



# East Neuk Festival wins prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award

8 May 2007

After just two years of operation, the East Neuk Festival under the artistic directorship of Svend Brown walked away with the Audience Development Award (presented in partnership with Classic FM) at the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Music Awards last night. Up against musical heavyweights the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Philharmonia/Royal Festival Hall, the East Neuk Festival was a particularly proud winner.

The festival's Chairman Donald MacDonald and Svend Brown accepted the award - a silver lyre handcrafted by Julie Crossland - which was presented to them by Dame Josephine Barstow at a ceremony hosted by BBC Radio 3 presenter Sean Rafferty at London's Dorchester Hotel.

The RPS jury citation recognised The East Neuk Festival for its innovative and appropriate programming in a range of unusual venues; *"East Neuk Festival has brought adventurous and high-quality music-making to an area of Britain poorly served in that respect. It is thoroughly rooted in its region; its audience has grown impressively each year; and there is a real sense of audience and festival going on a journey of musical discovery together."*

Festival artistic director Svend Brown commented: *"It's a wonderful surprise to be recognised in this way. We always have had great faith in this festival - the East Neuk of Fife is the perfect place to enjoy music in a beautiful setting and I hope this award will encourage all the more people to join us there."*

Festival Chairman Donald MacDonald added: *"We're delighted to have attracted to this relatively young venture such a wide spectrum of audience - a nice balance between the Fife residents and the many people who travel from all over the UK and beyond to attend the Festival. It's a great honour to have been awarded such a prestigious award from the arts industry itself."*

Highlights of the 2007 Festival (27 June to 1 July) include concerts given by the world renowned Alban Berg Quartet and pianist Christian Zacharias, plus celebrated chamber

musicians including Alasdair Tate, Isabelle van Keulen, Dov Scheindlin, tenor Christophe Prégardien and the fine players of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in various ensembles as well as in its entirety. Book club readings, special trails, imaginative children's events and late night music-making in the jazz, folk and tango genres widen the festival's appeal even further this year.

The annual RPS Music Awards are the UK's most prestigious recognition of achievement in the field of live classical music. Awards are decided by independent panels consisting of some of the music industry's most distinguished practitioners and honour musicians, composers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational arts organisations. This year the awards celebrate the achievements of artists, ensembles and arts organisations for the calendar year 2006.

A special programme devoted to the RPS Music Awards will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9 May.

**Further press information on the East Neuk Festival from:**  
Debra Boraston on 020 7483 1950 [debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk](mailto:debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk)

**Further press information on the RPS Awards from:**  
Sophie Cohen on 020 7428 9850 [sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sophiecohen@blueyonder.co.uk)  
[www.rpsmusicawards.com](http://www.rpsmusicawards.com)

**Notes:**

For programme and booking details for the **East Neuk Festival** 27 June to 1 July 2007 go to [www.eastneukfestival.co.uk](http://www.eastneukfestival.co.uk). Tel. 01334 475000 for information, brochure and tickets.

**About the Royal Philharmonic Society**

For almost 200 years the Royal Philharmonic Society has been the champion of the finest music making in the UK. The RPS was founded in 1813 with the aim of creating a future for music by supporting new music and young artists and recognising musical excellence. These aims remain true today, together with a desire to raise debate and discussion about the key musical issues of the day.

The Society's activities focus on young musicians and the creation and support of new music. The RPS has commissioned and performed new works since its first concert in 1813 (including Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony). Today, the RPS continues to have an active commissioning policy. This includes a collaboration with BBC Radio 3 to commission repertoire for the BBC's New Generation Artists, two annual composition prizes for composers under 29 and the Elgar Bursary for more mature composers.

The RPS recognises excellence at all levels of the profession - from the award of the prestigious RPS Gold Medal to the world's most distinguished musicians (one of music's highest honours), through to awards of scholarships and bursaries to some of the UK's most talented young musicians and, of course, the annual RPS Music Awards.

As the only independent voice for music in the UK, the Royal Philharmonic Society provides platforms for distinguished and often provocative speakers through its prestigious annual lecture and at special events for RPS members throughout the year.