



RPS Music Awards **BBC**
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The UK's *Live*
classical music awards

Press Release

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RPS Music Awards

In association with BBC Radio 3

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

From webcasts to pianists, sopranos to 'singing beans', the stage of the Royal Opera House to an East End cantata for nine to 90 year-olds, this year's shortlists for the RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards (announced today) reveal the depth and vitality of classical music in the UK.

British artists make a particularly strong showing, snapping up five out of six nominations in the composing categories, and dominating the shortlists for the Ensemble, Instrumentalist, Chamber Music, Singer and Young Artists awards.

The annual RPS Music Awards are the UK's most prestigious recognition of achievement in the field of live classical music. Awards, in thirteen categories, are decided by independent panels consisting of some of the music industry's most distinguished practitioners, with a fourteenth award chosen by the listeners of BBC Radio 3. The awards honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations from the UK and abroad, and this year are celebrating their achievements during 2005. The list of previous winners reads like a *Who's Who* of classical music.

The RPS Music Award winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Tuesday 9 May at the Dorchester Hotel, London, co-hosted by soprano Felicity Palmer CBE and BBC Radio 3's Sean Rafferty, with Armando Iannucci as the keynote speaker. A special programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 May.

The Shortlist - headlines

- The **English National Opera Company** receives recognition in the Opera category for its on-stage work during a period when off-stage activity often dominated the headlines. The Opera shortlist also includes the **Royal Opera House's** *The Midsummer Marriage* and **Welsh National Opera's** *Wozzeck* (set in a baked bean factory).

- Beans (of a strictly non-canned variety) also feature in the Ensemble category. Vocal ensembles **I Fagiolini** and **Exaudi**, and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** make up the list.
- The **Philharmonia Orchestra's webcast** (the first by any UK orchestra), lines up against **BBC Radio 3's** monumental **A Bach Christmas** and **Jeffrey S. Sposato's** probing investigation into Mendelssohn's sacred music and its subtext, *The Price of Assimilation: Mendelssohn and the Nineteenth-Century Anti-Semitic Tradition* (OUP) in the Creative Communication category.
- **Mark Elder**, Music Director of Manchester's Hallé Orchestra (winners of last year's RPS Music Award for Ensemble), Hungarian conductor **Ivan Fischer**, Artistic Director of the Budapest Festival Orchestra and **Vladimir Jurowski**, Music Director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, are the shortlist for the prestigious Conductor award.
- There's a transatlantic flavour to the Singer award, with American soprano **Joyce DiDonato** shortlisted alongside British singers, **Sarah Connolly**, **Simon Keenlyside** (a recent Olivier Award-winner) and **Roderick Williams**.
- The Instrumentalist category features violinist **Anthony Marwood**, accompanist **Malcolm Martineau** and harpsichordist (and founder of Baroque orchestra The English Concert) **Trevor Pinnock**.
- Over the past six weeks, listeners to BBC Radio 3 have been voting on-line for a special BBC Radio 3 Listeners Award. They have chosen **Marin Alsop**, Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, soprano **Felicity Lott** and bass-baritone **John Tomlinson** as their shortlist.
- Shortlisted Young Artists are drawn from across the performing spectrum. They are: conductor **André de Ridder**; tenor **Andrew Kennedy**; percussionists **O Duo** and chamber ensemble **The Sacconi Quartet**.
- A new award for Chamber Music shortlists the **Gould Piano Trio**, **Leopold String Trio** and **Ensemble Cymru**.
- The **St Magnus Festival**, **Spitalfields Festival**, **City of London Festival** and the South Bank's **Xenakis: Architect in Sound** season are the strong shortlist for the Concert Series and Festivals Award.

Audience Development and Education

Dynamic and creative approaches to developing the music audiences of the future are reflected in two special awards.

- **English Pocket Opera's** production of *The Magic Flute* (touring to an estimated 50,000 children in 250 schools), **Jonathan Dove's** community "cantata" **On Spital Fields** (commissioned by the Spitalfields Festival) and **BBC Symphony Orchestra's Invisible Lines**, a collaborative new work written for and by young musicians and performed at the BBC Proms, are shortlisted in the Education category.
- The Audience Development shortlist recognises both individual projects and the way in which organisations embrace new ways of reaching audiences across all their work. Those shortlisted are **English Touring Opera**, **London Sinfonietta: Connectors** (exploring the views of a young audience which attended its 2003/2004 collaborations with electronica/alternative rock label Warp Records in large numbers) and **Birmingham Opera's Ulysses Come Home** (Monteverdi performed in a disused ice-rink).

Composer Awards

There are two RPS Awards that recognise the best of contemporary composition.

- This year, the Chamber-Scale Composition shortlist features works by **Jonathan Cole** and **Joseph Phibbs**, two of the UK's brightest young composers, alongside the distinguished Scottish composer, **James Dillon**.
- Large-Scale Composition features 90 year-old French composer **Henri Dutilleux's** song cycle *Correspondances*, **Julian Anderson's** *The Book of Hours* (written for ensemble and electronics) and **Richard Ayres'** woodland opera, *The Cricket Recovers*.

A full list of the RPS Music Awards short lists is included at the end of this release and at www.rpsmusicawards.com

Graham Sheffield, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

"The shortlists for this year's RPS Music Awards reveal the robustness and vigour of our classical music tradition, with outstanding musicality, boldness and flair characterising the work of all the featured artists, composers and organisations.

This year's shortlists also mark something of a sea-change. For the first time, projects that actively embrace 21st century technology, including the internet, webcasting and electronics, make a showing, adding a new dynamic both in the concert hall and well beyond."

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, The Musicians Benevolent Fund, the Rosenblatt Recital Series, the Victor Salvi Foundation and The Martin Smith Foundation.

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RPS Music Awards – Shortlists

Award	Shortlist
Audience Development <i>in partner ship with Classic fm</i>	Birmingham Opera: Ulysses Comes Home English Touring Opera London Sinfonietta: Connectors
BBC Radio 3 Listeners Award	Marin Alsop Felicity Lott John Tomlinson
Chamber Music <i>donat ed by David W Bowerman CBE</i>	Ensemble Cymru The Gould Piano Trio The Leopold String Trio
Chamber-scale Composition	Jonathan Cole <i>Testament</i> James Dillon <i>String Quartet No 4</i> Joseph Phibbs <i>Goodison Quartet No 3: The Canticle of the Rose</i>
Concert Series and Festivals <i>donat ed by the Victor Salvi Foundation</i>	City of London Festival St Magnus Festival 2005 Spitalfields Festival Xenakis: Architect in Sound
Conductor <i>donat ed by The Mart in Smith Foundation</i>	Mark Elder Ivan Fischer Vladimir Jurowski
Creative Communication <i>sponsor ed by the Guardian</i>	A Bach Christmas Philharmonia Live Webcast <i>The Price of Assimilation: Mend elss ohn and the Nineteen th-Cent ury Ant i-Semitic Tradition (OUP)</i> Sposato
Education <i>sponsor ed by The Musi cians Benevolent Fund</i>	BBC Proms: Invisible Lines English Pocket Opera: Magic Flute Project Spitalfields Festival: On Spital Fields
Ensemble	Exaudi I Fagiolini Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Instrumentalist <i>supported by the BBC Music Magazine</i>	Malcolm Martineau Anthony Marwood Trevor Pinnock
Large-scale Composition <i>sponsor ed by Cheste r Music, in memory of Wit old Lutoslawski</i>	Julian Anderson: The Book of Hours Richard Ayres: The Cricket Recovers Henri Dutilleux: Correspondances
Opera and Music Theatre <i>donat ed by John Crisp</i>	English National Opera as a Company The Royal Opera for The Midsummer Marriage Welsh National Opera for Wozzeck
Singer <i>supported by the Rose nblatt Rec ital Series</i>	Sarah Connolly Joyce DiDonato Simon Keenlyside Roderick Williams
Young Artists <i>donat ed by Peter Bull</i>	André de Ridder Andrew Kennedy O Duo Sacconi Quartet