



PRESS RELEASE
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Philip Venables' *4.48 Psychosis* wins Large-Scale Composition at the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards 2017

Yesterday, Philip Venables' *4.48 Psychosis*, a co-commission between the Guildhall School and The Royal Opera in association with The Lyric Hammersmith, was announced as the winner of Large-Scale Composition at the Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Music Awards 2017. The opera, directed by Ted Huffman, received its world premiere on 24 May 2016 to critical acclaim, with The Guardian lauding it as 'a remarkable achievement'. The opera was also nominated in the Opera and Music Theatre category at the RPS Music Awards, has previously won the Achievement in Opera award at the UK Theatre Awards 2016 and was an Olivier Award nominee for Best New Opera Production 2017. The opera is the culmination of Venables' position as inaugural Doctoral Composer-in-Residence at the Guildhall School and The Royal Opera.

Based on the final work of the radical British playwright Sarah Kane, *4.48 Psychosis* is the first operatic adaptation of a work by Kane and is scored for a small ensemble of singers and instrumentalists. Sopranos Gweneth-Ann Rand, Jennifer Davis and Susanna Hurrell, mezzo-sopranos Clare Presland, Lucy Schauer, and Emily Edmonds and London-based chamber ensemble CHROMA premiered the opera in May 2016. The production was conducted by Richard Baker, Professor of Composition at the Guildhall School, with designer Hannah Clark, who also made her Royal Opera debut, and lighting designer D.M. Wood.

Launched in 2013, the collaboration between the Guildhall School and The Royal Opera is one of the first examples of an opera company and conservatoire joining forces to offer a Composer-in-Residence studentship which leads to a doctoral research degree. Fully funded by the Guildhall School and supported by The Royal Opera, the studentship offers one composer every two years the opportunity to be Doctoral Composer-in-Residence over a three-year period and is supervised by Head of Composition at the Guildhall School Julian Philips and John Fulljames, Associate Director of Opera for The Royal Opera. During this time, the composer researches and writes a major work, which is staged by The Royal Opera at the end of the residency. In September 2015 Na'ama Zisser joined the programme as the second Doctoral Composer-in-Residence. Her new opera is due to be staged by The Royal Opera in 2018.

A special programme dedicated to the RPS Music Awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Sunday 14 May at 7.30pm.

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is provided by the City of London Corporation.
www.gsmd.ac.uk

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Notes to Editors

About Guildhall School of Music & Drama

The Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and theatre technicians in the heart of the City of London. Twice-rated No.1 specialist institution in the UK by the Guardian University Guide, and recently selected as one of the top ten institutions for performing arts in the world (QS World University Rankings 2016), the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 900 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. It is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and Centre for Young Musicians. The School is widely recognised for the quality of its teaching and its graduates, and its new building, Milton Court which opened in September 2013, offers state-of-the-art facilities to match the talent within its walls, ensuring that students enter their chosen profession at the highest level. Milton Court is part of the unique Guildhall School/Barbican partnership delivering world-class arts and learning.

In addition to the Doctoral Composer-in-Residence, the Guildhall School offers an MA in Opera Making and Writing in association with the Royal Opera House. Launched in 2014, this full-time, one-year Masters programme allows composers and writers to focus on how new opera is created, developed and performed.

www.gsmd.ac.uk

About Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

The annual Royal Philharmonic Society [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 2016.

www.rpsmusicawards.com