The Royal Philharmonic Society

BBC RADIO 3 90 – 93 FM

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Press Release

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New life breathed into neglected works by living British composers

Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3

Encore: Chamber Music

Over the past nine months, the Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3 have been on a quest to discover the great 'lost' chamber works of recent times.

While the world premiere of a new piece of music is often the focus of media attention and heightened expectation, only repeated hearings can bring out the depth and detail that will ensure a work's place in the repertoire. Funding is rarely available for subsequent performances and all too often works of real musical worth disappear from view.

Now, the Royal Philharmonic Society and BBC Radio 3 seeks to redress this balance with *Encore** turning the spotlight on unjustly overlooked works from the chamber repertoire. Artists, publishers and programmers nominated nearly 70 chamber pieces, from which a distinguished jury has chosen 12 works to be played by leading UK ensembles over a two year period from June 2011. Jury members included BBC Radio 3's **Andrew Kurowski** (chair), Guardian music critic **Tom Service**, clarinettist **Joy Farrall**, **Alasdair Nicholson**, Director, St. Magnus Festival and pianist/broadcaster **Stephen Plaistow**. *Encore: Chamber Music* concerts will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, with live performances accompanied by events designed to encourage wider audiences and greater understanding of the music.

Some of the UK's most celebrated composers are amongst those featured on the *Encore: Chamber Music* list. They include, **Anthony Payne**, whose *String Quartet No. 1* receives a second performance 23 years after its premiere, **Robert Saxton, Brian Ferneyhough, David Matthews, Geoffrey Poole, Giles Swayne, Hugh Wood, Anthony Gilbert, Gary Carpenter** and **Philip Cashian**. The inclusion of works by a young generation of composers demonstrates that the problem of securing a second performance is something that continues to dog new works today. *Encore: Chamber* Music also includes pieces by **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** and **Philip Neil Martin**, whose pieces have not been heard for the past seven years despite the growing reputation of both composers.

Encore: Chamber Music launches on **Thursday 23 June 2011**, with a performance of **Anthony Payne**'s *String Quartet No.1* by the **Tippett Quartet** as part of Spitalfields Music Summer Festival and a Cheltenham performance of *A Yardstick to the Stars* by Robert Saxton on **Thursday 30 June**. Both concerts will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and each concert will be preceded by the composers giving insights into their work. Further performances continue through the next two years, with featured ensembles including **Ensemble 10/10** (Liverpool) and **Psappha** (Manchester) and concerts at festivals including the 2012 **Presteigne** and **Sounds New Festivals**.

Andrew Kurowski, Chair of the Encore jury comments:
"Premieres are always exciting occasions: the artist's negotiation between intention and practicability, the strain of articulating the new within (or against) the sensibilities of the day. What greater excitement then, to revisit existing works - with their skeins of hope, expectation and memory - and put them into the hands of new performers with all that they can bring? That's what this second Encore project sets out to achieve, bringing twelve works to the fore and making every one of them available to an audience nationwide, through broadcasts on BBC Radio 3."

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:
"Second performances are often more revealing than premieres, giving composers, audiences and players a chance to reappraise a work afresh. Encore is part of the of the RPS's wide ranging portfolio of support for composers and we are delighted to be able to work with Radio 3 and so many performing partners nationwide to bring this music the further hearing it so richly deserves."

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3 & Director, BBC Proms, comments:
"BBC Radio 3 is pleased again to be the partner in this exciting development of the RPS Encore scheme. Radio 3 is not only the most significant commissioner of new music in the world, but it also has a determination to keep great works that have slipped out of the repertoire in the public eye and ear! I look forward to the results of this chamber music initiative and know that it will remind us of many fine works for too long unheard."

Encore is supported by the **PRS for Music Foundation**, **The Mercers' Company** and the **Idlewild Trust.**

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* *Encore: Chamber Music* follows on from a successful project, launched five years ago by the **Royal Philharmonic Society** and **BBC Radio 3** that set out to rediscover significant, unjustly overlooked orchestral works by living British composers. *Encore: Orchestral Works* gave a new hearing to works by Simon Bainbridge, Judith Bingham, Diana Burrell, John Casken, James Dillon, Michael Finnissy, Alexander Goehr, Jonathan Lloyd, Steve Martland, Colin Matthews, George Newson, Nigel Osborne, Giles Swayne and Hugh Wood.

PRS for MUSIC Foundation

Encore: Chamber Music

Full list of works

Composer	**Name of Work**	**Written**	**Last performance**
Gary Carpenter	*Azaleas*	2004	2005
Philip Cashian	*String Quartet*	1988	1996
Brian Ferneyhough	*Prometheus*	1967	2003
Cheryl Frances-Hoad	*Memoria*	2002	2002
Anthony Gilbert	*Nine or Ten Osannas*	1967	1987
Philip Neil Martin	*An Outburst of Time*	2004	2005
David Matthews	*String Quartet No.3*	1980	1994
Anthony Payne	*String Quartet*	1978	1978
Geoffrey Poole	*Harmonice Mundi*	1982	1982
Robert Saxton	*A Yardstick to the Stars*	1995	-
Giles Swayne	*String Quartet No.3*	1993	-
Hugh Wood	*String Quartet No. 4*	1993	2002