmonia Orchestra: City of Light: Paris 1900-1950 The Cumnock Tryst</p>	With a wide-ranging and imaginative series that brought many fresh perspectives to its theme, this 7-year-old venue has truly come of age. In a year-long exploration that spanned from earliest plainsong to the newest of the new, Minimalism Unwrapped at Kings Place encouraged discovery and attracted diverse and engaged audiences.
Conductor sponsored by BBC Music Magazine	<p>Sakari Oramo</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Mark Wigglesworth Vasily Petrenko</p>	Sakari Oramo impressed the panel with the combination of passion and searching intelligence he brought to a vast range of music across the year, from a thrilling Belshazzar's Feast at the Proms to his peerless Nielsen symphony cycle and shattering Elgar 2nd symphony with the BBC SO at the Barbican, where he also acted as midwife to numerous BBC commissions. This is a conductor who continues to grow and grow.
Creative Communication	<p>Fifteen Great Traditions edited by Michael Church (Boydell Press)</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity by Julian Johnson (OUP) Words Without Music by Philip Glass (Faber & Faber)</p>	The Other Classical Musics edited by Michael Church and published by Boydell Press is a passport to new horizons painting fifteen compelling portraits of traditions lateral to our own. Intelligently, beautifully presented, it will rouse your appetite to explore, inviting you to reflect anew on western classical music's place in the world.
Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust	<p>National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Chineke! Orchestra Fidelio Trio Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra</p>	The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain has been a beacon of excellence for decades. But last year it broke new ground with its campaigns to inspire and directly engage hundreds more teenagers with the orchestra. At a time when music has such a precarious place in the schools' curriculum the outstanding work of Britain's world-class youth orchestra is needed more than ever.

<p>Instrumentalist donated by The Stradivari Trust with support from Lark Insurance</p>	<p>Daniil Trifonov (piano)</p> <p>Also shortlisted Christian Tetzlaff (violin) Maria João Pires (piano)</p>	<p>Technical brilliance, deep musicality and a fearless sense of adventure underpin every one of this artist's performances. His Rachmaninov concerto cycle, presented across the UK in 2015 with the Philharmonia Orchestra, drew standing ovations and critical superlatives, while the summer saw acclaimed returns to the BBC Proms with the LSO, and to the Edinburgh International Festival in recital with Matthias Goerne. Our 2016 Instrumentalist Award goes to Daniil Trifonov.</p>
<p>Large-Scale Composition donated by The Boltini Trust</p>	<p>Luca Francesconi: Duende, The Dark Notes: violin concerto</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Christian Mason: Open to Infinity: A Grain of Sand Gavin Higgins: Dark Arteries Rebecca Saunders: Alba: for solo trumpet & orchestra</p>	<p>Drawing on the world of flamenco, this work is a febrile proliferation of gripping ideas driven with unceasing energy by the solo protagonist. The composer has created a white-knuckle ride of dramatic intent, which never loses its focus even through captivating moments of calm within the turmoil. The Award goes to Luca Francesconi's Duende: the Dark Notes</p>
<p>Learning and Participation sponsored by the ABRSM, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music</p>	<p>Tri-Borough Music Hub: Seven Seeds</p> <p>Also shortlisted: BBC: Ten Pieces Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: Watercycle Streetwise Opera: Little Opera Season</p>	<p>Commissioned by the Tri-borough Music Hub, Seven Seeds was a two year project leading to a major new work by composer John Barber and librettist Hazel Gould that brought together over 1200 young singers and instrumentalists and an extraordinary group of musical partners in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall. This ambitious large scale work presents a rich, sophisticated and uncompromising musical language in a way that is accessible to all young people, irrespective of age, ability and cultural background.</p> <p>The judges were particularly struck by the inclusive nature of the process and that the project has not only created a musical legacy of excellence but has raised aspiration for future arts engagement.</p>
<p>Opera and Music Theatre</p>	<p>Glyndebourne: Saul</p> <p>Also shortlisted: Birmingham Opera Company: The Ice Break Opera Holland Park: Il Trittico</p>	<p>For Glyndebourne's Saul, in Barry Kosky's brilliantly imaginative staging, seen first at the summer Festival and then, building on that success, on the autumn tour. Two conductors, Ivor Bolton and Laurence Cummings, two casts, led by Christopher Purves and Henry Waddington, and two choruses brought new life to Handel's great oratorio, thrilling audiences in the process.</p>
<p>Singer sponsored by Rosenblatt Recitals</p>	<p>Roderick Williams</p> <p>Also shortlisted Iestyn Davies Andrew Watts</p>	<p>The jury found much to celebrate in the work of all three shortlisted singers this year. The winner, however, stood out for a remarkably wide-ranging year of song, in particular his exemplary performances of British 20th and 21st century repertoire, including his own compositions. A consummate artist and a singer with whom composers and fellow musicians find it a joy to work. The award goes to Roderick Williams.</p>
<p>Young Artists donated by the Bowerman Charitable Trust</p>	<p>Clare Hammond (piano)</p> <p>Also shortlisted: James Baillieu (piano) Kathryn Rudge (mezzo-soprano)</p>	<p>With impressive, wide-ranging nominations for this category, the panel selected a strong shortlist of artists all making a real impact in their own fields. But the award goes to a musician who embodies the RPS principles of excellence, creativity and understanding. Etude, her exploration of electrifying and adventurous piano works of the 20th and 21st centuries, reveals her commitment to new repertoire, a true talent for creating inventive programmes and her compelling presence as a performer. The winner is Clare Hammond.</p>

Presentation of Honorary Membership

Graham Vick

Graham Vick has single-handedly changed the way we think about opera. An opera director of worldwide renown, everything he does stems from a passionate belief that opera that has excellence and accessibility at its core, speaks to everyone. He has taken opera out of the opera house and revitalised the repertoire, creating productions that engage both operatic newcomers and the most hardened devotees. In his early 20s, at Scottish Opera, he founded a small touring company bringing opera to remote communities in the Highlands and Islands. He then went on to work with unemployed young people staging Bernstein's *West Side Story* in an abandoned mill in Yorkshire, before founding the award-winning Birmingham Opera Company in the 1980s. In Birmingham he invites local people in to create and experience opera in unpredictable places at the heart of the city. The point of opera, he says is "to spark a debate about the way you live your life, about the society you're in, the way we relate to each other and the choices we make."