PRESS RELEASE
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Shortlists announced for Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

The UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music
Presented in association with BBC Radio 3

rpsmusicawards.com

Two contrasting Wagner Ring Cycles – one in an intimate opera house in the Cotswolds, the other in the capacious Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms – music-making in a disused tube station, opera for 0-2 year olds and an evocation of the sound at sunrise* are typical of the bold, ambitious approach to music making revealed in the shortlists for the Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards, the UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music (announced today).

- Distinguished artists - including conductors **Daniel Barenboim** and **Riccardo Chailly**, American mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** (star of 2013's Last Night of the Proms) - vie for the UK's top prizes in live classical music alongside a dynamic generation of emerging musicians – including harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani**, sopranos **Sophie Bevan** and **Ruby Hughes,** and violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**.
- In a good year for contemporary music, there are outstanding shortlists in the two composition categories, with composers **Peter Maxwell Davies, Harrison Birtwistle, Sally Beamish, George Benjamin, Richard Baker, James Clarke** and **David Matthews** all making the cut. Festivals focusing on 20th and 21st century music make a clean sweep of the Concert Series and Festivals category; artists renowned for their commitment to new music, including soprano **Barbara Hannigan** and tenor **Mark Padmore**, feature widely.
- Events celebrating 2013's significant musical anniversaries - including the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth, and Bicentenaries of Wagner and Verdi are featured in several categories.
- There are double nominations for the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**, orchestral young guns, **London Contemporary Orchestra** and **Scottish Opera**, and five shortlisted nominations for productions and singers at the **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.**
- **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** features on the shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication. **Aldeburgh Music, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Scottish Opera**, **Spitalfields Music** and the **Britten-Pears Foundation** are amongst the big names contending the awards for Learning & Participation and Audience Development, underlining the growing importance of outstanding work in these fields.

The RPS Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, celebrate outstanding achievement in classical music during 2013. Winners in 13 categories, chosen by independent juries, will be announced at a glittering ceremony at London's Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday 13 May, and a special RPS Music Awards programme broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Sunday 18 May at 10pm.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:
"The Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, chosen by distinguished independent juries from over 400 nominations nationwide, stand for integrity, commitment, enquiry and excellence. They are not commercially driven and cut through hype to put the focus on the music itself.

2013 was a big year for classical music yet, beyond the anniversary blockbusters, the shortlists also reveal a rich vein of musical talent and a willingness to engage audiences in invigorating ways: concerts in unusual locations; bold programming for all ages; uncompromising musicality.

All the shortlisted nominees are prepared to take risks, and in challenging themselves, they draw us into a musical world that is dynamic, unpredictable and hugely enjoyable. The RPS Awards are an important opportunity to celebrate their outstanding achievements and the vibrancy of live classical music in the UK."

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* Notes: Details of events mentioned in opening paragraph

Longborough Festival Opera in the Cotswolds is the first privately owned opera house to have staged a full-length production of Wagner's Ring Cycle (shortlisted Opera and Music Theatre Category).

Daniel Barenboim conducted the Staatskappelle Orchestra in an acclaimed complete Wagner Ring Cycle at the BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall in July 2013. (shortlisted for RPS Music Award for Conductor).

London Contemporary Orchestra played three concerts based around the music of Claude Vivier in the disused Aldwych Underground Station, on Primrose Hill/Roundhouse and at the Oval Space, adjacent to the Bethnal Green gasholders (shortlisted Ensemble Category and Concert Series and Festivals category).

Spitalfields Music's *Musical Rumpus* took Monteverdi to 0-2 year olds in two of London's most challenged boroughs: Barking & Dagenham and Newham. (Shortlisted for RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement)

Composer David Matthews's *A Vision of the Sea*, inspired by Shelley's poetry, the pull of the tide on the Kentish coast and an evocation of the sound of sunrise as recorded by scientists from Sheffield University was premiered by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the BBC Proms (shortlisted in the Large-Scale Composition category).

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY MUSIC AWARDS – THE SHORTLISTS

CONDUCTORS AND SOLOISTS

- Three of the world's finest conductors, each of whom conducted a series of revelatory concerts during 2013, are shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Conductor. **Andris Nelsons** is shortlisted for his Beethoven Symphony Cycle with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; **Daniel Barenboim,** for a complete Wagner *Ring Cycle* with the Staatskappelle Orchestra at BBC Proms 2013; **Riccardo Chailly**, Music Director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra for a scholarly Brahms Symphony Cycle at the Barbican.

- There's a stellar international line up for the prestigious RPS Music Award for Singer. American mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**, Canadian soprano **Barbara Hannigan** and German baritone **Michael Volle** are all shortlisted for roles at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden: (DiDonato for Elena in Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*, Volle for Guy de Montfort in Verdi's *Les Vêpres Sicilliennes* and Hannigan, both for George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* at ROH and for her significant contribution to *The Rest is Noise Festival* at Southbank Centre). English tenor **Mark Padmore**, who sung Captain Vere in Glyndebourne Festival Opera's production of Britten's *Billy Budd*, and premiered a major new song cycle by Harrison Birtwistle at Aldeburgh Festival to mark the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth and the 200th anniversary of the RPS, completes the list.

- Three emerging soloists renowned for their brave, instinctive music making - Moldovan violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**, Iranian harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** and Russian pianist **Nikolai Lugansky** - are shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist.

- Two of the UK's brightest young sopranos – **Sophie Bevan** and **Ruby Hughes** – are joined by Russian-German pianist **Igor Levit** on the strong shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Young Artists.

COMPOSERS

David Matthews's *A Vision of the Sea*, inspired by Shelley's poetry, the pull of the tide on the Kentish coast and an evocation of the sound of sunrise as recorded by scientists from Sheffield University, **George Benjamin**'s acclaimed new opera *Written on the Skin* at the Royal Opera House, with libretto by Martin Crimp, and **Sally Beamish**'s *Flodden,* premiered by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra feature on the shortlist for the RPS Award for Large Scale Composition.

An equally heavyweight line-up for the RPS Music Award for Chamber-Scale Composition features **Harrison Birtwistle**'s *The Moth Requiem*, which received its UK premiere by the BBC Singers and Nash Ensemble at the BBC Proms, **Peter Maxwell Davies**'s *Oboe Quartet*, premiered by the Hebrides Ensemble, **James Clarke**'s 2013-*V*, premiered by the Irvine Arditti and Ensemble Linea at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and **Richard Baker**'s *The Tyranny of Fun*, premiered by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

OPERA & MUSIC THEATRE; CHAMBER MUSIC; ENSEMBLE

Opera houses – big and small – make the cut, including the **Royal Opera House** (for *Elektra*), **Opera North's** *Festival of Britten***, Welsh National Opera**, and **Longborough Festival Opera**'s staging of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* in the Opera and Music Theatre category.

The shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Chamber Music and Song features the popular **Oxford Lieder Festival**, the admired young chamber ensemble, the **Elias String Quartet** and **Champs Hill**, a 160-seat concert hall built by music lovers David and Mary Bowerman alongside their home in Sussex as a live chamber performance venue and recording studio.

The newest kids on the orchestral block, **London Contemporary Orchestra** (just six years old) feature alongside the **Academy of Ancient Music** (which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013), **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** and **London Philharmonic Orchestra** in the Ensemble category.

CONCERT SERIES AND FESTIVALS

Both the **London Contemporary Orchestra** and **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** also feature in the Concerts Series and Festivals category: LCO's ***Imagined Occasions*** series, which took music up Primrose Hill and down into the disused Aldwych tube station and **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**'s ***Tectonics Festival*** of contemporary and experimental music in Glasgow are shortlisted, alongside **Southbank Centre**'s kaleidoscopic review of 20th century music, ***The Rest is Noise***.

ENGAGING WITH AUDIENCES, LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION AND CELEBRATING GREAT COMMUNICATORS

Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne, Aldeburgh Music, **Spitalfields Music** and the **Britten-Pears Foundation** all feature on the shortlists for their work to engage audiences and encourage creative learning.

There is an extraordinarily varied shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation, reflecting the imaginative diversity of projects up and down the country: In **Aldeburgh Music**'s ***Friday Afternoons***, 100,000 young people across the world sang Britten's famous set of 'Friday Afternoon' songs on 22 November 2013 to mark the centenary of the composers birth; **Scottish Opera** and Gartnavel General Hospital Cystic Fibrosis service began working on *Breath Cycle* in early 2013, exploring whether learning classical singing techniques, including breath control, can improve the well-being of cystic fibrosis patients; **Glyndebourne**'s community opera, *Imago*, created new opera for the digital age, uniting generations from 16 to 90 with professional singers in an onstage cyber-world.

The Audiences and Engagement shortlist features two anniversary celebrations – **Britten100**, **Britten-Pears Foundation**'s year long, international celebration of the centenary of Benjamin Britten and **Scottish Opera's *50 Venues for 50 Years Tour*** – and **Spitalfields Music**'s ***Musical Rumpus***, Monteverdi opera for 0-2s performed in community centres and libraries across East London's most challenging boroughs.

The shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication is similarly varied, with one of the world's finest conductors, **John Eliot Gardiner** (for his book *Music in the Castle of Heaven: A portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach*) in the running alongside **The Guardian** music writer **Tom Service**'s guide to contemporary classical music, **Touch Press's** elegant and informative classical music iPad apps and the insightful *Chopin Saved My Life* (**Oxford Film and Television** for Channel 4), a programme which explores how Chopin's *Ballade Number 1* transforms the lives of ordinary people and illustrates how classical music still penetrates contemporary life in unexpected and powerful ways.

About the RPS Music Awards

Presented in association with BBC Radio 3, the RPS Music Awards are the highest recognition for live classical music and musical excellence in the United Kingdom.

Awards in 13 categories are chosen by eminent independent juries from the music profession and are unique in the breadth of musical achievement they span – from performers, composers and inspirational arts organisations to learning, participation and engagement. This year's awards are for achievement in the UK during 2013. The list of winners since 1989 reads as a roll call of the finest living musicians.

RPS Music Awards sponsors

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3. The Society is grateful to sponsors of individual awards: **ABRSM, the exam board of the Royal Schools of Music** (Learning and Participation); **Boosey & Hawkes, in memory of Tony Fell** (Chamber-Scale Composition); **Bowerman Charitable Trust** (Young Artists); **BBC Music Magazine** (Conductor); **Incorporated Society of Musicians** (Opera and Music Theatre); **Lalita Carlton-Jones** (Concert Series and Festivals); **Rosenblatt Recitals** (Singer); **The Stradivari Trust** (Instrumentalist); **Yellow Car Charitable Trust** (Ensemble) and an **anonymous donor** (Large-Scale Composition).

About the Royal Philharmonic Society

philharmonic: /fɪl.ha:'mɒn.ɪk/
adj. devoted to music; music loving

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 9th 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, 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.

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About BBC Radio 3

BBC Radio 3 broadcasts distinctive classical music and wider arts programming in three dimensions, through radio, live events and context. As the home of classical music, BBC Radio 3 features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms, broadcasting every Prom live and over 600 complete concerts a year. The station is the most significant commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent, from composers to writers and new young performers, through schemes such as New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers. ***www.bbc.co.uk/radio3***

RPS MUSIC AWARDS 2014 – Shortlists in association with BBC Radio 3

Audiences and Engagement	Britten100 (Britten-Pears Foundation) 50 Venues for 50 Years Tour (Scottish Opera) Musical Rumpus (Spitalfields Music)
Chamber Music and Song	Champs Hill Elias Quartet Oxford Lieder Festival
Chamber-Scale Composition sponsored by Boosey and Hawkes in memory of Tony Fell	Richard Baker: The Tyranny of Fun Harrison Birtwistle: The Moth Requiem James Clarke: 2013-V Peter Maxwell Davies: Oboe Quartet
Concert Series and Festivals Donated by Lalita Carlton-Jones	London Contemporary Orchestra The Rest is Noise (Southbank Centre) Tectonics Festival

Conductor sponsored by BBC Music Magazine	Daniel Barenboim Riccardo Chailly Andris Nelsons
Creative Communication	Chopin Saved My Life (Oxford Film and Television for Channel 4) John Eliot Gardiner: Music in the Castle of Heaven: A Portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach (Allen Lane) Tom Service: A guide to contemporary classical music (The Guardian) TouchPress: classical music iPad apps
Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust	Academy of Ancient Music BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra London Contemporary Orchestra London Philharmonic Orchsetra
Instrumentalist donated by The Stradivari Trust	Mahan Esfahani Patricia Kopatchinskaja Nikolai Lugansky
Large-Scale Composition donated anonymously	Sally Beamish: Flodden George Benjamin: Written on Skin David Matthews: A Vision of the Sea
Learning and Participation sponsored by the ABRSM, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music	Breath Cycle - Singing and Cystic Fibrosis (Scottish Opera) Friday Afternoons (Aldeburgh Music) Imago (Glyndebourne)
Opera and Music Theatre sponsored by the Incorporated Society of Musicians	Longborough: Ring Cycle Opera North: Festival of Britten Royal Opera: Elektra Welsh National Opera
Singer sponsored by Rosenblatt Recitals	Joyce DiDonato Barbara Hannigan Mark Padmore Michael Volle
Young Artists donated by the Bowerman Charitable Trust	Sophie Bevan Ruby Hughes Igor Levit