RPS Duet Prize for Young Instrumentalists

The RPS Duet Prize for Young Instrumentalists is awarded by the Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) and Duet Group to an outstanding young instrumentalist.

In 2014 the Royal Philharmonic Society and Duet Group established *Ensemble Philharmonic* – an initiative that offers opportunities to students at secondary schools to experience and explore the classical music profession. Alongside tickets to concerts, masterclasses, talks and project work, this Prize is one of the ways in which *Ensemble Philharmonic* is supporting the next generation of talented musicians.

Prize

The recipient of the Prize will receive:

1. £1,500 cash
2. A professional recital at a UK music festival
3. A year's membership to the Royal Philharmonic Society
4. The RPS/Duet Group will seek publicity in the press for the recipient, including on their respective websites.

Terms

1. The Prize is awarded biennially.
2. The Prize is awarded to instrumentalists aged 18 and under by **31st August 2016**
3. The Prize is open to instrumentalists who have achieved Grade 8 with distinction by **31st August 2015. If the applicant does not have Grade 8 distinction**, both referees will need to verify that the applicant is of a comparable standard.
4. The Prize is only open to UK residents
5. Instrumentalists will be expected to provide their own accompanist throughout the stages of the Prize.

Applications

1. Instrumentalists studying their instrument through a music hub/service or at school but not at a specialist music school, may enter the Prize.
2. Completed applications are to be submitted by the music hub/service or school and not by the individual applicant.
3. Applications must include:
    - i) The Prize application form
    - ii) Proof of the applicants age e.g. copy of passport / birth certificate
    - iii) Proof of residency in the UK
    - iv) Two references: from the applicant's principal study teacher and the Head of Music at the applicant's school/music hub/service
    - v) A copy of the applicant's Grade 8 mark sheet (if applicable)
    - vi) A CD recording or YouTube link of not more than 10mins duration of one work performed by the applicant

4. The applications and auditions will be judged on merit by independent jurors selected by the Royal Philharmonic Society and Duet Group
5. The juror's decisions are final. While the jurors reserve the right to make additional inquiries about any of the applications they receive, they cannot enter into any other discussion or correspondence, nor give reasons for their decisions
6. Unsuccessful nominations will not be excluded from application in future years
7. Applications should be sent by post to:

Andrew Forbes
Duet Group
Bank House
Bank Street
Ashford
Kent
TN23 1BX

Timetable

1. The application deadline is 16 October 2015.

2. Successful applicants will be invited to a first audition lasting 15mins, including presentation time, in London on **28/29 January 2016**.

3. Successful auditionees will be invited to perform a mixed programme totalling 35-40mins, including presentation time, in London on Friday 29 April 2016.

4. The winner of the Prize will be announced in May 2016. The professional recital will be given in the 2016/17 concert season.

Royal Philharmonic Society

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 Ninth 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.

philharmonicsociety.uk

The Duet Group

Duet is the leading organisation leasing and servicing musical instruments for individual musicians, schools, conservatoires and universities. Duet selects, services and maintains musical equipment to the highest possible standard empowering our clients to make world class music.

Additionally, the Duet Foundation has been established to help young musicians in their exploration of music. The Foundation funds young musicians to assist with their tuition and instrument purchase as well as concert performance and mentoring. It has also funded orchestral concerts, community projects, chamber ensembles and young composers' premieres.

The Duet Philharmonic Orchestra, established in 2013, seeks to give young orchestral players a 'once in a lifetime experience' performing repertoire that many musicians can only dream of playing, to the highest possible standard. Performances to date have been Mahler's 8th Symphony and Strauss' Alpine Symphony and Four Last Songs.

Within the last two years Duet has established a partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Society in a collaboration entitled Ensemble Philharmonic. This allows aspiring young musicians to make connections with the professional music world through concerts, talks, masterclasses and creative collaborations.

The new RPS Duet Prizes furthers the aims of encouraging young people to achieve their aspirations through world-class music making, and seeks to identify exceptional young composers and performers.

duetgroup.co.uk