



ROYAL
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY
AWARDS
2024



RPS ROYAL
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY



RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE of MUSIC

philharmonic: /fɪl.ha:'mɒn.ɪk/
adj. devoted to music; music loving

Welcome to the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards. Whether you're a music-maker or a music-lover, we are so pleased you are here to celebrate what we all believe in: the powerful and uplifting role that classical music plays across the UK.

The RPS Awards are only one facet of what our charity does year-round to support so many musicians. Amid this evening's starry names, we are pleased to shine a light on those you may not know, their part in the nation's musical ecology no less important. Each year the RPS helps many such musicians to overcome serious barriers to progress with grants, commissions, mentoring, and performance opportunities that transform their prospects. We fulfil this with partners nationally, and draw on those who have found success to share their expertise with their successors.

There's no limit to what we can do here, if we only had the means. Our annual RPS Composers programme offers a commission, premiere and a year of professional development that's helped artists like Dani Howard, Daniel Kidane, Charlotte Bray and Oliver Leith make their mark, but there are so many more music creators we want to help. Our RPS Women Conductors programme - led by the inspirational Alice Farnham, and enjoying an exciting new chapter with the Royal Northern Sinfonia - has given over 500 women greater skills and confidence on the podium, but we're still some distance from equality. Every year, our RPS Instrument Purchase Grants transform the prospects of young musicians whose talent has gained them a place in music college but don't own a sufficient instrument to excel. There are always more such people we would dearly love to support if we only had the funds to do so.

You don't have to be a philanthropist to help us. Did you know that you can become a Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society, just like the National Trust or Royal Horticultural Society?

RPS Membership is an opportunity for you to:

- make a charitable gesture and show your support for the music and musicians you love
- fuel your passions, make fresh discoveries, and get closer to what's happening in classical music today
- be a valued part of a connected community of music-lovers and music-makers united by a cause

We are so grateful to the RPS Members attending tonight. For those of you who aren't yet Members, instead of a fundraising appeal this evening, we simply ask you to join the RPS. On every seat, you will find our new Membership brochure (pictured right) which we ask you to take home and read, giving you a flavour of the great things we can achieve together.

Front cover (clockwise from bottom left):
Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha, Kaija Saariaho,
François-Xavier Roth, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, Ryan
Corbett, a participant in Streetwise Opera's Re:sound

royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk



Direct from their experience on the RPS Women Conductors programme, **Charlotte Corderoy** and **Rita Castro Blanco** have been appointed Assistant Conductors at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Fresh from his place on the RPS Composers programme, **James B. Wilson** wowed a packed Royal Albert Hall and listeners worldwide with his new commission *1922* at the 2023 BBC Last Night of the Proms.



Trumpeter **Imogen Whitehead** received RPS grants to study overseas and valued mentorship to boost her professional progress. This year she became Principal Trumpet of Britten Sinfonia.

Aged just 19, **Sir Stephen Hough** was the first ever recipient of the RPS Isserlis Overseas Scholarship, enabling him to study at The Juilliard School in New York. The fund continues to help promising students fulfil their dreams of study abroad to this day.





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS AND NOMINEES

We are honoured to support the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards which celebrate the treasured role that classical music plays in all our lives. In addition, we are delighted to be presenting the CFX, our flagship concert grand piano at tonight's ceremony.

Our next generation CFX has been shaped by feedback from the world's most acclaimed performance and recording pianists – it's not just the concert grand artists dream of, it's the piano they helped bring to life.

CFX

Yamaha Concert Grand Piano

uk.yamaha.com/cfx



ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY AWARDS 2024

7.00pm Tuesday 5 March 2024

Concert Hall, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

Hosted by BBC Radio 3 presenters **Elizabeth Alker** and **Linton Stephens**
Awards presented by RPS Chairman **John Gilhooly**

Hello Manchester! We are delighted for the first time to present the RPS Awards out of London, given the truly national story they tell. Classical music has a long, celebrated heritage in Greater Manchester and it pulses vibrantly through the veins of the city and its environs today. What a wonderful welcome we've experienced here, with particular gratitude to our hosts at the Royal Northern College of Music, a veritable foundry where new generations of musicians are finding their voice and forging fresh adventures.

This is the enduring, enlivening spirit of classical music that we are here to celebrate tonight. We are set to reveal the recipients of 13 awards. They and their fellow shortlistees represent a far bigger constellation of music-makers across the UK, all of whom deserve recognition for their efforts to inspire communities nationwide. In the face of startling cutbacks, here is blazing evidence of all the good that classical music can do. We warmly encourage you to join our chorus and share tonight's stories on social media.

We are deeply grateful to our Principal Supporters – BBC Radio 3, ABRSM, Lark Music, PRS for Music, Yamaha and BBC Music Magazine – and the supporters of each award, as well as our cherished RPS Members, this year's 60 panellists, and all those who have helped make the RPS Awards possible. The show is being filmed, and will be freely streamed on the RPS website from 12 March. BBC Radio 3 will present a celebratory broadcast on air at 7.30pm tomorrow, 6 March, delving into the music of our shortlisted artists. We hope you have a great night, and it propels you home with even greater conviction that classical music matters.

@RoyalPhilSoc **#RPSAwards**

Local heroes: at the 2023 RPS Awards, Manchester resident **Abel Selaoe** won the Instrumentalist Award, **Manchester Collective** won the Ensemble Award, and **Manchester Camerata** won the Storytelling Award for *Untold: Keith*, a powerful film charting their work with people living with dementia.

Principal Supporters



ABRSM



PERFORMANCE

CHAMBER-SCALE COMPOSITION

for an outstandingly imaginative and engaging chamber-scale work receiving its premiere UK performance to a live or digital audience

Ben Lunn — History needs...

Laurence Osborn — TOMB!

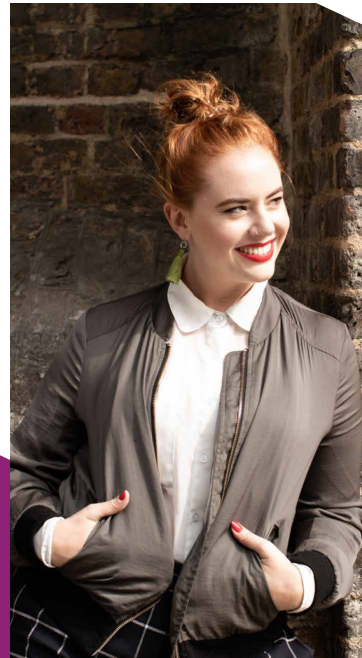
**Nilufar Habibian — Az nahāyate tārīki
(From the deep end of darkness)**

supported by **Boosey & Hawkes** in memory of Tony Fell

BOOSEY & HAWKES

A CONCORD COMPANY

Panel: **Carla Rees** – Flute / Composer / Artistic Director, rarescale;
Fiona Robertson – Festival Director, sound; **Gavin Higgins** – Composer;
James Hardie – Executive Director, The Marian Consort / Music
Programmer, Norfolk and Norwich Festival; **Sally Beamish** – Composer



YOUNG ARTIST

for the outstanding quality and scope of the performances to a live or digital audience, and the work in any context of an individual artist or chamber ensemble, relatively new to the profession

Aaron Azunda Akugbo — trumpet

Lotte Betts-Dean — mezzo soprano

Ryan Corbett — accordion

supported by **Sir Simon and Victoria, Lady Robey CBE**

Panel: **Alasdair Nicolson** – Composer / Artistic Director, St Magnus
International Festival; **Anna Patalong** – Soprano / Chief Executive, British
Youth Opera; **Jasdeep Singh Degun** – Sitar / Composer;
Ruth Gibson - Viola; **Samantha McShane** – Creative Director,
Manchester Camerata

SINGER

for the outstanding quality and scope of the performances to a live or digital audience, and the work in any context, of an individual singer

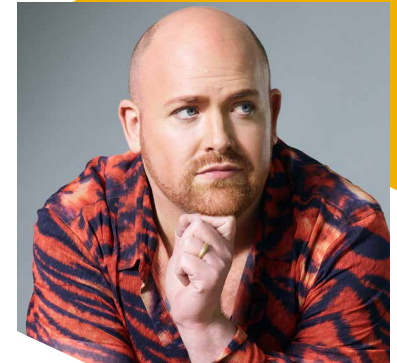
Alice Zawadzki — vocalist, songwriter

Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha — soprano

Nicky Spence — tenor

supported by **Jenny Hodgson**

Panel: **Jonathan Manners** – Producer, BBC Singers;
Kitty Whately – Mezzo soprano; **Kunal Lahiry** – Piano;
Laura Canning – General Director and Chief Executive, Opera North;
Nicholas Mulroy – Tenor / Associate Director, Dunedin Consort



IMPACT

for an outstanding initiative, individual or organisation that practically engaged and set out to have a lasting impact on the lives of people who may not otherwise experience classical music, demonstrating the positive, empowering role it can play in society

**Call of the Mountains — Clare Johnston and
Drake Music Scotland**

Music in Secondary Schools Trust

Olympias Music Foundation

Re:Sound — Streetwise Opera

supported by **Oxford University Press Music**



Panel: **Deborah Keyser** – Director, Tŷ Cerdd - Music Centre Wales;
Jennifer Martin – Chief Executive, The Cumnock Tryst; **Roger Wilson** –
Director of Operations, Black Lives in Music; **Simon Toyne** – Executive
Director of Music, David Ross Education Trust; **Uchenna Ngwe** – Oboe /
Educator and researcher



SERIES AND EVENTS

for a distinctive festival, themed series of performances, or truly unique performance event, presented in the UK

Aldeburgh Festival

Manchester Classical

Oratorio of Hope — London Borough of Croydon

supported by **Warner Classics**



Panel: **Bill Chandler** – Director, BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus; **Fiachra Garvey** – Piano / Director, West Wicklow Festival and Classical Vauxhall; **Fiona Maddocks** – Writer, The Observer; **Jane Atkins** – Viola; **Kate Romano** – Clarinet / Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Stapleford Granary



INSTRUMENTALIST

for the outstanding quality and scope of the performances to a live or digital audience, and the work in any context, of an individual performer on any instrument

Ayanna Witter-Johnson — cello

Jasdeep Singh Degun — sitar

Pavel Kolesnikov — piano

supported by **ISM**, the Independent Society of Musicians



Panel: **Anneke Scott** – Horn; **David Butcher** – Chief Executive, The Hallé; **Gemma Rosefield** – Cello, Music in the Round; **Louisa Stanway** – Concerts and Projects Manager, Scottish Chamber Orchestra; **Paul Philbert** – Principal Timpani, Royal Scottish National Orchestra

PERFORMANCE

Following the performance, we are pleased to offer all attendees a complimentary glass of wine or a soft drink in the foyers during the interval. For further drinks, the paid bar will be open.

LET'S COLLABORATE

Through the extraordinary musical achievements being recognised this evening, we know there is strength, solidarity and opportunity to be found in working together.

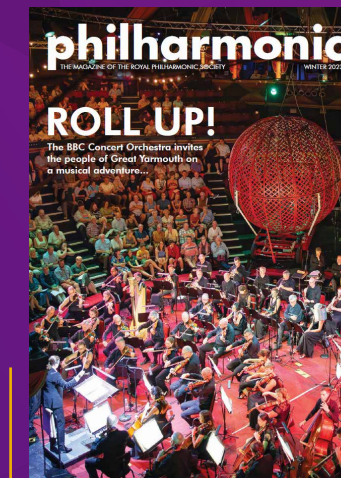
We embrace this ethos and value our relationships with collaborators across the music profession who are proud of their association with the Royal Philharmonic Society. We thank our Corporate Members, Corporate Partners, and Programme Partners whose support enhances our charitable work, protecting and nurturing classical music and musicians.

Such collaborations are key to our recent achievements. This year, we welcomed a new cohort to the RPS Women Conductors programme in partnership with The Glasshouse International Centre for Music. We expanded our capabilities delivering distinctive corporate workshops for non-musicians with renowned furniture brand MillerKnoll. We established a new association with Martin Randall Travel, bringing music-lovers closer to cherished musicians through conversation and fresh insights. We celebrated a milestone with the RPS Composers programme, which has now commissioned over 100 early-career composers since 2000. Just last month, Young Classical Artists Trust announced its inaugural Fellowship for composers, drawing on our expertise and connections to provide essential next-level opportunities for composers.

We warmly invite you to consider how your organisation could benefit from becoming an RPS Corporate Member, or by building a bespoke partnership that allies your name with one of our transformative programmes.



Empower your colleagues with a bespoke RPS corporate conducting workshop focusing on team-building and leadership.



Let us amplify your message through our widely-followed social media and dedicated Membership mailings and magazine.

CHANDOS

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Music Masters
Music Productions
Reigate and Redhill Choral Society
Royal Academy of Music

Corporate Partners

ABRSM
Schott Music
The Glasshouse International Centre for Music
Wigmore Hall

CONDUCTOR

for the outstanding quality and scope of the performances to a live or digital audience, and the work in any context, of a conductor

Alice Farnham

Alpesh Chauhan

François-Xavier Roth

supported by **Schott Music**



Panel: **Annie Lydford** – Chief Executive, Academy of St Martin in the Fields; **Chris Augustine** – Trombone, Chineke!; **Lucy Hollins** – Creative Director, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain; **Roger Wright** – Chief Executive, Britten Pears Arts; **Ryan Bancroft** – Principal Conductor, BBC National Orchestra of Wales



STORYTELLING

for an imaginative entity which, in a lateral medium, newly or distinctly furthered the understanding of classical music (most likely but not limited to written or spoken word, radio, television, film, digital, online)

Composer of the Week — BBC Radio 3

Eastern Classical — BBC Radio 4

Quartet — Leah Broad

supported by **Martin Randall Travel**



Panel: **Adam Gibbs** – Conductor; **Claire Long** – Director, Music Productions; **Lois Fitch** – Deputy Principal, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; **Matt Belcher** – Creative Director and Producer; **Nicola Smith** – Joint Principal, Chetham's School of Music



OPERA AND MUSIC THEATRE

for an outstanding production or initiative, presented to a live or digital audience, or for the overall accomplishments of a company or individual in opera and music theatre

Chornobyldorf — Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival

Dialogues des Carmélites — Glyndebourne Opera

Innocence — The Royal Opera

supported by **Wise Music Group**



Panel: **Fleur Barron** – Mezzo soprano; **John Allison** – Editor, Opera magazine; **Laura Bowler** – Composer / Vocalist; **Neil Fisher** – Deputy Arts Editor, The Times; **Rachael Hewer** – Stage Director



GAMECHANGER

for those who in unique and contemporary ways continue to break new ground in classical music, as the musicians who founded the Philharmonic Society did in 1813.

There is no shortlist for this Award, specially presented by the Board and Council of the RPS to an initiative, individual, group or organisation for their inspirational and transformative work. Introduced in 2019, our Gamechangers so far are organist and conductor Anna Lapwood, pioneering Peckham venue Bold Tendencies, conductor Jane Glover, and Chineke!

supported by **nkoda**



LARGE-SCALE COMPOSITION

for an outstandingly imaginative and engaging large-scale work receiving its premiere UK performance to a live or digital audience

Cassandra Miller — I cannot love without trembling

Jasdeep Singh Degun — Orpheus

Kaija Saariaho — Innocence

Noriko Koide — Swaddling Silk and Gossamer Rain

supported by The Boltini Trust

Panel: **Aaron Holloway-Nahum** – Composer / Artistic Director, Riot Ensemble; **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** – Composer; **Jessica Cottis** – Conductor; **Matthew Wood** – Head of Artistic Production, BBC National Orchestra of Wales; **Odaline de la Martinez** – Conductor



ENSEMBLE

for the outstanding quality and scope of the performances to a live or digital audience, and the work in any context of a group of musicians, no fewer than three

BBC Singers

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective

Riot Ensemble

supported by Steinberg's Dorico



Panel: **Carmen Flores** – Viola, Villiers String Quartet; **Felix Klier** – Horn; **Rachel van Walsum** – Director, Maestro Arts; **Richard Collins** – Head of Programming, Royal Northern College of Music; **Sara Mohr-Pietsch** – Presenter, BBC Radio 3 / Curator and writer



PERFORMANCE

After the show, we invite you to stay and enjoy the festivities, and meet friends, colleagues and nominees. Last orders at the bar will be 11.30pm.

INSPIRATION

for a non-professional ensemble or an individual who works with such groups, in recognition of the remarkable constellation of such music-makers nationwide. While the shortlist was chosen by a specialist panel, the winner for this Award has been decided by public vote.

Derwent Brass

Glasgow Madrigals

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

The Sunday Boys

supported by Presto Music



Panel: **Manvinder Rattan** – Chief Executive, Voices Foundation / Musical Director, Hertford Choral Society; **Paul MacAlindin** – Conductor / Artistic Director, The Glasgow Barons; **Rachel Lindley** – Director, Music Publishing, Oxford University Press; **Rhiannon Harrison** – Trombone / Chair, Making Music; **Ula Weber** – Choral conductor and animateur



Congratulations to our members nominated for this year's RPS Awards.

A special thank you to our publishing partners and the entire composing community, your contribution is invaluable.





ADVENTURES IN CLASSICAL

Listen on SOUNDS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to all those who support our work and particularly to the following individuals and organisations.

RPS Fellows

Beyond our cherished Members, we are thankful to those individuals able to make a greater donation to help the RPS support, protect, and celebrate classical music. All such donors are called RPS Fellows and enjoy a unique relationship with the charity and the musicians we champion. Let us know if the prospect of becoming an RPS Fellow yourself may be of interest.

- Pamela Bullock and Sir Antonio Pappano
- John Gilhooly CBE
- Harriet's Trust
- Charles and Rachel Henderson
- Jenny Hodgson
- Ursula Jones OBE
- Sir Simon and Victoria, Lady Robey CBE
- Anonymous supporters

RPS Circle

- Anthony Bolton
- Sir Vernon Ellis
- Dame Felicity Lott
- Kingsley Manning
- Katharine Verney and Michael Berman CBE
- Maja Wegrzynowska

Platinum Members

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alexander Armstrong | Patricia Jordan-Evans |
| Alison Balsom OBE and Sir Sam Mendes | Leanne Langley |
| Paola Bergamaschi Broyd | Louise Mitchell |
| Mark Bolland and Lord Black | Ian Mok |
| John and Diana de la Cour | Michael Peake |
| Diana Douglas | Alan Sainer |
| Rebecca Driver | Dougie Scarfe |
| Christine Hardwick | James Williams |
| Paul Hughes | Anonymous supporters |

We are additionally thankful to all our Members, Gold Members and Life Members whose contribution does much to help us support performers and composers, as well as those who have kindly made arrangements to support classical music long into the future through a Gift to the RPS in their Will.

Trusts

- Colwinston Charitable Trust
- Delius Trust
- Idlewild Trust
- John Ellerman Foundation
- Presteigne Festival
- PRS Foundation
- Radcliffe Trust
- Vaughan Williams Foundation
- The Helen Roll Charity
- Thistle Trust

If you are part of a charitable trust or foundation and would like to talk about how we could work together to fulfil our shared goals, we would love to hear from you.

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For the RPS Awards

- Matt Belcher – Creative production, projections and design
- Rebecca Driver Media Relations
- Robin Clewley Photography
- Camilla Carden, Robin Sheffield – helpers
- with many thanks to all staff at the Royal Northern College of Music

For BBC Radio 3

- Elizabeth Alker and Linton Stephens – Presenters
- Chris Wines – Producer
- Emma Bloxham – Editor
- George Chambers – Head of Communications, Classical Music
- Jeremy Evans – Head of Content Commissioning

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'Thank you for joining us in Manchester this evening. This happy occasion brings together a great range of guests, from across the UK and beyond. We're all united by our love of music. Such unity is at the heart of the RPS Awards which shine a light on the achievements of so many, and can only do so thanks to a constellation of dedicated people who share our conviction in classical music. So it goes with our endeavours year-round. We are so grateful to our RPS Members whose charitable gesture fuels everything we do and vitally helps us activate more initiatives to support musicians in need. We warmly invite you to be part of this, and become part of the bright, protective halo around classical music that our cherished RPS Members represent.'

John Gilhooly
RPS Chairman

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