



Press Release

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James Murphy appointed as Chief Executive of the Royal Philharmonic Society

James Murphy has been appointed as Chief Executive of the Royal Philharmonic Society. He joins the RPS in the summer, taking over from **Rosemary Johnson**.

James Murphy is currently Managing Director of Southbank Sinfonia, the orchestra that provides graduate musicians with a much-needed springboard into the music profession. Under James's artistic and executive leadership since 2011, the Sinfonia has enjoyed a period of noted prosperity and growth. He is responsible for planning and programming over 70 concerts annually, instigating the orchestra's acclaimed role centre-stage in the National Theatre's *Amadeus*, creating partnerships with organisations including Southbank Centre, Notre-Dame de Paris and Sir Nicholas Hytner's Bridge Theatre, establishing the Southbank Sinfonia Foundation to safeguard the orchestra's long-term future, and championing marginalised female talent (50% of Sinfonia guest conductors are now female and music by over 20 female composers is programmed in 2018). He has previously worked at the National Youth Orchestra, the Royal College of Music, and has commentated on live TV broadcasts of the BBC Proms.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments: *"James comes to the Royal Philharmonic Society with impeccable musical, charity and fundraising credentials, and his experience of working with young music professionals and commitment to quality music making for the widest possible audience chimes with the RPS's own long-standing work in these areas. He inherits a Society that is full of energy and ideas, and we are very much looking forward to working with James to ensure an invigorating future for the RPS."*

James Murphy comments: *"It is a tremendous honour to take on this role. In 1813, the founders of the Philharmonic Society set out to make a case for why classical music belongs at the heart of everyday life. That same conviction has driven all my work with young musicians. As Chief Executive of this venerable*

institution, I look forward to working with colleagues sector-wide to champion the enduring power and worth of classical music, generating fresh recognition and pride nationally and beyond for all that classical musicians brilliantly do.”

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Notes to Editors

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