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Casio teams up with Laura Mvula for Classic FM's Music Teacher of the Year Awards

by **Laura Barnes**
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Casio has teamed up with former music teacher and twice Mercury-nominated Laura Mvula to launch Classic FM and ABRSM's Music Teacher of the Year Awards 2017.

Classic FM's Music Teacher of the Year Awards have recognised and rewarded the UK's most inspiring music teachers for nearly twenty years. Now, ahead of the station's 25th birthday year, Casio has teamed up with Classic FM and acclaimed music exam board ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music), to undertake the UK's biggest ever celebration of outstanding music education.



The Awards form part of Casio's 'Action in Music' initiative, which aims to shine a spotlight on outstanding music education, raise awareness of its importance within the school syllabus nationwide and inspire a new generation of music teachers who take action in the classroom.

Casio is encouraging application entries via www.actioninmusic.co.uk.

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Classic FM's Music Teacher of the Year Awards with Casio and ABRSM was announced on-air, when Mvula joined Charlotte Green on her Sunday afternoon Classic FM show. Mvula has also launched the Awards at Evelyn Grace Academy in Brixton, playing on the Casio Celviano Grand Hybrid digital piano, which combines key elements of a grand piano to create the perfect combination for both new learners and experienced pianists.

Mvula will be joining Classic FM, Casio and ABRSM on a panel of expert industry judges, to select the winner from each award category.

The Awards will be presented at a major event at the Barbican Centre on 7th July 2017. Organised by ABRSM, this event showcases the very best in music education shining a spotlight not only on the Music Teachers of the Year but also on the next generation of performers and teachers.

Casio, Classic FM and ABRSM encourage schools, music teachers, students and parents across the UK to nominate a music teacher who has had an outstanding impact on their own lives, or the output of their schools or institutions.

"It's a pleasure to launch such a key initiative alongside Casio, Classic FM and ABRSM. Learning to play the piano with my music teacher from the age of eight played a huge part in developing my musical style and gave me the confidence to become the artist I am today," said Mvula.

"I learnt first hand the positive impact of having access to music, so I'm honoured to be a part of this collaboration."

Casio's head of marketing, Tim Gould, said: "Musical experiences and opportunities must be accessible to all; which is why we're taking action by joining forces with Classic FM and ABRSM to raise awareness of and celebrate music teachers, recognising the importance of music education across the UK. Music can and should be a part of everyone's lives!"

To nominate a teacher find out more at <http://www.classicfm.com/MusicTeacher>

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