

Press Release

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Nominations open for RPS Music Awards

Presented in association with BBC Radio 3

New website goes on-line 1 December 2005

www.rpsmusicawards.com

The Royal Philharmonic Society has launched a new website dedicated to the annual RPS [Royal Philharmonic Society] Music Awards, the UK's premiere awards for live classical music. The site goes on-line on 1 December, the opening date for nominations for this year's awards.

The site brings together key information about award winners – both past and present – and will be the first port of call for the latest announcements about the forthcoming RPS Music Awards, including details of short listed artists (from 5 April 2006), winners (from 9 May 2006) and information on presenters, key note speakers, awards juries and sponsors. www.rpsmusicawards.com is linked to the Royal Philharmonic Society's core site: www.royalphilharmonicociety.org.uk and will include links to the websites for short listed artists and organisations. Site design is by the Escape Committee.

Rosemary Johnson, Royal Philharmonic Society General Administrator comments:

“Over the last 17 years the RPS Music Awards have become widely recognised as the highest recognition of live classical music making. It is increasingly clear, both from the volume of hits on our main website, and from the various requests we receive for information from right around the world, that interest in the work of the Royal Philharmonic Society and the RPS Music Awards is now truly international. Our intention is to provide a specific site for the awards that provides both clear, well presented information, and acts as a gateway to the sites of nominated artists and organisations and to our sponsors and media partner, BBC Radio 3.”

Nominations Open

Nominations open on 1 December for the RPS Music Awards, celebrating outstanding achievement in classical music in the calendar year 2005. Each award is decided by a distinguished jury, which considers nominations from professional music organisations and members of the Royal Philharmonic Society. Nominations are invited which reflect the RPS's three core principals: encouraging creativity; recognising excellence; promoting understanding.

Awards are made in 13 categories:

- Audience Development
- Chamber Music*new award
- Chamber-Scale composition
- Concert Series including Festivals
- Conductor
- Creative Communication

Education
Ensemble
Instrumentalist
Large-Scale Composition
Opera and Music Theatre
Singer
Young Artists

There will be an additional award for Artist of the Year voted for by BBC Radio 3 listeners. Voting for this award will open on Monday 6 February.

The closing date for nominations is **31 January 2006**. Short listed nominations for the 17th RPS Music Awards will be announced on 5 April, and the award ceremony itself will take place at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday 9 May 2006.

Further press information from:
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*** New Award: Chamber Music**

This award has a wider remit than the former Chamber Ensemble award, with nominations this year sought for an outstanding contribution to the performance of chamber music in the UK during 2004, not only by ensembles but also by individual musicians and duos.