

## Press Release

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### Pianist Mitsuko Uchida awarded Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal

One of classical music's highest honours, to be presented to a "*peerless musician*" at the Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards, the 'oscar' of live classical music in the UK

#### Tuesday 8 May, Dorchester Hotel

Pianist **Mitsuko Uchida**, has been awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, one of classical music's highest honours. Hailed by the Society as a "*peerless musician*", she joins an illustrious list of current RPS Gold Medallists: **Bernard Haitink; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau; Janet Baker; Alfred Brendel; Colin Davis; Elliott Carter; Pierre Boulez; Simon Rattle; Placido Domingo; Daniel Barenboim; Henri Dutilleux; Thomas Quasthoff** and **Nikolaus Harnoncourt**.

The **Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal** is awarded by the members of the Royal Philharmonic Society. It was created to commemorate the centenary of **Beethoven's** birth and celebrates the close relationship between the Society and the composer (the RPS commissioned Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony and championed his work, and the medal bears an effigy of the composer). Since its initiation in 1870, recipients of the RPS Gold Medal have included **Brahms** (1877), **Delius** and **Elgar** (1925), **Richard Strauss** (1936), **Stravinsky** (1954), **Britten** and **Bernstein** (1987).

The **RPS Gold Medal** will be presented to **Mitsuko Uchida** by RPS Chairman **John Gilhooly** at this year's **Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards** at London's Dorchester Hotel, in front of an audience of musicians and leading music figures on Tuesday 8 May.

[www.royalphilharmonicsociety.com](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.com)

[www.mitsukouchida.com](http://www.mitsukouchida.com)

#### About the RPS Music Awards ceremony – Tuesday 8 May

The RPS Music Awards ceremony, the 'oscar' of live classical music in the UK, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, will be hosted by BBC Radio 3's **Petroc Trelawny** and **Katie Derham**. Winners in thirteen categories are chosen by independent juries and the silver lyre trophies will be presented to the lucky few by tenor **John Mark Ainsley**, himself a former winner of the RPS Music Award for Singer. **Gareth Malone** is the keynote speaker. BBC Radio 3 will broadcast a special awards programme on Sunday 13 May at 2pm.

Those in contention for RPS Music Awards this year include some of the biggest names in classical music: conductors **Claudio Abbado**; **Gianandrea Noseda** and **Donald Runnicles**; instrumentalists **Maurizio Pollini**, **Marc-André Hamelin** and **Christian Tetzlaff**; the **Royal Opera House** and **English National Opera**; and stars of a younger generation, including soprano **Sophie Bevan**, pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** and cellist **Oliver Coates**.

Full shortlists for the RPS Music Awards can be found at [www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

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