



Press Release

Applications now open for RPS Duet Prizes for outstanding instrumentalists and composers aged 18 and under.

Applications are now open for the RPS Duet Prizes for outstanding young instrumentalists and composers aged 18 and under. The biennial prizes, first awarded in 2016, are part of 'Ensemble Philharmonic', an initiative by the Royal Philharmonic Society and The Duet Group, designed to build links between exceptional young musicians and secondary music departments, and the music profession through concerts, talks, masterclasses and creative collaborations.

The RPS Duet Prizes, supported by the Duet Group Charitable Foundation, aim to encourage and recognise musical excellence in formative years, and the inaugural RPS Duet Prizes in 2016 revealed a wealth of extraordinary young talent. The first RPS Duet Prize winners were 16-year-old cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** from Nottingham (who went on to win the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2016) and 18-year-old Cheltenham composer **Freya Ireland** (an association which has been further developed with her appointment as RPS/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer-in-Residence).

The RPS Duet Prizes are open to student musicians from schools and Hubs, but not specialist music schools, who are 18 or under on 31st August 2018. [The deadline for applications is Midday, Wednesday 1 November 2017.](#)

Full details of the RPS Duet Prizes and how to enter/deadlines at:

www.philharmonicsociety.uk

The winner of the Young Instrumentalist Prize will receive £1500 to assist their musical development and a public recital at a National Music Festival. The winner of the Young Composer Prize will also receive £1500 to assist their musical development and a UK performance of a commissioned composition, details to be agreed between the winner, and the RPS.

Further press information from: Sophie Cohen on 020 7482 3466

07711 551 787

sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

Notes:

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, conducting workshops to support a new wave of women conductors, 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.

philharmonicsociety.uk

About the Duet Group

Duet is the leading organisation leasing and servicing musical instruments for individual musicians, schools, conservatoires and universities. Duet selects, services and maintains musical equipment to the highest possible standard empowering our clients to make world class music.

Additionally, the Duet Foundation has been established to help young musicians in their exploration of music. The Foundation funds young musicians to assist with their tuition and instrument purchase as well as concert performance and mentoring. It has also funded orchestral concerts, community projects, chamber ensembles and young composers' premieres.

The Duet Philharmonic Orchestra, established in 2013, seeks to give young orchestral players a 'once in a lifetime experience' performing repertoire that many musicians can only dream of playing, to the highest possible standard. Performances to date have been Mahler's 8th Symphony, Strauss' Alpine Symphony and Four Last Songs, Mahler's 5th Symphony and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto no. 2. duetgroup.co.uk