



Press Release

For release: Strictly embargoed until 7pm, Tuesday 21 April 2009

Shortlists announced for the 20th Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

In association with BBC Radio 3

Shortlists have been announced for the 20th RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards, the UK's most prestigious accolade for live classical music making.

The lists, which celebrate achievements in the calendar year 2008, include big names: **Daniel Barenboim** (for his feted Beethoven sonata series on London's South Bank); conducting superstar **Valery Gergiev**, Principal Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra; one of classical music's true iconoclasts, the late German composer **Karlheinz Stockhausen**, with one of his final chamber works *KLANG – 2nd Hour Freude*. Set alongside the household names are individuals and organisations whose work often goes unsung: the maverick English composer **Laurence Crane**, the **East Neuk Festival** in rural Fife or the **Hackney Music Development Trust**, producing music of ambitious, epic proportions in one of the country's most deprived areas (to name but a few). Big name companies to make the cut include **English National Opera, the Royal Opera House, the Barbican, the Wigmore Hall, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Monteverdi Choir** and the **London Sinfonietta**.

Winners of the 20th RPS Music Awards will be announced on Tuesday 12 May at the Dorchester Hotel, with a special RPS Music Awards programme broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 7pm on Wednesday 13 May.

Graham Sheffield, Royal Philharmonic Society Chairman comments:

"Over the two decades of the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, their significance has increased year by year. I believe this is the result of their integrity, their independence and their unique capacity unerringly to uncover outstanding young talent way ahead of the game, to seek out the rare and unusual from across the UK, and to recognise true excellence and innovation. The result is a valuable and sometimes provocative snapshot of the best of live classical music in the UK across a wide spectrum of work from 2008. "

The Shortlists

There are strong shortlists in the instrumentalist category - pianist **Daniel Barenboim**, cellist **Steven Isserlis** and young Dutch violinist **Janine Jansen** - and in the conductor

category - **Valery Gergiev, John Eliot Gardiner** and **Ivan Fischer**. **Susan Bullock, Mark Padmore** and the Italian bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto** contest the singer award.

A heavyweight list of leading UK composers contend the two composition categories, with **Harrison Birtwistle, George Benjamin, Mark-Anthony Turnage** and **Simon Holt** all featured, alongside the late German composer **Karlheinz Stockhausen** and the maverick English composer **Laurence Crane**.

Music born in the regions, but now attracting international attention is recognised with the inclusion of **Britten Sinfonia**, whose 'at lunch' series is heard in four UK cities and in Krakow, Poland; the **East Neuk Festival**, with its roster of outstanding international artists in rural Fife; **A Festival of New Sounds** which offered a cultural exchange between Glasgow and the famous Paris-based IRCAM Academy; Scotland's foremost chamber group, **The Hebrides Ensemble**, and **Ensemble 10/10** which put the spotlight on new music as part of Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture.

The Young Artists Award highlights dazzling achievement across the performing spectrum. The shortlist is: tenor **Allan Clayton, The Aurora Orchestra**, 24 year old Russian-Israeli pianist **Boris Giltburg** and the Canadian Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**.

The RPS Music Awards are the only mainstream awards to recognise work in the field of music education and audience development. The projects on this year's shortlists are united by artistic ambition, and the desire to reach a new audience and encourage participation in music making, be it school aged children, late night music enthusiasts, people with disabilities or homeless people. **The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Welsh National Opera Max, Streetwise Opera, Hackney Music Development Trust, Live Music Now** and the **RLPO's Music for Life** all feature.

Two outstanding books are in contention for the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication: **The Rest is Noise, Alex Ross's** astute look at the development of classical music in the 20th century and **John Tilbury's** perceptive biography, **Cornelius Cardew – A Life Unfinished**.

A full list of shortlists can be found at the end of this release.

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About the RPS Music Awards

The Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards are the most prestigious accolade for live classical music-making in the United Kingdom. Since 1989 the RPS Music Awards have recognised not only the calibre of today's classical musicians but also those who push creative boundaries to produce work which excites and engages audiences. Governed by the Society's guiding principles of 'Excellence, Creativity and Understanding', the awards are truly those of the music profession with nominations invited annually from leading organisations throughout the country and each category decided by an eminent, independent jury. The list of winners over the last 20 years reads as a roll call of the finest living musicians

20th RPS Music Awards Ceremony Tuesday 12 May, Dorchester Hotel

- **Sir Charles Mackerras to be guest presenter**
- **Dame Liz Forgan, new Chair of Arts Council England, to give keynote speech**

This year's RPS Music Awards ceremony will be hosted by BBC Radio 3 presenters **Sean Rafferty** and **Catherine Bott**, with awards presented by the distinguished conductor and RPS Gold Medallist **Sir Charles Mackerras**. **Dame Liz Forgan**, the newly appointed Chair of Arts Council England is the keynote speaker, in one of her first major speeches since taking up office.

- **Thomas Quasthoff to receive Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal**

The German bass baritone **Thomas Quasthoff** is to be presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal by conductor, and fellow Gold medallist Sir Charles Mackerras as part of the 20th RPS Music Awards on Tuesday 12 May.

The Royal Philharmonic Society Gold Medal is the society's highest honour and one of the most prestigious honours in classical music. Presented fewer than one hundred times in the RPS's 196 year history, current Gold Medal Recipients include: **Claudio Abbado, Janet Baker, Pierre Boulez, Alfred Brendel, Elliott Carter, Colin Davis, Placido Domingo, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Bernard Haitink, Charles Mackerras, Simon Rattle, Joan Sutherland, Daniel Barenboim and Henri Dutilleux.**

RPS Music Awards on BBC Radio 3

Following the announcement of the shortlists for the 20th RPS Music Awards in Radio 3's *In Tune*, the work of those shortlisted artists is featured across the schedule. From May 4 the station marks 20 years of the RPS Music Awards in *Performance on 3* featuring the pick of performances from past winners culminating with this year's awards ceremony broadcast **on Wednesday 13 May at 7pm.**

www.bbc.co.uk/radio3

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The 20th Royal Philharmonic Society Awards
In association with BBC Radio 3

Shortlists

<p>Audience Development in partnership with Classic fm</p>	<p>London Sinfonietta: LDNSNF_40 Orchestra Age of the Enlightenment: The Night Shift Streetwise Opera: My Secret Heart</p>
<p>Chamber Music donated by David W Bowerman CBE</p>	<p>Britten Sinfonia Lunchtime Series Hebrides Ensemble Wigmore Hall: Poulenc Cycle</p>
<p>Chamber-Scale Composition</p>	<p>Harrison Birtwistle: The Tree of Strings Laurence Crane: Octet Karlheinz Stockhausen: KLANG - 2nd Hour: Freude</p>
<p>Concert Series and Festivals</p>	<p>East Neuk Festival Ensemble 10/10 IRCAM Academy - A Festival of New Sounds</p>
<p>Conductor</p>	<p>Ivan Fischer John Eliot Gardiner Valery Gergiev</p>
<p>Creative Communication sponsored by The Guardian</p>	<p>Alex Ross: The Rest is Noise (4th Estate / Harper Perennial) John Tilbury: Cornelius Cardew - A Life Unfinished (Copula, an imprint of Matchless Recordings)</p>
<p>Education sponsored by The Musicians Benevolent Fund</p>	<p>Hackney Music Development Trust: Confucius Says Live Music Now: Vocalise RLPO: Music for Life WNO: The Merman King</p>
<p>Ensemble</p>	<p>London Sinfonietta The Monteverdi Choir Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Ensemble 10/10</p>

Instrumentalist supported by the BBC Music Magazine	Daniel Barenboim Steven Isserlis Janine Jansen
Large-Scale Composition donated by Anthony Bolton	George Benjamin: Into the Little Hill Simon Holt: A Table of Noises Mark-Anthony Turnage: Chicago Remains
Opera and Music Theatre	Barbican: Present Voices – operas by Glass, Golijov and Saariaho Harrison Birtwistle: The Minotaur (ROH) English National Opera Independent Opera: Pelléas and Mélisande
Singer donated by Rosenblatt Recitals	Susan Bullock Ferruccio Furlanetto Mark Padmore
Young Artists donated by Peter Bull	Aurora Orchestra Allan Clayton Boris Giltburg Yannick Nézet-Séguin