



Press Release

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EDMUND HUNT APPOINTED ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY/WIGMORE HALL APPRENTICE COMPOSER 2018

RPS TO SUPPORT THE APPRENTICE COMPOSER SCHEME UNTIL 2023

Edmund Hunt has been appointed Royal Philharmonic Society/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer for 2018. He wins a £2000 RPS commission for the *Diphonon Duo* (viola and accordion) to be performed at Wigmore Hall on 12 June 2018, and will receive mentoring from Wigmore Hall's Composer in Residence, Helen Grime. As Apprentice Composer, Edmund will also have opportunities to attend rehearsals and performances as part of the Wigmore Hall Contemporary Music Series throughout 2018, and have the chance to take part in and observe Wigmore Hall Learning workshops and events, working alongside the Composer in Residence and other experienced composers and workshop leaders.

35-year-old British composer Edmund Hunt originally studied languages at University, only beginning to compose in his twenties. He recently completed a PhD in composition at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire exploring early medieval literature of Northern Europe through the creation of vocal, instrumental and electronic works. His work has been played in the UK and abroad by ensembles including Psappha, the Royal Northern Sinfonia and CoMA (Contemporary Music for All). See full biography at the end of this release.

Helen Grime, Wigmore Hall Composer in Residence comments: *"Opportunities for composers – of any age - to become embedded in the workings of a concert venue are rare. The first RPS/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer, Freya Ireland, was just 19 when she joined us, and it's been incredibly rewarding watching her musical development over the past year. Edmund Hunt has come to composing comparatively late, and his previous studies and interest in medieval literature are finding powerful voice in his music. I'm looking forward to working alongside and exchanging ideas with him in 2018, and to seeing what direction his work will take over the course of the year."*

The RPS/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer* is part of the burgeoning Royal Philharmonic Society Young Musicians Programme, which each year facilitates valuable opportunities for enhanced learning and ongoing professional development for over 100 young musicians. The RPS has announced that, with the support of an anonymous

donor, it will support the RPS Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer scheme for the next five years.

Wigmore Hall stands as a major supporter of contemporary chamber music and song, as commissioner of new works and champion of living composers. The Hall is determined to bring fresh creative energy to the repertoire, not least through its extensive commissioning programme and promotion of world, UK and London premières.

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*** The RPS/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer scheme was founded in 2017, with 19-year-old Freya Ireland as the first recipient.**

ABOUT EDMUND HUNT

Edmund Hunt is a British composer (b. 1982). His work has been played in the UK and abroad by ensembles including Psappha, The Royal Northern Sinfonia, Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra, CHROMA, BCMG, ICARUS Vocal Ensemble, The Curious Chamber Players and CoMA (Contemporary Music for All).

Edmund has an MA from the University of Cambridge and an MMus from Newcastle University. He has recently completed a PhD in composition at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studies with Edwin Roxburgh, Joe Cutler and Simon Hall.

Much of Edmund's music is inspired by the early mediaeval literature of northern Europe, and his PhD explored this area through the creation of vocal, instrumental and electronic works. Although he often uses early texts, his approach is innovative and contemporary.

Awards include the Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestral Composition Prize (2011), the Harry Gray Memorial Composition Prize (2009) and the Alexandra Dacre Music Prize (2003 and 2004). He has been awarded scholarships to attend composition summer schools including the St Magnus Composers' Course (Orkney) in 2009 and the ICon Arts Academy (Romania) in 2012. In 2014, he was selected for the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Leverhulme Young Composers' programme. His composition 'Argatné!' was performed by the LPO in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, and was reviewed in the Telegraph as 'the most delicately beautiful piece of the evening'. In 2014-15, he attended the Jerwood Opera Writing Foundation course at Aldeburgh.

edmundhunt.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, 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 actively promotes greater engagement with live music performance and encourages people to listen and talk about music through events and debate.

ABOUT WIGMORE HALL LEARNING

Connecting people through music

For over 20 years Wigmore Hall's renowned Learning programme has been giving people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities opportunities to take part in creative music making, engaging a broad and diverse audience through innovative creative projects, concerts, events and online resources.

The spirit of chamber music lies at the heart of all that we do: making music together as an ensemble, with every voice heard and equally valued.

We collaborate with a range of community, health, social care and education organisations, working together to engage people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to take part.

Our programme comprises:

Schools and Early Years, including our new Partner Schools Programme, in which we work in partnership with schools and Music Education Hubs to co-produce activity over a three-year period, creating a creative whole school plan for music

Community, including Music for Life, our programme for people living with dementia and their care staff; hospital schools projects, on which we partner with Chelsea Community Hospital Schools; Musical Portraits, a project for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in partnership with National Portrait Gallery and Turtle Key Arts; and projects with the Cardinal Hume Centre, a centre for adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Family, which invites families to come to Wigmore Hall to take part in inspiring, one-off workshops and concerts

Events and projects for **Young People**, including Young Producers, a project which invites 14 – 18 year-olds to programme, plan, promote and present their own concert at Wigmore Hall

Behind the Music, a programme of study events including talks, lecture-recitals, masterclasses, study groups and Come and Sing days.

In 2016/17 we led 715 Learning events, engaging 10,962 people through 35,671 visits to the programme.