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Press Release

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Winners announced for UK's most prestigious awards for live classical music

You would expect award winners to be full of beans. But, at this year's **Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards**, *beanz meanz (sic)*..... music, with an opera production set in a baked bean factory and vocal ensemble, *I Fagiolini* [The Little Beans], served up amongst the winners.

The RPS Music Awards are widely recognised as the most prestigious in the field of live classical music. Awards are decided by independent panels consisting of some of the music industry's most distinguished practitioners. The awards, in 14 categories, honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations for their work in 2005.

This year's ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel (Tuesday 9 May at 7pm) was hosted by BBC Radio 3's **Sean Rafferty**, with awards presented by soprano **Felicity Palmer CBE**. The keynote speech was given by comedian, writer and broadcaster **Armando Iannucci**.

A special programme devoted to the awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 10 May at 7.30pm.

The Winners

Individual awards went to **Mark Elder** (in the Conductor category), for his work at Manchester's rejuvenated Hallé Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Opera House, and to violinist **Anthony Marwood**, who won the RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist. Marwood was recognised for performances of contemporary repertoire, including the premiere of Thomas Adés *Violin Concerto* at last year's Proms, and a tour of Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* in which he both acted and played with consummate style. (He is the first violinist to take this award since Itzhak Perlman in 1995).

The "thrilling" American mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** triumphed in the Singer category, delighting the jury in the same way as she wowed audiences with her performance as Rosina in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at the Royal Opera House. Young tenor **Andrew Kennedy** received the prestigious

Young Artists Award (previous winners of this award have included tenor Ian Bostridge, and last year, Edward Gardner, recently appointed Music Director of English National Opera).

The American conductor **Marin Alsop** won the people's vote with the BBC Radio 3 Listeners Award. Currently Music Director of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Alsop is also a recent winner of the RPS Music Award for Conductor.

Composition awards went to **James Dillon** (in the Chamber-Scale Composition category) for his "powerfully communicative" *Fourth String Quartet* (the first composer ever to have received three RPS Music Awards), and to **Julian Anderson** for his "acoustic and electronic tour de force", *The Book of Hours* (winner of the Large-Scale Composition award). The South Bank's "enticing" and popular celebration of the uncompromising music of Iannis Xenakis, **Xenakis: Architect in Sound**, took the RPS Music Award for Festivals and Series.

The innovative vocal ensemble **I Fagiolini**, a group of musical actors who, under their energetic director Robert Hollingworth, have created "an imaginative approach to presenting often unfamiliar music", triumphed in the Ensemble category. The **Leopold String Trio** took the award for Chamber Music for its "uncompromising dedication to an otherwise-neglected genre".

In the Opera and Music Theatre category, **Welsh National Opera** was recognised for its widely acclaimed production of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*. The production, directed by Richard Jones and conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, was set in a baked bean factory and was one of the opening performances at WNO's new home, the Wales Millennium Centre.

Three awards that recognise achievements in broadening the reach of classical music produced diverse winners. BBC Radio 3's "brave and visionary" **A Bach Christmas** won the Creative Communication category. The London Sinfonietta's **Connectors**, a group of 13 people recruited to act as a voice for the audience and to help shape promotional campaigns, was awarded the Audience Development prize. **On Spital Fields**, a community cantata based on the, at times, torrid history of London's East End, and composed by Jonathan Dove for performers aged from nine to 90 for the Spitalfields Festival, took the Education award.

A full list of award winners and jury citations are included at the end of this release.

Graham Sheffield, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

"This impressive list of winners demonstrates the Royal Philharmonic Society's commitment to creativity, excellence and the promotion of musical understanding. These are awards focussing on innovation, quality and artistic ambition - not mere celebrity. They emphasise that classical music is moving forward fast - engaging with its audiences, developing a new public, and embracing technological advances in concert presentation and communication. Artists are delivering brilliant performances, composers boldly exploring new territory. These are exciting times for music: the RPS is proud to play a leading role in shouting this from the rooftops!"

The RPS Music Awards, in association with BBC Radio 3, are supported by BBC Music Magazine, David W Bowerman CBE, Peter Bull, Chester Music, Classic FM, John Crisp, The Guardian, Musicians Benevolent Fund, the Rosenblatt Recital Series, the Victor Salvi Foundation and the Martin Smith Foundation.

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RPS MUSIC AWARDS: winners and citations
in association with BBC Radio 3

Award	Winner	Winners Citation
<p>Audience Development in partnership with Classic fm</p>	<p>London Sinfonietta: Connectors</p>	<p>The outstanding projects in this category showed organisations engaging directly and creatively with a changing public, and gave evidence of an increase in numbers and diversity of audiences. With ever more competition for people's leisure time, the best work in this field offers valuable models for other arts organisations.</p> <p>The London Sinfonietta decided to consult a selected group of audience members, who continue to meet regularly. As the voice of the audience and active advocates for the Sinfonietta they have generated highly successful promotional campaigns and opened concert experiences to a public which now enjoys a wide range of new music. The award goes to the London Sinfonietta's Connectors.</p>
<p>BBC Radio 3 Listeners Award</p>	<p>Marin Alsop</p>	<p>Marin Alsop, the dynamic principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is renowned for her high-octane performances which captivate musicians and audiences alike. Radio 3 listeners, voting for the award, called her "a breath of fresh air in the music world", "a fantastic charismatic conductor" and praised her "boundless enthusiasm".</p>
<p>Chamber Music donated by David W Bowerman CBE</p>	<p>Leopold String Trio</p>	<p>Through the sheer brilliance and maturity of their playing, their collaborations with other outstanding performers, and their enterprise and imagination in programming, commissioning and touring, the Leopold String Trio have shown uncompromising dedication to an otherwise-neglected genre, and advocacy for the richness of chamber music as a whole.</p>
<p>Chamber-scale Composition</p>	<p>James Dillon: String Quartet No 4</p>	<p>In a musical culture in which so many new pieces seem to be immediately disposable, James Dillon's Fourth Quartet stands out for its imperishable musical values and active awareness of the tradition of string-quartet. The quartet is powerfully communicative, forged from ideas that are overwhelmingly expressive yet retain a sense of mystery. It is also a reminder that Dillon has made one of the most distinctive contributions to the music of our time, a contribution that remains under-appreciated in this country.</p>
<p>Concert Series and Festivals donated by the Victor Salvi Foundation</p>	<p>Xenakis: Architect in Sound</p>	<p>The jury had great difficulty in deciding on a winner in an unusually strong field of nominations. Xenakis: Architect in Sound, however, struck them as a particularly bold exploration of the music of an uncompromising composer. The weekend attracted huge and diverse audiences to the South Bank Centre and encapsulated every aspect of Xenakis's work through film, a round-table discussion, and enticing and beautifully constructed programmes.</p>

<p>Conductor donated by The Martin Smith Foundation</p>	<p>Mark Elder</p>	<p>The award is given for consistently outstanding work both orchestral and operatic, and for championing British Music, which was demonstrated in 2005 by notable premieres, a Tippett Anniversary Series and a visionary performance of the Dream of Gerontius. In addition to the sheer excellence of his music-making Mark Elder has a passionate commitment to communicating with audiences wherever he works.</p>
<p>Creative Communication sponsored by the Guardian</p>	<p>BBC Radio 3: A Bach Christmas</p>	<p>The jury unanimously selected BBC Radio 3's A Bach Christmas for its range and impact which truly celebrated the versatility and durability of Bach's wonderful music. Radio 3 made a brave and visionary decision totally to immerse its audience in a single subject, by making integrated use of live, on-line and interactive elements. This allowed for a depth of exploration not normally possible and opened new potential for radio on a grand scale.</p>
<p>Education sponsored by Musicians Benevolent Fund</p>	<p>Spitalfields Festival: On Spital Fields</p>	<p>The adventurous large-scale community project, On Spital Fields by Jonathan Dove, brought together performers of all ages and experience in an exciting exploration of their area's rich history. The high quality performances of this community cantata, the culmination of two years carefully planned activity, has generated a continuing involvement and participation by many of the original performers. The award goes to the Spitalfields Festival.</p>
<p>Ensemble</p>	<p>I Fagiolini</p>	<p>The award goes to innovative British vocal ensemble I Fagiolini: a group of musical actors who, under their energetic director Robert Hollingworth, have created an imaginative approach to presenting often unfamiliar music. From little beans come mighty shoots and, whether in early music-theatre works - such as their enthralling staging of Monteverdi madrigals - or newly commissioned pieces, their performances are always informed while communicating the spirit of the music instantly and vividly.</p>
<p>Instrumentalist supported by the BBC Music Magazine</p>	<p>Anthony Marwood</p>	<p>The award goes to a performer whose consummate technical and musical abilities are harnessed to make the violin very much his own voice. His devotion to developing the repertoire and his hunger for new challenges manifested itself in a series of important premieres, not least that of Thomas Adès's Violin Concerto at the Proms, and in his innovative performances of Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale (in which he acted the part as well as playing it): Anthony Marwood.</p>

<p>Large-scale Composition sponsored by Chester Music, in memory of Witold Lutoslawski</p>	<p>Julian Anderson: The Book of Hours</p>	<p>The Book of Hours is a <i>tour de force</i> of ensemble writing and a brilliant and joyous integration of acoustic and electronic music, the first major work from this composer to undertake such a synthesis. The fusion of direct simplicity and delirious complexity in this opulent and engaging score represents a major breakthrough for Julian Anderson.</p>
<p>Opera and Music Theatre donated by John Crisp</p>	<p>English National Opera as a Company The Royal Opera for The Midsummer Marriage Welsh National Opera for Wozzeck</p>	<p>The award recognises the musical and dramatic excellence displayed by an entire company – singers, orchestra and conductor, production and technical team – in realising and touring one of the greatest 20th century operas. The winner is Welsh National Opera for Wozzeck.</p>
<p>Singer supported by the Rosenblatt Recital Series</p>	<p>Joyce DiDonato</p>	<p>The award goes to the thrilling, young, American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. A relative newcomer to the UK music scene her performance as Rosina in the Barber of Seville at Covent Garden was a revelatory celebration of Rossini's style and spirit.</p>
<p>Young Artists donated by Peter Bull</p>	<p>Andrew Kennedy</p>	<p>Though still a young artist, the winner is already an outstanding singer. Technically and musically assured, wonderfully versatile both on the operatic stage and in the concert hall, he communicates with skill and enthusiasm in repertoire ranging from baroque to the present day: Andrew Kennedy</p>