

Press Release



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New Sponsors for RPS Music Awards

The Royal Philharmonic Society welcomes two new sponsors to this year's RPS Music Awards, which will be held at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday 9 May.

The **Musicians Benevolent Fund** will support the RPS Music Award for Education, and the **Rosenblatt Recital Series** will sponsor the Singer award.

They join a strong list of existing sponsors, including media partner **BBC Radio 3** and individual award sponsors: **Classic FM** (audience development); **The Guardian** (creative communication); **BBC Music Magazine** (instrumentalist); **Chester Music** (large scale composition); **John Crisp** (opera and music theatre); **David W Bowerman CBE** (chamber music); **Peter Bull** (young artists).

Rosemary Johnson, General Administrator of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

"The RPS Music Awards would not exist without the generosity of our sponsors and supporters. In recent years, we have been able to substantially expand the range of individuals and organisations that have joined us as sponsors and donors. We are delighted that the underlying principals of the awards - the encouragement of creativity, recognition of excellence and the promotion of a better understanding of classical music – have been so warmly embraced by our supporters."

Further press information from:

Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk

www.rpsmusicawards.com

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND

Apart from its well-known benevolent work, the MBF actively seeks to encourage the next generation of young professional musicians.

The MBF's educational role is advanced through a number of award schemes that provide financial support to highly talented young musicians, usually in their final stages of study. Awards are made following audition towards study fees, maintenance and instrument purchase up to a maximum of £5,000.

The MBF administers awards for individuals for postgraduate study in opera, musical theatre and to instrumentalists, as well as to accompanists and répétiteurs, jazz and popular musicians and to outstanding instrumentalists of school age.

The MBF also provides funding to organisations that provide specialist training and performance opportunities to those at the outset of their professional music careers. Current organisations supported by the MBF include Young Concert Artists Trust, British Youth Opera, LSO and Hallé Orchestras. In addition, the MBF also supports national youth music projects and organisations including the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the National Children's Orchestra. The MBF actively seeks to encourage the next generation of young professional musicians.

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ABOUT THE ROSENBLATT RECITAL SERIES

Since 1999, The Ian Rosenblatt Recital Series has specialised in presenting concerts by young singers with a burgeoning international career, but relatively unknown to British audiences. Giving artists such as Juan Diego Florez their UK recital début has ensured that the Ian Rosenblatt Recital Series is *the* recital series for spotting not only the great stars of tomorrow but also a great evening of music making.

Other artists who've appeared include José Cura, Carlos Alvarez, Giuseppe Sabbatini, Joseph Calleja and in December the Series celebrated its 50th recital with a concert given by the young English tenor Andrew Kennedy, winner of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Rosenblatt Recital Song Prize.

Ian Rosenblatt previously summed up the impetus behind the Series when he said:

When my law firm sponsored the concert given by José Cura with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall in March 1999, it occurred to me that in Britain we get the opportunity only infrequently to hear truly great voices. So, I conceived a plan to create a recital series where we could hear international artists at reasonably regular intervals. People say the golden age of singing is dead - The Rosenblatt Recital Series proves that the art of Bel Canto singing is very much alive!

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.

The Royal Philharmonic Society (founded in 1813) is one of the world's oldest music societies and a registered UK Charity, number 213693. The RPS Music Awards were established in 1989 to celebrate the outstanding musical achievements of both young and established, British and International, musicians. In 2003, **BBC Radio 3** became media partners, introducing the Radio 3 Listeners Award and devoting an evening-long programme to the RPS Music Awards.

The awards are governed by the Society's guiding principles of **Excellence, Creativity and Understanding**. Nominations are invited annually from leading members of the profession and organisations throughout the country. Each Award is decided by an eminent, independent jury. The list of winners since 1989 reads as a roll call of the finest living musicians.

The awards honour a broad sweep of live music making including categories for performers, composers, inspirational arts organisations and education. There is no restriction on the nationality of recipients, but the awards are for achievements within the United Kingdom.

www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk