



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC

London

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

YOUR GUIDE TO LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



Royal College of Music Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BS,
UK. Registered charity. No 309268

THE FUTURE OF MUSIC IS YOUR LEGACY



Opposite

John Wilson conducting the RCM Symphony Orchestra

*2022 & 2023
QS World University Rankings
by Subject

As someone who cherishes music, you undoubtedly recognise its profound impact on your life. You understand its ability to inspire, energise, console, and uplift. You appreciate the universal reach of music and its integral role in our human experience. It is likely that imagining a life without music seems impossible to you.

Since its establishment in 1882, the Royal College of Music (RCM) has nurtured generations of musicians, composers, and conductors who have, in their unique ways, touched and transformed lives through their music. Throughout our history, we have been supported by generous benefactors, to whom we owe immense gratitude. Their philanthropic contributions have enabled us to establish the RCM as a prestigious institution that attracts the most exceptional young musicians of each new generation.

This is precisely why we hold legacy donors and their gifts in such high regard. Professional music is undergoing transformative changes in how it is created, performed, and shared. Our unique environment equips our students with unparalleled preparation for a life dedicated to music within a challenging profession and an ever-evolving world. Gifts made through Wills play a vital role in our long-term planning and provide invaluable support for shaping our future. This presents a unique opportunity for you to make the most significant and transformative gift of your lifetime.

For the second consecutive year, the RCM is ranked **Global No.1 For Performing Arts** in the **QS World University Rankings***. Through our legacy giving programme, you could play your part in securing the future of music – as we are – by leaving a gift in your Will to the Royal College of Music. We would love to share our plans with you and discuss what leaving a gift to the RCM might mean to us, and to you.

Professor Colin Lawson CBE FRCM
Director
Royal College of Music

Lord Black of Brentwood
Chairman
Royal College of Music

OUR MISSION

The Royal College of Music (RCM) was founded to shape the future of music. Today, we are home to an extraordinary and diverse community: the world's most promising composers and performers, alongside educators, scientists, technologists, philanthropists, historians, and music lovers from all occupations. We recognise the vital contribution each makes to a vibrant music ecosystem and the impact this has on society.



Caroline Page RCM Alumna (1961-1963)

who performed as an oboist in the premiere of Britten's *War Requiem* at Coventry Cathedral in 1962.

'I regard leaving a legacy to the RCM as a way of acknowledging my experience of being a student there over 70 years ago. My life-long appreciation and love of music has not only provided me with an interesting and varied career as a freelance musician but enabled many lasting friendships. In a troubled and uncertain world music has become a vital part of our lives. For this reason, we need to give our young musicians the opportunity to study and perform to the highest standard to become the professional players of the future.'

Future Talent

Today, as global number one for performing arts, we welcome over 1000 students from all over the world. They are nurtured by expert professors with worldwide reputations, ensuring a wide-ranging and innovative curriculum.

At a time when the performing arts struggle from the legacy of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, the generous support from our donors is critical in seeking out and supporting brilliant young people wherever they may be.

Future Access

Widening access to music education is fundamental to our vision. Since our founding day in 1882, we have provided financial support and an inclusive environment for students from diverse backgrounds. Today, our student community stretches beyond the UK to over 50 other countries, with even more represented through our network of illustrious alumni.

The RCM Junior Department offers training for young people aged 8 to 18. RCM Sparks provides families, schools, and young people informal and engaging music education. Through high-quality performances, events, talks and exhibitions, we invite everyone to explore and enjoy music, both online and in person.

Future Innovation

The RCM was founded as part of Albertopolis, a radical programme of arts, science, and industry. Today, this unwavering spirit of innovation and collaboration makes us not only an exciting place to study, but also a leading research centre and the UK's most sustainable conservatoire.

With state-of-the-art facilities, we encourage musicians to push the boundaries of composition, performance, and production. Our research demonstrates the positive ways music can shape society, medicine, culture, and technology.



Left

RCM Sparks workshop delivered by RCM students
Photo © Sheila Burnett

WHY LEGACIES MATTER



Elif Cansever,
Violinist

Ian Evans Lombe Scholar

'I am privileged to have been awarded not only a generous scholarship, part funded by Ian Evans Lombe's legacy, which has enabled me to study at the RCM, but I also have on loan the valuable Joseph Rocca violin from the RCM collections, which was part of Joan Weller's bequest in 1987. These two legacies have given me a life-changing experience and have transformed my development as a violinist. I am so grateful.'

Right

Herbert Howells left his manuscripts to the RCM Library, including *A Spotless Rose*

Nurturing world-class musicians is an intricate, meticulous, and extended process. It entails a lifelong commitment, as each student requires personalised attention and guidance. While tuition fees and the government's Higher Education funding cover some fundamental aspects of our work, the assistance of our generous supporters is vital to help us sustain the delivery of world-class education and provide life-changing opportunities.

Over the years, the RCM has thrived on numerous legacy gifts pledged by supporters in their Wills. Legacy gifts have enabled us to achieve what might not otherwise have been possible: to provide state-of-the-art facilities and performance spaces; undertake research; fund performances, creative projects, and fellowships; provide career support; and facilitate many more enriching musical activities for the benefit of our students as well as the wider public. Valuable legacies have also reached us in the form of fine instruments, portraits and sculpture, and collections of manuscripts. A quarter of the fine instruments in our collection loaned out to students have been gifted in Wills to the RCM.

Legacies provide us with the confidence to plan ambitiously. Gifts in Wills have contributed over a third of the £42.5 million More Music Campaign, which has recently transformed our campus, including a new performance hall, a new performance studio, a large café and courtyard area, and a new interactive Museum. The new Cotes-Burgan Atrium and several other teaching and practice rooms have been named after generous legators.

An increasing number of students are facing challenges in meeting the expenses associated with their education, including both tuition fees and the costs of daily living. More than a third of our talented scholars are studying at the RCM thanks to legacy gifts. Over £1 million is awarded every year in scholarships by donors who left gifts in their Wills or named a scholarship in memory of a loved one. Legacies for endowed scholarships, awarded in perpetuity, offer generations of exceptionally talented students the chance to fulfil their potential through study at the RCM, regardless of their financial means.





THE
COTES-BURGAN
ATRIUM

If you are interested in leaving a legacy to the RCM, we invite you to discuss your plans with us in confidence, so that we can make sure that your intentions can be fulfilled.

Please contact **Natalie Matias, Development Manager (Legacies & Individual Giving)** at +44 (0)20 7591 4761 or natalie.matias@rcm.ac.uk

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A gift in your Will is a particularly effective way to support a charity such as the Royal College of Music (RCM).



**James Douglass,
son of Celia (née Cotes)
and Frederick Burgan**
in a letter to Professor
Colin Lawson

**'In terms of [my mother
and stepfather's] legacy
the RCM has proved a
worthy recipient. From our
first conversations... all
the RCM staff have been
so kind. Your generous
invitations to my mother
gave her such joy in her
twilight years and your
continuing to keep us
involved has been very
much appreciated.'**

Opposite

The Cotes-Burgan Atrium, named after RCM alumna Celia (née Cotes) and Frederick Burgan, who left a transformational legacy to the RCM

WHAT COULD A GIFT IN MY WILL SUPPORT AT THE RCM?

Talent

- Scholarships, bursaries, and our Hardship Fund
- The best professors and visiting artists from across the world

Access

- Our Junior Department & RCM Sparks for young musicians
- Community and outreach programmes

Innovation

- State-of-the-art facilities, including named teaching and performance spaces
- The latest developments in research and music technology

WHAT SORT OF GIFT COULD I LEAVE IN MY WILL?

Gifts towards RCM's general purposes (**unrestricted gifts**) allow us to make the most of your generosity according to the area of greatest need at the time, as our plans develop and priority changes.

Restricted gifts are used only for the purpose specified, for example scholarships or an area of our work. If you have a specific area in mind that you would like to support, we invite you to contact us and write a Letter of Wishes to accompany your Will (form enclosed at the end of the brochure).

THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF LEGACY GIFTS:

A **residuary gift**, whether it encompasses a percentage of your estate or its entirety, holds immense value for the RCM. Such a generous contribution can make a lasting impact for the future of music. A cash gift, also referred to as a **pecuniary legacy**, involves leaving a specific and fixed monetary amount in your Will, which can be used to support various initiatives at the College.

Many of our esteemed alumni and friends generously support by leaving specific assets to the RCM (**specific legacy**). These contributions can range from donating fine stringed instruments, valuable manuscripts, properties, royalties, or shares.

WHERE SHOULD I START?

To begin, it is advisable to employ the services of a solicitor who can assist you in preparing your Will, help you assess the overall value of your estate and document your wishes effectively. This straightforward procedure ensures that your intentions are legally upheld, and your loved ones, friends, and others are appropriately provided for in accordance with your wishes.





Professor Vanessa Latache FRCM

Head of Keyboard & Associate Director for Partnerships in Asia

'It is a privilege to head a faculty at the RCM. All RCM professors share a collective responsibility: to match the aspirations of our amazing students, whose determination and curiosity is inspiring – and often humbling.'

Once a student myself at the RCM, I reflect on how the musical landscape has changed and how we have evolved in response. This is a demanding profession, and those who choose it need – and deserve – to emerge as the absolute best artists they can be. The support of our generous benefactors quite simply makes all the difference.'

MAKING OR UPDATING YOUR WILL

If you have already made a Will, it is simple to update it with your solicitor or with your Will writing provider. You will also find a Pledge Form at the end of this brochure and a template for a Letter of Wishes (for a restricted gift), which you can use to notify us of your intentions.

Having a Will is crucial, especially to prevent complications that may arise for your family and friends in the event of your passing without a Will (intestate). If you have not created your Will yet, it is simpler and more affordable than you might expect. You are also welcome to make use of our free Wills service.

WHAT DETAILS MUST MY WILL CONTAIN?

The name, address, and Registered Charity No. of your proposed beneficiary:

Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BS UK
(Registered Charity No. 309268)

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR A LEGACY TO THE RCM IN YOUR WILL

'I give to the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BS UK (Registered Charity No. 309268) ('the Charity')

a XX % share of / the residue of my estate

OR the sum of £___ (specify value)

OR /AND my (insert full description of item and location)

to be used for the general purposes of the Charity, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer for the time being of the Charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors.'

Please note that this wording applies to an unrestricted gift. If you wish to specify which aspect of our work you would like your gift to support (i.e., a restricted gift), please contact **Natalie Matias** on **+44 (0)20 7591 4761** or **natalie.matias@rcm.ac.uk**

Opposite

Pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, on stage at the Southbank Centre with Chineke! Orchestra
Photo © Mark Allan



TAX MATTERS

Donations made to charitable organisations are deducted from your estate before calculating taxes, and they are entirely exempt from taxation. Consequently, leaving a gift to a charity, such as the RCM, can potentially reduce your Inheritance Tax Liability.



Charlotte Kennedy
Soprano, Robert McFadzean
Whyte
Award Holder
Photo © Ben Durrant

'I am so grateful to be studying at the RCM, supported by the Robert McFadzean Whyte Award established by a generous legacy gift. It is difficult to put into words the impact this year has had on my development as an artist. The course has allowed me to truly develop and hone my technical skill, artistry, and stagecraft. The opportunities I have been gifted have allowed me to put these skills into action in a safe and supportive environment before heading out into a professional career.'

At the time of printing, the Inheritance Tax threshold stands at £325,000. Estates valued above this threshold are subject to a 40% tax on the amount exceeding it. However, since the 2012 budget, if you make gifts to charities amounting to 10% or more of your estate, the Inheritance Tax rate can be reduced to 36%. This allows individuals to leave a significant and transformative gift to their preferred charity while reducing the net cost for their loved ones. It is important to note that everyone's tax situation is unique, so it is advisable to consult with a solicitor or independent tax adviser for personalised advice. For further details and the most up-to-date information, please visit the HMRC website.

DEED OF VARIATION

If you happen to be named as a beneficiary in a Will, it is possible to transfer a portion or all your inheritance to the Royal College of Music through a Deed of Variation. Not only is this a wonderful way to leave a gift in memory of a loved one, but also by utilising this method, gifts that are redirected to a charity become exempt from the Inheritance Tax. This can serve as an effective and meaningful way to support the RCM during your lifetime.



Opposite
RCM Alumnus Sir Thomas
Allen in RCM performance *Die
Fledermaus* in Autumn 2015.
Photo © Chris Christodoulou

Above
RCM musicians rehearsing
in the new Performance Hall





Chris Christodoulou HonRCM
Photographer, Royal College
of Music, and BBC Proms
Photo © John Millar

'The RCM is so close to my heart. As the College's photographer for more years than I care to remember, I have photographed Juniors lugging round cellos bigger than they are – only to snap them again years later at their graduation! But the greatest thrill is when RCM musicians appear on stage at the Proms.

Deciding early to leave a gift to the RCM in my Will is a great feeling. Every time I visit or hear about the RCM, I am proud to think that I have made the most sensible and satisfying decision I have ever made!

Thank you to everyone at the RCM for making me feel so welcome over the years, especially the students for the joy and happiness you bring to our hearts with your music.'

THANK YOU

We are immensely grateful for the numerous legacies that have been generously bestowed upon us throughout the years, enabling us to advance the visionary goals set forth by our founders in 1882. We would be honoured to welcome you into our esteemed community of supporters.

In 2019, we established the RCM Legacy Ensemble to express our gratitude to individuals who have made a commitment to include a gift for the Royal College of Music in their Wills. This ensemble pays tribute to the increasing number of supporters who share our vision of securing the future of music and celebrates the transformative impact their generous gifts will have. Moreover, it provides an avenue for like-minded individuals to stay informed about our ongoing endeavours.

Your generous contribution will be recognised in various meaningful ways. As a member of the RCM Legacy Ensemble, you will receive regular information about our ongoing work, invitations to unique events, and access to behind-the-scenes activities. We look forward to sharing further details and engaging with you as part of this distinguished ensemble.

Please join us and complete and return the legacy pledge form provided at the end of this brochure once you have made or updated your Will.

We celebrate the profound impact of legacy gifts with bespoke recognition, which can take the form of named scholarships or named spaces. For more information, and to discuss in memory giving, please contact us.



Opposite

ABRSM Scholar Hyun-Gi Lee in
the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall

Above

George Campbell (Pianist) Hilda
Houssart Award holder, performing
at the 2023 Legacy Ensemble Lunch
Photo © Harry Pseftoudis

OUR PROMISE TO YOU



Jane Barker CBE FRCM

Leadership Supporter and
an RCM Vice President

Photo © Simon Bleasdale, Marsh Ltd

‘As Vice President of the RCM and former Deputy Chair of the RCM Council since 2007, I have witnessed the outstanding work of the Royal College of Music at close hand, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Pledging a gift to the RCM in my Will is the most efficient way for me to support this remarkable institution, and the best possible way of ensuring that I continue to play my part for generations to come.’

Right

RCM President, The former Prince of Wales officially opening the new facilities created by the *More Music* redevelopment, December 2021

The Royal College of Music is signed up to the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice and is a signatory of its Fundraising Promise.

- We understand that family and friends are important and come first when writing your Will
- You and your family will always be treated with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect
- You can change your mind at any time about leaving a gift to the RCM in your Will and we will respect your decision
- We will use your gift wisely and cost-effectively so that it has the greatest possible impact and are happy to discuss any preferences you have for how your gift could be used
- We respect your right to privacy – you do not have to tell us if you’ve left a legacy (but we would love the opportunity to thank you if you do!)
- Any personal data that you choose to share with us will be handled securely and confidentially. You can choose how we contact you (please see our privacy policy at www.rcm.ac.uk/privacy).



All photos © Chris Christodoulou unless otherwise specified





For more information, please contact:

Natalie Matias

Development Manager (Legacies and Individual Giving)
Royal College of Music, registered charity. No 309268
Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BS
UK

+44 (0)20 7591 4761

natalie.matias@rcm.ac.uk

www.rcm.ac.uk

Main image © Phil Rowley

To find out more, visit
www.rcm.ac.uk/support/legacies

The Development Office
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President

The former Prince of Wales

Chairman

Lord Black of Brentwood

Director

Professor Colin Lawson CBE FRCM

Director of Development

Lily Harriss HonRCM

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Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

The Royal College of Music
is a registered charity. No 309268

LEGACY PLEDGE FORM



If you have included or intend to include the Royal College of Music in your Will, we would be grateful if you would let us know by completing and returning this form to us.

You do not need to share your intentions with us, but doing so means that we can thank and involve you in our work by welcoming you to our legacy society, the RCM Legacy Ensemble.

This form is not legally binding and you can change your mind about your legacy at any time.

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	Country:
Telephone:	Email:

- I am happy to be contacted by the RCM by email
By subscribing you agree to the RCM contacting you with news, as well as information about RCM events, activities, services, benefits, products, opportunities to support, volunteering and courses or other initiatives that may be of interest to you. Your data will be processed in line with our Privacy Policy (www.rcm.ac.uk/privacy). Please note that if you do not opt in to email communications we may still send you relevant information via post.
- I have already included the RCM in my Will and am happy to be listed publicly as a member of the Legacy Ensemble

Preferred crediting for supporter recognition:

- I have already included the RCM in my Will but would like to remain anonymous
- I intend to include the RCM in my Will but have not yet updated my Will
- I am considering leaving the RCM a gift in my Will and would like you to contact me in confidence about this

Details of legacy (optional): Please tick Residuary Pecuniary Specific

LETTER OF WISHES



R O Y A L

C O L L E G E

O F M U S I C

London

A Letter of Wishes is an opportunity to give guidance to those managing your estate and the Royal College of Music (RCM) on how you would like your gift in your Will to be applied. It is suggested that any Letter of Wishes be retained with the original Will and a copy provided to the RCM for reference. Please contact us to ensure that your wishes can be fulfilled.

A large, empty rectangular box intended for the user to write their Letter of Wishes.

Please return this form in the Private & Confidential Freepost envelope provided to:

Natalie Matias

Development Manager (Legacies and Individual Giving)

Royal College of Music

Prince Consort Road

London SW7 2BS

UK

www.rcm.ac.uk

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