

## Press Release

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### Shortlists announced for RPS Music Awards

- **Royal Opera House and Southbank Centre lead nominations**
- **18-year-old pianist and six year old orchestra make the grade**

Shortlists have been announced for the RPS Music Awards, the UK's most prestigious accolade for live classical music.

Presented in association with BBC Radio 3, this year's RPS Music Awards shortlists, for outstanding achievement in 2010, are drawn from across the UK and feature outstanding artists aged 18-82.

In a good year for the **Royal Opera House**, its production of Wagner's *Tannhäuser* has scooped a host of nominations, with the ROH also nominated for the RPS Music Award for Audience Development (in a head-to-head with **English National Opera**) and its Music Director, **Antonio Pappano** shortlisted for the RPS Music Award for Creative Communication. **Southbank Centre** also enjoys a strong showing, with shortlisted nominations in the Concert Series and Festivals, and Education categories, and a nod for its associate artists, the **Takacs Quartet** in the RPS Music Award for Chamber Music and Song. A half-century divides 82-year-old pianist **Leon Fleisher** from fellow shortlisted Instrumentalist nominees, **Lawrence Power** (viola) and **Elizabeth Kenny** (lute). 18 year old pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** is the youngest ever RPS Music Awards shortlisted nominee. The **Aurora Orchestra**, in only its sixth year, is shortlisted for the Ensemble award. Finnish conductor **Esa-Pekka Salonen** and lyric tenor, **Jonas Kaufmann**, are amongst the big names to make the cut.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments:

*"The RPS Music Awards are decided by independent panels consisting of leading members of the music industry. This year they have put their fingers on the country's musical pulse and found a rich vein of talent and invention. In the current difficult climate, it is vitally important that we stand up and celebrate the excellence of both our great cultural institutions and of those who are making a profound difference on a smaller stage. I'm glad that the RPS Music Awards can play their part in doing just that."*

**Winners will be announced at the RPS Music Awards ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday 10 May. A special 'Performance on 3' programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Sunday 15 May, 2-4pm.**

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## RPS Music Awards Shortlists:

The Royal Opera House's *Tannhäuser* has been nominated in the Opera and Music Theatre category (alongside **Welsh National Opera's** production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and **Scottish Opera/Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama's** *War and Peace*). The RPS Music Award for Conductor features *Tannhäuser* conductor **Semyon Bychkov** in a distinguished, international shortlist alongside Hungarian conductor **Iván Fischer** and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, **Esa-Pekka Salonen**. In the Singer category, *Tannhäuser* star **Christian Gerhaher** is nominated alongside mezzo-soprano **Susan Bickley** (for her roles in *The Gambler* at the Royal Opera House, *Katya Kabanova* at English National Opera and *Götterdämmerung* with the Hallé). Bass **Brindley Sherratt** completes the list, shortlisted for Leporello in *Don Giovanni* at **English National Opera**.

The Royal Opera House also goes head to head with **English National Opera** in the Audience Development category. Its community opera, *Ludd and Isis*, which opened the opera house's new production centre in Purfleet, is nominated alongside **English National Opera's** new audience initiatives, including the under 30's membership scheme, *Access all Arias* and ENO/Punchdrunk's immersive performance of *The Duchess of Malfi*.

Royal Opera House Music Director **Antonio Pappano** is shortlisted in the Creative Communication category for his **BBC4 series Opera Italia**, alongside scientist **Philip Ball's** book *The Music Instinct* (Bodley Head) which examines how music works and why we can't live without it.

Experience and youth mix in the shortlisted nominations for the RPS Music Awards for Instrumentalist and Ensemble. 82 year old American pianist **Leon Fleisher**, who overcame a debilitating condition to enjoy a second concert career, contests the RPS Music Award for Instrumentalist with young viola player **Lawrence Power** (who is more than 50 years Fleisher's junior) and lute player **Elizabeth Kenny**.

**The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** and **Aurora Orchestra** (which has just celebrated its sixth birthday) are pitted against **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in the Ensemble category. The breadth of talent in a younger generation of musicians is further reflected in a strong, diverse shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Young Artists: early music vocal ensemble **Stile Antico**, 18 year old pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** and violinist **Alina Ibragimova**.

The tiny **North York Moors Chamber Music Festival** is shortlisted, in only its second year, alongside heavyweights, the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** and **Southbank Centre**, for the RPS Music Award for Concert Series and Festivals. BBC Symphony Orchestra is nominated for its cycle of *Martinu Symphonies*, and the South Bank Centre for a weekend that put the spotlight on German composer **Helmut Lachenmann**.

**Lachenmann** also features in the shortlist for the RPS Music Award for Large-scale composition, alongside works by composers **Hans Abrahamsen**, **James Dillon** and **Howard Skempton**. The RPS Music Award for Chamber Scale composition features **Brian Ferneyhough**, **Rebecca Saunders** and **Larry Goves**.

The vitality of chamber music is celebrated in the shortlists for the RPS Music Award for Chamber Music and Song. Nominees include celebrated German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann**, for his performance of Schubert's Song Cycle *Die Schöne Mullerin* at Wigmore Hall and the **Takacs Quartet**, for their complete cycle of Beethoven string quartets on London's South Bank.

Completing the list is **Transition Projects** for their innovative work that marries live performance with interactive film and video, *Before Life and After*.

The RPS Music Awards are one of the few to recognise the achievements of those attempting to broaden an understanding and interest in music beyond the concert platform.

This year's RPS Music Award for Education features three of the biggest hitters in the field: **Sing Up**, the National Singing Programme which aims to put singing at the heart of primary school-aged children's lives, and which recently received a further £4 million support from the government; **Southbank Centre's *Bernstein Project***, an ambitious ten month celebration of the charismatic composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, curated by conductor Marin Alsop. **Glyndebourne's *Knight Crew***, which placed young people and the community centre stage in four performances of a new commission from Glyndebourne's first composer-in-residence, Julian Philips (and featured in a BBC documentary), completes the list.

### **About the RPS Music Awards**

The annual RPS Music Awards, presented in association with BBC Radio 3, are the highest recognition for live classical music in the UK. Awards, in thirteen categories, are decided by independent panels consisting of some of the music industry's most distinguished practitioners. The awards honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations. The list of previous winners reads like a *Who's Who* of classical music. This year's RPS Music Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in 2010.

[www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

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### **Sponsors**

The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3. The society is grateful for BBC Radio 3's continuing support – the seventh year that the awards have been presented in association with BBC Radio 3 - and to its individual award sponsors, donors and supporters: **BBC Music Magazine, David W. Bowerman CBE, Peter Bull, The Guardian, the Musicians Benevolent Fund, Rosenblatt Recital Series, the Yellow Car Charitable Trust** and an anonymous donor.

### **RPS Music Awards on BBC Radio 3**

The RPS Music Awards will feature on BBC Radio 3, with a special programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards on Sunday 15 May , 2-4pm.

[www.bbc.co.uk/radio3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3)

## RPS MUSIC AWARDS 2011 SHORTLISTS

in association with BBC Radio 3

Award	Shortlist
Audience Development	Royal Opera House: Ludd and Isis  English National Opera – new audience initiatives: <i>Access all Arias</i> and ENO/Punchdrunk's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>
Chamber Music and Song donated by David W Bowerman CBE	Jonas Kaufmann  Takacs Quartet  Transition Projects
Chamber-Scale Composition	Larry Goves: Virtual Airport  Rebecca Saunders: Murmurs  Brian Ferneyhough: String Quartet No. 6
Concert Series and Festivals	BBCSO: Martinu Symphonies cycle  North York Moors Chamber Music Festival  Southbank Centre: Helmut Lachenmann Weekend
Conductor supported by the BBC Music Magazine	Semyon Bychkov  Iván Fischer  Esa-Pekka Salonen
Creative Communication supported by The Guardian	BBC4: Opera Italia  The Music Instinct by Philip Ball (Bodley Head)
Education	Southbank Centre: The Bernstein Project  Sing Up  Glyndebourne: Knight Crew
Ensemble donated by the Yellow Car Charitable Trust	Aurora Orchestra  City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra  National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain
Instrumentalist supported by the Musicians Benevolent Fund	Leon Fleisher  Elizabeth Kenny  Lawrence Power
Large-Scale Composition Donated anonymously	James Dillon: Nine Rivers  Helmut Lachenmann: Schreiben  Howard Skempton: Only The Sound Remains  Hans Abrahamsen: Wald

Opera and Music Theatre	<b>Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama/Scottish Opera: War and Peace</b>  <b>The Royal Opera: Tannhäuser</b>  <b>Welsh National Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg</b>
Singer donated by Rosenblatt Recitals	<b>Susan Bickley</b>  <b>Christian Gerhaer</b>  <b>Brindley Sherratt</b>
Young Artists donated by Peter Bull	<b>Stile Antico</b>  <b>Benjamin Grosvenor</b>  <b>Alina Ibragimova</b>

## About the Royal Philharmonic Society

The Royal Philharmonic Society [RPS] is one of the two oldest music societies in the world. It was formed on 24 January 1813 with the aim 'to promote the performance, in the most perfect manner possible of the best and most approved instrumental music', which it did principally by giving regular public orchestral concerts in London, including through two world wars.

Today the RPS seeks to create a future for music through the encouragement of creativity, the recognition of excellence and the promotion of understanding. The Society's artistic activities focus on composers and young musicians and through a programme of audience development, awards and discussion (most recently Alex Ross's RPS Lecture on concert etiquette and applause) it seeks to raise the public consciousness of the finest music making today and to create a forum for debate about the direction of classical music. Current recipients of the Society's highest honour, the RPS Gold Medal, are: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Janet Baker, Bernard Haitink, Alfred Brendel, Colin Davis, Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Simon Rattle, Placido Domingo, Joan Sutherland, Claudio Abbado, Charles Mackerras, Daniel Barenboim, Henri Dutilleux and Thomas Quasthoff.