RPS ABO ORCHESTRA PLAYER AWARD 2022

dedicated to Johann Peter Salomon

Orchestral musicians are extraordinary. They dedicate years to perfecting their craft. They perform centuries of repertoire with fluency and verve. Their schedules are as physically intensive as Olympic athletes. Beyond invigorating concerts, they devote themselves to so much invaluable work in their local communities, increasingly called upon to inspire, fortify and help the comfort and recovery of people with acute physical and mental health conditions.

Since 2012, the Royal Philharmonic Society and Association of British Orchestras have united to present an award in recognition of the extraordinary orchestral musicians working in Britain today. Initially this was called the Salomon Prize in recognition of violinist **Johann Peter Salomon** (1745 – 1815) who did so much to enrich the impact and spirit of classical music in Britain, not least encouraging Haydn to come to Britain, and co-founding the RPS. We will continue to present the award in dedication to him but, in this its tenth anniversary, we are renaming it the **RPS ABO Orchestra Player Award** to make its purpose more immediately apparent and draw greater interest to this profession so deserving of such recognition.

Who can be nominated?

The Orchestra Player Award is for musicians who play in any orchestra that is a member of the ABO. Each member orchestra may nominate one such player every year. They can be a contracted, freelance or guest player engaged to perform regularly in the orchestra, and should be resident in the UK.

Please note, the prize is not a lifetime achievement award nor a record of long service. Duly, it has no age range. It is intended to reflect accomplishments in the previous year, in this case 2021. When nominating, we ask you to account the player's achievements not only onstage

but in making a truly distinctive and valued contribution to the life and community of the orchestra, providing testimony and weblinks that demonstrate what they have accomplished.

Optimally, nominations should be kept confidential from the nominees throughout the process.

How can I nominate?

As each orchestra operates differently, they may govern for themselves who may be considered for nomination and the process by which they decide upon an eventual candidate. Each orchestra's entry should not exceed three A4 pages comprising the following:

1. A statement outlining the nominee's exceptional commitment and accomplishments in 2021, not only onstage but towards the overall life and community of the orchestra. This may also include up to 3 short quotes from other members of the orchestra, its audience and wider community, saying in their own words why they feel this player deserves particular recognition.
2. Any useful supporting information, such as images, footage, publicity or press coverage relating specifically to the nominee.
3. A current biography or CV for the nominee.

All entries should be submitted as **a single PDF** by 11am on Thursday 8 April to Camilla Carden, Administrator, Royal Philharmonic Society at camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel newly brought together by the RPS and ABO each year. While the panel reserves the right to make additional enquiries about any of the nominations received, it cannot enter into any other discussion or correspondence. Nominees who aren't selected for the award are very welcome to be put forward for consideration of their accomplishments in future years.

The panel may choose one or more winners, and possibly make several further 'special commendations' from those nominated. Contacts at the winner's orchestra will be notified so together we can plan for them to be presented with a certificate onstage at a concert in which they are performing later in the year, ideally by 31 December 2022. The news will also be shared on the RPS and ABO websites and social media, with the classical music press, and with the orchestra's local press.

Previous recipients are:

Jamie Hutchinson violin, Oxford Philharmonic (joint prize winner) 2021
Beth Higham-Edwards percussion, London Chamber Orchestra (joint prize winner) 2021
Jane Mitchell flute, Aurora Orchestra 2020
Janet Fulton percussion, Manchester Camerata 2019
David Rimbault violin, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra 2018
Lennox Mackenzie violin, London Symphony Orchestra 2017
Graham Hall timpani / orchestrator, Sinfonia Viva 2016
John Cushing clarinet, Royal Scottish National Orchestra 2015
Catherine Arlidge violin, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra 2014
Roy Benson double bass, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 2013
Beatrice Schirmer double bass, Hallé 2012