

# CHELTENHAM



Release: immediate (6/4/17)

## CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2017 ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY MUSIC AWARDS

Cheltenham Music Festival has been shortlisted for a prestigious RPS Music Award. 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 the 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 2016.

Commenting on the shortlisting, Meurig Bowen, Cheltenham Music Festival's Director said: "I'm delighted that the Music Festival has been shortlisted in the 'Festivals and Concert Series' category. This is a very hotly contested category every year, always featuring inspirational, world-leading organisations, so it's great to be shortlisted by a jury of distinguished peers".

Shortlisted alongside Cheltenham Music Festival is East Lothian's Lammermuir Festival, Welsh National Opera and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Announcing the shortlist RPS tweeted : "With 15 World Premieres & an immersive 18h celebration of Satie 2016's @cheltfestivals was unmissable."

Shortlisted in other RPS categories are two artists who appear in this year's Music Festival: Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (Young Artist and Conductor, appearing with CBSO on Wednesday 5 July) and young composer Mark Simpson, whose new work for the Gould Piano Trio features in the Pittville Pump Room on Thursday 6 July.

John Gilhooly, Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society comments: "This year, the RPS Music Awards jurors were struck by the depth of quality and imagination of artists and organisations from right across the country, and the wealth of nominations we received from all areas of the UK reflects this. The shortlists are fizzing with energy, ambition and invention. They celebrate not just musical excellence, but a very tangible pioneering artistic spirit: outstanding musicians and organisations who want to share and encourage musical excellence, investigate new creative avenues and to see music make a real difference to the world we live in. In short, the shortlists celebrate great music, happening in the moment – the essence of what makes live music so special. Congratulations to them all."

RPS Music Award winners will be announced at a ceremony on Tuesday 9 May at The Brewery in the City of London, hosted by Andrew McGregor and Sarah Walker from BBC Radio 3. The winners trophies will be presented by pianist Stephen Hough, who has a long association with the Society (in 1980 he won the first RPS Julius Isserlis Prize, enabling him to study abroad at the Juilliard School of Music in New York). A special RPS Music Awards programme will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 19:30 on Sunday 14 May. RPS Music Awards Sponsors The RPS Music Awards are presented in association with BBC Radio 3, with individual category sponsors: ABRSM, the exam board for the Royal Schools of Music; BBC Music Magazine; The Boltini Trust; Boosey and Hawkes, in memory of Tony Fell; the Bowerman Charitable Trust; Sir Simon and Victoria, Lady Robey OBE and Schott Music.

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

For further information:

Cheltenham Music Festival  
1-16 July 2017  
#cheltmusicfest  
Box Office: 01242 850 2070  
[www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music)

Ends

Press images:  
<http://cheltenhamfestivals.phanfare.com/media>  
For Press Enquiries and Photographs: Kate Gedge  
Tel: + 44 (0) 1874 730300 or 07754 149577  
[press@cheltenhamfestivals.com](mailto:press@cheltenhamfestivals.com)