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Armando Iannucci to give keynote speech at

**Royal Philharmonic Society
RPS Music Awards**
In association with BBC Radio 3

Tuesday 9 May at 7.30pm, Dorchester Hotel

[Broadcast Wednesday 10 May at 7.30pm, BBC Radio 3 (as part of special RPS Music Awards evening)]

Armando Iannucci, writer, broadcaster, producer, director, Professor of Broadcast Media at Oxford University and avid BBC Radio 3 listener and commentator, is the keynote* speaker at this year's RPS Music Awards.

The RPS Music Awards, widely recognised as the most prestigious in the field of live classical music, take place at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday 9 May. The ceremony is hosted by BBC Radio 3's Sean Rafferty, with awards presented by mezzo soprano Dame Felicity Palmer.

Armando Iannucci's speech will focus on the language we use to talk about music. He comments:

"We sometimes talk about music in a way that can sound exclusive, because we worry that anything else will be patronising or part of the process of dumbing down. Recent technological advances have given more and more people a chance to learn about anything they like, and there's now a real hunger to engage properly with serious music. But that's a two-way process; the music community has to engage. That's not about wearing bright T-shirts and saying 'hey, Beethoven's cool!' but it is about pausing to consider that the language in which we talk about music (if we talk about it all) is dripping with expressions with which the general public needs to be re-familiarised."

About the RPS Music Awards

The RPS 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. The awards are presented by the Royal Philharmonic Society in association with BBC Radio 3.

Full details at www.rpsmusicawards.com

* Recent keynote speeches at the RPS Music Awards have been given by: Jude Kelly, now Artistic Director of the South Bank Centre; Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum; Alan Rusbridger, editor of The Guardian and singer Sir Thomas Allen. The keynote speech, alongside the high-profile Annual Royal Philharmonic Society Lecture, underlines the commitment of the society to furthering the understanding of music.

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