



Press Release: for release 9 June 2018

## **ROSEMARY JOHNSON APPOINTED MBE**

**Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director of the Royal Philharmonic Society, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2018 Birthday Honours List for Services to Music.**

Rosie will step down from her role with the RPS in July, after two decades with the Society. RPS Chairman, **John Gilhooly**, comments: *"Rosie Johnson has made an outstanding and pre-eminent contribution over 20 years to the Royal Philharmonic Society and to the musical life of the country."*

In recognition of this contribution, the RPS Apprentice Composer scheme at the Wigmore Hall will be renamed in her honour: **The Rosie Johnson RPS/Wigmore Hall Composer Apprenticeship**. The apprenticeship, which was launched in 2017, includes a commission for an emerging composer\*, and opportunities to attend rehearsals and performances at Wigmore Hall, and to observe and take part in Learning workshops and events, as well as mentoring by the Wigmore Hall's own Composer in Residence.

Rosie Johnson comments: *"It's been a huge privilege to work with so many outstanding performers, composers, colleagues and generous volunteers at the Royal Philharmonic Society. I'm hugely delighted that the work we have done has been recognised with this honour. I'm also tremendously proud that my name will be associated with the RPS/Wigmore Hall composer apprenticeship in years to come – this is a project very dear to my heart."*

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\*The Diphonon Duo will give the world premiere of *The Wave-Bright Well*, by the current Rosie Johnson RPS/Wigmore Hall Apprentice Composer, **Edmund Hunt**, on Tuesday 12 June (Wigmore Hall at 5.30pm)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Rosemary Johnson

Over the past two decades, Rosie Johnson has overseen the transformation of the RPS into a national organisation which helps set the agenda for classical music, plays a major role in the commissioning of new work and is an important supporter of emerging young professional musicians. She has also developed RPS Music Awards, into the most respected Awards for live classical performance in the country, embracing the whole profession from learning and participation to the highest regarded solo performers. Since 2000, the RPS has commissioned or co-commissioned over 170 works (it commissioned just 16 in the whole of the 20th century). Today it supports over 100 young musicians annually through its young musicians programme, facilitating valuable opportunities for enhanced learning and ongoing professional development. She has also developed RPS Music Awards, into the most respected Awards for live classical performance in the country, embracing the whole profession from learning and participation to the highest regarded solo performers. Since 2000, the RPS has commissioned or co-commissioned over 170 works (it commissioned just 16 in the whole of the 20th century). Today it supports over 100 young musicians annually through its young musicians programme, facilitating valuable opportunities for enhanced learning and ongoing professional development.

Rosie is a music graduate of the University of Nottingham and has previously worked for English National Opera, the Society for the Promotion of New Music (now part of Sound & Music) and Chester Music Publishers. She has served as a Trustee, and as artistic adviser, to a number of organisations including the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, ENO Opera Studio, NMC Recordings and the Cheltenham Music Festival. Her previous Awards include a 1992 Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Travelling Fellowship during which she researched Composer Residency Schemes in the USA, and in 2002: a Classic FM 'Red f' Award for an outstanding contribution to classical music.