Press Release:
For release: 21 January 2014

Royal Philharmonic Society takes the pulse of new music and film with commission from Grammy-nominated composer Dobrinka Tabakova and filmmaker Ruth Paxton.

World Premiere: 9pm - Thursday 13 February - The Arches, Glasgow
Part of PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial*

The **Royal Philharmonic Society's** latest music and film commission, PULSE, receives its premiere at the Glasgow Short Film Festival on Thursday 13 February.

The Royal Philharmonic Society is committed to supporting young musicians and composers and to bringing outstanding new music to a wide audience. As part of a broad portfolio of support, it provides opportunities for composers to work alongside choreographers, filmmakers and visual artists to create distinctive new work.

PULSE is a noir-like, expressionistic short about peril, rescue and the basic human need to connect and is the work of British/Bulgarian composer **Dobrinka Tabakova** (whose recent ECM recording, *String Paths*, has been nominated for a Grammy-award) and Scottish film-maker **Ruth Paxton**. It has been selected for the PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial in 2014* and will be performed at two weekend showcase weekends at London's South Bank Centre (4-6 July) and to an audience of several thousand in Glasgow (1-2 August) as part of the Commonwealth Games as well as touring to UK concert and film audiences during 2014.

A cinema poem, set in central Glasgow that looks at how mental illness can affect lives, PULSE follows two strangers who share a brief, yet profound exchange that evokes sympathy, understanding, recognition and hope. Within our busy lives, within our cosmopolitan cities with their mix of cultures, humanity still connects.

Dobrinka Tabakova's new score for piano, percussion and gamelan, will be performed live and recorded by musicians including pianists **Rolf Hind** and **Richard Uttley**, who are

participants in the RPS Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme, percussionists **Richard Benjafield** and **George Barton** and Gamelan musicians **Robert Campion** and **Isabelle Carré.**

Scottish filmmaker **Ruth Paxton**'s bold, powerful work often takes music as its starting point; collaboration with family, friends and fellow artists are also an essential part of her method. Her work captures the intimacy and complexity of people and their stories, examining the 'sexy, scary and sad sides of life'. PULSE is the second original short film by Paxton that the Royal Philharmonic Society has commissioned; the first, ROCKHAVEN, was a response to Brian Ferneyhough's rarely heard chamber work, *Prometheus* and was shown alongside a live performance by the Royal Northern Sinfonia as part of the RPS Encore Scheme which shines light on neglected works by living composers. Ruth Paxton's films have won several awards, including the UK Film Council Best British Short at the London Short Film Festival 2011. She was recently nominated as one of Canongate Books 40 Scottish Storytellers of the Future.

Idiosyncratic rhythms, memorable melodies, harmonies and distinct orchestration all form **Dobrinka Tabakova's** musical language. She graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and King's College London (PhD, composition) and now regularly works with many of today's leading musicians, orchestras and choirs including Maxim Rysanov, Janine Jansen, Gidon Kremer, Nicholas Daniel, Voices of Ascension, choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Kremerata Baltica, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Swan, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia and BBC NOW. PULSE is the first score that she has written for film.

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* New Music Biennial is a PRS for Music Foundation initiative, presented in partnership with Creative Scotland, Arts Council England and the British Council, and in collaboration with BBC Radio 3, NMC Recordings, Southbank Centre and Glasgow UNESCO City of Music. Additional support has been given by John S. Cohen Foundation, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Incorporated Society of Musicians, The Bliss Trust, The Finzi Trust and Hope Scott Trust. See www.newmusicbiennial.com / www.prsformusicfoundation.com

PULSE Performances

PULSE press preview/private view:
Tuesday 28 January at 7pm
Shortwave Cinema, 10 Bermondsey Square, London SE1 3UN
In partnership with IdeasTap

New Music Biennial Weekend:
Sunday 6 July at 5pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX

New Music Biennial Celebration Weekend:
Saturday 2 August
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow G2 3NY

For a full listing of performances/screenings of PULSE see www.pulse2014.org

The Royal Philharmonic Society would like to thank individual donors who generously contributed to a PULSE crowd-funding initiative in autumn 2013.