Press Release

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Singer Sir John Tomlinson awarded Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal

One of classical music's highest honours, to be presented to a *"giant of a musician"* at the Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards, the 'oscars' of live classical music in the UK

Tuesday 13 May, Dorchester Hotel

The celebrated English bass, **Sir John Tomlinson CBE**, has been awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, one of classical music's highest honours.

Described by the Royal Philharmonic Society as a *"Great British Wagnerian"* and *"international treasure"* whose *"magnificent bass voice has thrilled audiences around the world in opera and in concert for more than 40 years"*, John Tomlinson joins an illustrious list of current RPS Gold Medallists: **Simon Rattle, Janet Baker, Daniel Barenboim, Mitsuko Uchida, Thomas Quasthoff, Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Alfred Brendel, Placido Domingo, Pierre Boulez, György Kurtág** and **András Schiff.**

The Philharmonic Society Gold Medal, the Royal Philharmonic Society's highest honour (and one of the world's most prestigious awards for classical music) was created in 1870 to commemorate the centenary of Beethoven's birth and celebrates the close relationship between the Society and the composer (the RPS commissioned Beethoven's 9th Symphony and championed his work). Since its initiation, recipients of the RPS Gold Medal have included Brahms (1877), Delius and Elgar (1925), Richard Strauss (1936), Stravinsky (1954), Britten and Bernstein (1987).

The RPS Gold Medal will be presented to John Tomlinson by RPS Chairman **John Gilhooly** at this year's **Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] Music Awards** at London's Dorchester Hotel, in front of an audience of musicians and leading music figures on Tuesday 13 May. John Tomlinson is himself a triple RPS Music Award winner (taking home the RPS Music Award for Singer in 1991,1998 and 2007).

www.royalphilharmonicsociety.com www.johntomlinson.org

About the RPS Music Awards ceremony – Tuesday 13 May

The RPS Music Awards ceremony, the 'oscars' of live classical music in the UK, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, will be hosted by BBC Radio 3's **Petroc Trelawny** and **Sara Mohr-Pietsch**. Winners, in thirteen categories, are chosen by independent juries and the silver lyre trophies will be presented to the lucky few by RPS Honorary Member, pianist **Graham Johnson**. BBC Radio 3 will broadcast a special awards programme on Sunday 18 May at 10pm.

Those in contention for RPS Music Awards this year include some of the biggest names in classical music: conductors **Daniel Barenboim, Andris Nelsons** and **Riccardo Chailly**; singers **Michael Volle, Barbara Hannigan, Joyce DiDonato** and **Mark Padmore**; instrumentalists **Mahan Esfahani, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Nicolai Lugansky**; the **Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne**, London's **SouthBank Centre, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** and stars of a younger generation, including sopranos **Sophie Bevan** and **Ruby Hughes**, pianist **Igor Levit**, and the **London Contemporary Orchestra.**

Full shortlists for the RPS Music Awards can be found at www.rpsmusicawards.com

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