Press Release
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Mezzo soprano Clare Presland wins 2014 Chilcott Award for Singers

£10,000 award to support a *'major young artist with the potential to make an international impact'*

30-year-old mezzo soprano Clare Presland has been awarded the £10,000 Chilcott Award for young British opera singers.

The Award is offered by the Susan Chilcott Scholarship, an independent charity administered by the Royal Philharmonic Society, which was set up in 2005 in memory of Susan Chilcott, one of the outstanding singers of her generation, who died from cancer in 2003 aged 40.

The Chilcott Award is offered biennially to an opera singer between the ages of 23 and 33 who, like Susan Chilcott herself, has the potential to make an international impact within the world of opera. The Award is specifically designed to enable advanced training or career development. The first recipient, in 2012, was Baritone Duncan Rock. This year, over 40 young singers applied for the Chilcott Award.

Clare Presland, who is shortly to sing the role of Miss Jessel in Nevill Holt Opera's production of Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* (5 & 6 July), was chosen following audition. The award was made by a distinguished jury, chaired by pianist and close friend of Susan Chilcott, **Iain Burnside** and featuring Chilcott Scholarship Trustees, soprano **Dame Josephine Barstow**, international voice coach, **Lady Pappano, Pamela Bullock**, bass baritone, **Neal Davies**, **Ian Rosenblatt**, Founder of the Rosenblatt Recital Series and RPS Trustee and **John Gilhooly**, Director of Wigmore Hall and Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society. They were joined by **Camilla De Rijck**, Producer at Cypres Records, radio host and producer and owner of Forumopera.com, **David Sigall**, Director of Ingpen and Williams, and **Eva Kleinitz**, Opera Director, Stuttgart Opera and President of Opera Europa.

Clare Presland has appeared at English National Opera, Grange Park Opera, Longborough Festival Opera, Garsington Opera and with Opera UpClose. Forthcoming engagements include Mercedes in Carmen (ENO), Young Lover in Tansy Davies's Between Worlds (ENO at The Barbican), Wowkle in La Fanciulla del West at English National Opera, and Christina in the world premiere of Søren Nils Eichberg's Glare at the Linbury Studio Theatre at the Royal Opera House. She trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is the recipient of awards such as a 2012 Grange Park Opera Scholarship, was a finalist in the Maureen Lehane vocal awards 2011 at Wigmore Hall, winning the Odette Sansom Memorial prize for English song and is also a Britten Pears Young Artist. Clare will

use her award to fund ongoing singing lessons with her singing professor, Robert Dean, language tuition, performance coaching as well as to support travel/audition and promotional costs. http://www.atholestill.com/artist.php?id=137

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Iain Burnside comments: *"The jury spent a day listening to a formidable array of emerging vocal talent. Clare impressed us with her flair and commitment, allied to an arresting range of vocal colour. We believe she has a bright future ahead of her, and hope the Chilcott Award will help in her artistic development. We will be watching her grow with great interest and wish her the very best for the coming years."*

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