



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*

# GLOBAL REACH

Annual Review 2022/2023



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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Royal College of Music is a world-leading conservatoire where unrivalled teaching, performance opportunities and cutting-edge technology create an inspirational environment for students from across the world.

The RCM's exceptional teaching and training equips talented students with the skills, knowledge and resourcefulness for successful careers in this country and internationally.

We continue to support the very best students from the UK, EU and beyond with scholarships, whatever their financial means. This year £5 million was awarded in scholarships and bursaries, and I thank our incredibly generous supporters for their donations.

For the second year running the RCM was ranked number one in the world for performing arts in the 2023 QS World University Rankings. This outstanding accolade is testament to the commitment and quality of the College's team, the vision and hard work of the Director Professor Colin Lawson CBE, Deputy Director Kevin Porter and the incredible people who work at every level of the RCM teaching and supporting our students' education.

We were delighted to announce in July that James Williams will join us as the next Director of the Royal College of Music from 1 September 2024. His expertise, global outlook and knowledge of the music profession will be of huge benefit to our students and the RCM's international reputation.

He will succeed Professor Colin Lawson CBE, who will retire in August 2024. The RCM is enormously blessed to have had the benefits of Colin's leadership for nearly 20 years, increasing access to excellence through digital innovation and global partnerships and overseeing an extraordinary, transformational £40 million redevelopment of the College.

We welcome new Council members, Professor Peter Holgate, Professor Shirley Thompson OBE and Dr Paula Walter and I am indebted to all members for the wisdom, expertise and energy they bring to their work along with their commitment to the future of music.

Lord Black of Brentwood  
Chairman

Opposite  
Ryan Bancroft  
conducting the  
RCM Symphony  
Orchestra at the  
Southbank Centre



**The central part played by RCM students, alumni and staff in the Coronation of our President, His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla was an honour and demonstrated the leading role we play in the music world.**



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**Above**

RCM musicians performed at the Coronation Concert for King Charles III

**Left**

RCM musicians Katherine Yoon, Betania Johnny, Declan Wicks and Marion Portelance in front of Windsor Castle before their appearance at the Coronation Concert to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am immensely proud that for the second year running the RCM has been ranked number one in the world for performing arts in the prestigious 2023 QS World University Rankings.

This recognition of the outstanding quality of the RCM's teaching and research, our international profile and the employability of our students was reinforced when we were also awarded a Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023.

The Coronation of King Charles III showcased the extraordinary achievements of our musicians and was a once-in-a-generation highlight in our rich and varied performance programme. Students, composers, alumni and professors reached a global TV audience of millions performing at the service in Westminster Abbey and at the concert in the grounds of Windsor Castle. RCM alumni and staff also showcased their talents at the BBC Proms.

Our spirit of global outlook has led to some exciting initiatives. Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre has joined us as an Ambassador for RCM Creative Careers, we have a new international partnership with Saline royale Academy in France, and a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Visiting Artists Fund set up by Victoria, Lady Robey OBE HonRCM, that will bring a more diverse range of visiting artists to work with students. We are hugely grateful to her and to all our supporters who enable opportunities at the highest levels for our young musicians.

In other appointments Amos Miller joins us as Head of Brass, and Nicky Spence as Visiting Professor of Voice, while internationally renowned visiting musicians continue to inspire our students, including Angela Gheorghiu, Joana Carneiro and for the first time this year Sakari Oramo.

In February RCM musicians paid tribute to the life of pianist Andrew Ball, former RCM Head of Keyboard (1999–2005) and celebrated the memory of renowned composer and RCM professor Joseph Horowitz with a performance of some of his most cherished works.

We continue to invest in our facilities and in innovative technology, including an upgrade of our Performance Simulator, and we scored highly again in the National Student Survey (NSS), with our outstanding library receiving particular recognition.

We also remain committed to environmental and social sustainability and I'm delighted that the College came first for universities with fewer than 5,000 students in the People & Planet University League table 2022/23.

**Professor Colin Lawson CBE FRCM**  
Director



**We must continue to foster talent, expand access, inspire sustained enthusiasm for classical music and demonstrate the value it brings to society at large.**



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

At the Royal College of Music we nurture exceptionally talented students in a creative environment, giving them the opportunity to develop as artists and to fulfil their ambitions on the world stage.

Over the last year RCM students have achieved success in many forms, reaching global audiences, securing positions in leading ensembles and training programmes, winning prestigious international competitions and contributing to a dynamic research agenda. This is just a snapshot of some of their achievements.

In an exceptional year for the Woodwind Faculty, students Alex Franklin, Cara Houghton, Amy Thompson, Rowan Jones and Sophia Elger were selected for all five woodwind positions in the 2023 London Sinfonietta Academy scheme. They were joined there by trombonist Pau Hernández Santamaria, tuba player Connor Gingell and percussionist Toril Azzalini-Machecler.

Many RCM students were chosen for the 2023 Southbank Sinfonia, with both bassoon positions filled by Francis Bushell and Amy Thompson. Clarinettist Méline Le Calvez was selected for one of only four places on the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Emerging Musicians Fellowship 2023/24, alongside double bassist Danny Cleave. Fellow string players, Katherine Yoon, Betania Johnny, Declan Wicks and Marion Portelance performed as part of the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle.

Conductor Daniel Hogan was invited to take part in the Järvi Academy in Estonia, while bass Jamie Woollard, who was a 2023 Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne, joins the Jette Parker Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House.

Composer Mina Salib won a Silver Medal – Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition at the Global Music Awards, and screen composer Joshua Urben was accepted onto the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Film Composers Lab for 2022–23.

Bass trombonist Angus Butt was awarded an academy position with the Berlin Staatskapelle; Zone One Brass (featuring RCM students and alumni) made it through to the National Brass Band Championships; and flautist and saxophonist Rianna Henriques played saxophone on a Samsung advert that has had more than 16 million views worldwide on YouTube.

RCM students and alumni, Jordan Bergmans, Laure Chan, Rianna Henriques, Betania Johnny and Marion Portelance recorded a rendition of *If I Ain't Got You* with Alicia Keys, as part of a 74-piece orchestra made up of women of colour from around the world. The song was recorded on its 20th anniversary for the release of Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story.

From our research community, Doctoral student and soprano Juliet Petrus was named a Next Generation Leader by the influential Chinese-American organisation Committee of 100 this year in recognition of her work in educating Western singers and audiences about Chinese vocal music.

Opposite  
Rowan Jones  
in rehearsal for a  
Chamber Spotlight  
performance inspired by  
American landscapes



**The commitment and ingenuity of this RCM production sets the opera school apart as one taking continued risk, more than justifying the need for celebration and support of this dedicated operatic training.**

*Opera Now on the RCM Opera Studio's Ravel and Respighi double-bill March 2023*



# PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Royal College of Music is renowned for the range and quality of its artistic programme, supported by performers from around the world who regularly visit to work with students.

Our students, professors and alumni were at the heart of the service and concert at the Coronation of King Charles III, watched by millions worldwide. Westminster Abbey's Director of Music and RCM alumnus Andrew Nethsingha conducted commissions by alumni composers including Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tarik O'Regan, and RCMJD student Jacob Bailey was in the choir; a string quartet of RCM students then played at the Windsor Castle concert, one of them using a cello once owned by the King.

The RCM Symphony Orchestra was led during the year by Vasily Petrenko, Ryan Bancroft at London's Southbank Centre and Sakari Oramo, in his debut visit to the College. Students also worked with internationally renowned conductors Martyn Brabbins, Chloé van Soeterstède, Joana Carneiro, Jessica Cottis and RCM alumnus Wayne Marshall.

Maxim Vengerov led violin and orchestral concerto masterclasses, soprano Angela Gheorghiu gave her first ever public class, and masterclasses were also given by pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet, in a short residency with Colburn School, Los Angeles, and Angela Hewitt. We are grateful to the Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne for their dedicated support of our masterclasses, to The Rolando Fund for Visiting Professors and the Sergei Rachmaninoff Fund for expanding the opportunities available to students.

Performances of *A Sea Symphony* by Vaughan Williams concluded our celebration of his 150th anniversary, while Wigmore Hall hosted a special Messiaen performance. The RCM Baroque Orchestra played live on BBC Radio 3, and Ensemble Augelletti was announced as the next New Generation Baroque Ensemble in an exclusive arrangement between the BBC and the RCM.

We continued our collaboration with the Abbey Road Institute including recording projects for Composition for Screen students and large-scale orchestral projects. New music featured at the annual Composition for Screen Showcase, and alumna and experimental composer Shiva Feshareki and electroacoustic composer and the RCM's Director of Programmes Dr Diana Salazar curated cutting-edge concerts of electronic music.

The Opera Studio productions were Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, a double-bill of Respighi and Ravel, with breathtaking sets and costumes, directed by Liam Steel, and *Barnum's Bird* which told the story of the Swedish Nightingale, soprano Jenny Lind, an important founder of the Vocal Faculty at the RCM.

Our festivals included Super String Sunday; FestivALL, a student-led series of concerts by underrepresented composers; the International Festival of Viols; a day of music by women composers for International Women's Day; and the Festival of Percussion featuring drummer Jojo Mayer that ended with a performance by the RCM Jazz Orchestra led by Peter Long.

Opposite top  
RCM Symphony Orchestra led by Sakari Oramo in the *Amaryllis* Fleming Concert Hall

Opposite middle  
Conductor and RCM alumnus Wayne Marshall in rehearsal with the RCM Philharmonic

Opposite bottom left  
Lylis O'Hara as Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, in the RCM Opera Studio's production *Barnum's Bird*



# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Royal College of Music is a truly international community and our worldwide partnerships and collaborations enrich life at the College and extend our global reach.

The Global Conservatoire, our partnership with Manhattan School of Music, the Royal Danish Academy of Music and the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna completed its second year bringing staff and students together on transnational online courses. A fifth partner, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam has now joined.

A new partnership with the Saline royale Academy in France allows RCM students to travel there to collaborate with global peers in an intensive programme of masterclasses and concerts a number of times each year.

Our collaboration with the Stauffer Center for Strings in Cremona has offered opportunities for students and staff to work and study in Italy, and this year the acclaimed Quartetto di Cremona also visited the RCM for a residency to coach and perform with students.

The Chamber Orchestra of Europe had a week's residency working alongside RCM students, which finished with a stunning performance, led from the violin, of Beethoven's Symphony no 6 *Pastoral*.

Internationally renowned artists from across the world visited to collaborate with our students in orchestral projects and masterclasses and we were honoured to have Angela Gheorghiu work with some of our vocal students in her first ever public class.

The College welcomed its first cohort of BEd students from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) who joined classes and observed teaching on the RCMJD and Sparks programmes. The Academy will offer Masters degrees from 2024 based on RCM Masters programmes.

Professor Vanessa Lata arche, the RCM's Head of Keyboard & Associate Director for Partnerships in Asia, has been appointed Artistic Advisor to the Lang Lang International Music Foundation and will provide guidance in the development of their Young Scholars from around the world. We also have a new partnership with online platform Forte to offer lessons with RCM teachers to students at the international Inspired School group of private schools.

Historical Performance students joined counterparts from Bremen's Hochschule für Künste for a performance of John Blow's *Venus and Adonis*; an RCM string quartet worked with a quartet from Vienna's University of Music and Performing Arts in Austria, then gave a concert with them in London organised by The Anglo-Austrian Society; and our collaboration for RCM composers with the Head On Photo Festival in Sydney saw their work shared internationally.

RCM students and graduates gave three Christmas concerts in Klosters in Switzerland, and soprano Laura Mekhail, supported by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation-Community Jameel Scholarship, which aims to help gifted singers from around the world study at the RCM, sang in front of the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

**Opposite**  
World-renowned soprano Angela Gheorghiu leading a masterclass with RCM vocal students



# PROMOTING DIGITAL INNOVATION

The Royal College of Music continues to invest in state-of-the-art digital technology to offer opportunities to students and to engage with a global audience.

The College has shared nine livestreamed concerts, including those conducted by Sakari Oramo, Vasily Petrenko and Martyn Brabbins, as well as operas and masterclasses with global audiences on the RCM YouTube channel. The channel received more than 950,000 views between August 2022 and July 2023, with one of our Maxim Vengerov masterclasses viewed more than 45,500 times. The performance of Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* by the RCM Symphony Orchestra and Chorus has had 15,500 views.

The RCM's involvement in the innovative Global Conservatoire project reinforces our reputation worldwide and has enabled our students to study online with students across the world, connecting them with a new digital age of global learning.

The College's state-of-the-art Digital Innovation Lab opened this year and allows students to record, mix, master and broadcast material in the most up-to-date formats.

Composition students and staff have been using its Dolby Atmos 7.1.4 technology, a 'spatial audio' format that immerses the listener in a dome of sound. This new development in sound technology is fast becoming the commercial standard in the film, TV and gaming industries.

The annual Programmes Staff Development Day included training for professors, teachers and graduate teaching assistants on digital accessibility, artificial intelligence in assessment and inclusive teaching.

An Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grant of £1.9million for a new Performance Laboratory will support musicians to refine their performances using the latest acoustic and visual simulation technology.

The RCM Museum received a grant from The DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund 2022–24 to create 3D printed models of historically important musical instruments from its collection, including the earliest guitar in the world. This project aims to increase access and engagement opportunities for visitors with additional needs, younger audiences and student musicians, opening pathways to explore our musical past through touch and performance.

The Museum and Library continue to raise the profile of their collections across the world by opening them up online. The Museum published two virtual exhibitions on Google Arts & Culture – *Music Portraits in Bohemian London* and one on composer Dame Ethel Smyth.

More than 85% of the overall Museum collection can now be viewed online on the Museum's website, the Library catalogue and via Google Arts & Culture, MIMO, MINIM-UK, Art UK, ArenaPAL, the Internet Archive and IMSLP. Through these digital platforms the College's collections are accessible to researchers and audiences worldwide.

Opposite  
RCM professor Kate Simko working with an RCM student in the Digital Innovation Lab



# CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

The Royal College of Music Museum and Library continue to make their extraordinary collections accessible to students, researchers and visitors both in-person and online.

Visitor numbers at the RCM Museum, whose permanent collection was described by *BBC Music Magazine* as 'a feast for the eyes wherever you look', were up 50%. The Museum also hosted 38 concerts giving 247 students the opportunity to perform within the galleries.

Temporary exhibitions were *Music, Migration and Mobility*, exploring the stories of musician émigrés from Nazi Europe who found refuge in Britain, and *Hidden Treasures of the Royal College of Music* which included instruments from the Royal Collections.

The first 3D printed models of instruments from the RCM collection funded by The DCMS/ Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund 2022–24 were delivered and The Wolfson Centre in Music & Material Culture officially opened to the public. It has already welcomed 117 research visits and obtained two research grants from The British Academy and The Leverhulme Trust.

Conservation activity focused on an 1822 square piano by Clementi and three paintings including the recently acquired portrait of Samuel Arnold by Thomas Hardy, and digitisation has continued to now include more than 85% of the Collection.

The Museum has acquired a copy of its 1647 Magnus Feldlen baryton which, unlike the original, is available for performances, and a viola d'amore and a bass viol from The Robert Anderson Trust. The Library this year acquired a collection of manuscripts by Harold Darke including his setting of *In the Bleak Midwinter* and the unpublished autograph manuscript of Carl Engel's *A World Encyclopaedia of Musical Instruments c. 1875–1882*.

The RCM Library again received a top ranking in the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Museum and Library continue to integrate their collections with the curriculum. The Library is also increasing the diversity of its lending collection, including a focus on works for brass this year. In 2022–23 the Library loaned more than 24,500 items and welcomed 100 external researchers.

Opposite  
RCM musician  
performing in the  
Royal College of  
Music Museum



### **NEW EARLY-CAREER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW**

The College has recently been joined by Dr Christabel Stirling, who holds a prestigious British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship and is exploring the interrelations between British sound art, sound system culture, and electronic dance music from the 1980s to the present, with particular attention to musicians who took their cues from dub reggae, punk, soulful house and political rap.

### **PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Researchers in the Centre for Performance Science (CPS) have delivered a second set of training workshops for senior leaders at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This follows the success of their innovative pilot programme in summer 2021, *Thriving in Radical Uncertainty*, which was delivered to 60 UNDP staff across five continents. It showcases new approaches to leadership through performance science and involves CPS researchers and performers-in-residence sharing skills and strategies from music, magic and puppetry. Attendees praised the pilot course as 'an amazing space to frame everyday challenges and ways of working in any field'.

# PIONEERING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Royal College of Music continues to win grants to pursue groundbreaking research and raise its international profile, including £1.9 million this year to create a state-of-the-art Performance Laboratory.

The Centre for Performance Science had a major success this year with the award of a £1.9 million grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to upgrade and extend its Performance Simulator which allows musicians to practise performing and auditioning skills.

The new Laboratory will use the Meyer Constellation Sound System, which enables the acoustic of the room to be varied with exceptional fidelity. Coupled with innovative video technology, the new Laboratory will offer a larger and more flexible simulation facility for research, knowledge exchange with external partners and cutting-edge immersive training experience for students, artists and performers.

The AHRC-funded research project on *Music, Migration and Mobility* culminated this year in a highly praised exhibition at the RCM Museum – a mobile version is now touring the UK and Europe.

The College's ranking as the top UK conservatoire offering music as a single subject in the Research Excellence Framework 2021 has led to an increase in government funding allocation. This has enabled Head of Research, Professor Robert Adlington to create a new RCM Research Development Fund to support the College's global reputation in pioneering research in composition and performance.

Our expertise spans a diverse range of disciplines including composition, electronic music innovation, music and health, music and heritage, music education, music psychology and performance science.

Our research and collaborative projects make an impact across the world, from working with community music practitioners in Norway to exploring the role of music in challenging urban contexts in Brazil and Bolivia.

Opposite  
RCM musician  
practising in the  
Performance  
Simulator

## MUSICAL CARE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

RCM Reader in Performance Science Dr Neta Spiro is co-leading a new international network advocating the use of music in care practices. Internal College funding has enabled the award of a number of small grants to support projects led by network partners across five continents. Dr Spiro has also been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (2022–23) to support a set of workshops that will develop policy recommendations for musical care during the beginning of life. The project builds on work presented in the recent Oxford University Press book *Collaborative Insights: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Musical Care Throughout the Life Course* edited by Dr Spiro and Dr Katie Rose M Sanfilippo.



# INVESTING IN OUR FACILITIES

The Royal College of Music aims to be the UK's most sustainable conservatoire, embedding leading environmental and green practice in everything we do.

As well as offering dynamic performance spaces and facilities equipped with cutting-edge technology, we are determined to reduce our environmental impact and support good social practices.

The RCM's achievements were recognised when we were awarded first place in the People & Planet University League table 2022/23 for universities with fewer than 5,000 students, ranked by environmental and ethical performance.

A sustainable LED lighting rig has now been installed in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall with support from Oak Foundation. The new lighting has delivered an 81% reduction in energy use in the Concert Hall, delivering carbon emissions savings of around 29 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum. Each fixture is individually controllable allowing for more creativity when lighting performances.

This year the beautiful Britten Theatre auditorium has been refurbished. With generous support from The Foyle Foundation, we were able to renew the seating, improving comfort and sight lines for audiences and replicating professional performance conditions for students.

The focus of our annual Green Week for students and staff this year was exploring ways to live more sustainably. We aim to achieve net zero carbon by 2035 and are ahead of our target having reduced carbon emissions by 79% in 2022–23 from our 2004–05 baseline.

Electricity for the entire RCM campus now comes from zero-carbon sources. We have improved insulation, upgraded lighting to LED, installed secondary glazing and we are using a system in which machine learning analyses data around our gas and electricity usage. We will continue our work to decarbonise heating and hot water systems and improve energy efficiency. The amount of paper printed now is also less than half the amount in 2017–18.

Opposite  
Newly refurbished  
seats in the Britten  
Theatre auditorium  
following support from  
The Foyle Foundation

 **Global environmental problems affect our future and security so I'm sure all students appreciate the visibility of the RCM's sustainability success to date and are enthusiastic about contributing to its ambitious goals for the future.** 

Tymon Zgorzelski, President of the RCM Students' Union



# SHAPING BRIGHT FUTURES

The Royal College of Music's Creative Careers Centre is recognised internationally for its innovative approach to supporting young musicians and paving their way to successful global careers.

The RCM is a world leader in career development for musicians, emphasising the need for students to be well-rounded, confident and versatile communicators.

Our graduates are highly employable – an impressive 90% of RCM graduates from 2020–21 were in employment or further study 15 months after graduating, and 100% in high-skilled work, and this at a challenging time for employment in the arts sector.

This year, Grammy Award-winning composer Eric Whitacre has become an Ambassador for RCM Creative Careers. He has given mentoring and careers sessions for students and graduates focusing on entrepreneurship, innovation, self-promotion and building a creative career.

The Centre also offers guidance, funding opportunities, bespoke career advice and coaching, mentoring, online workshops and presentations by industry specialists and professional opportunities including performances and teaching work.

The RCM Professional Engagements Service hires RCM musicians for paid work, providing 285 bookings at venues including The National Gallery, the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Courts of Justice and Windsor Castle and a collaboration with BBC Radio 3 for a live broadcast. Of these bookings, 137 work placements were facilitated for international students on student visas, helping them build their performance experience. The performances together earned musicians over £125,000.

The in-person and online Teaching Service gave more than 100 students and graduates the chance to teach, with the online service attracting clients from Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan and Wales.

The Centre also continued to develop its two exciting schemes, RCM Accelerate and the RCM Musicians' Grant Fund.

RCM Accelerate supported 11 students with grant funding of up to £5,000 and mentoring on creative projects, social enterprises and business ideas, including the Corelia Project which seeks to promote the performance of classical music by women and all gender-marginalised composers from around the world and has created an online database of women composers and their works.

The RCM Musicians' Grant Fund provided £16,000 in financial assistance towards the purchase of musical instruments and technical equipment, supporting ten musicians in their final year.

## Opposite

Vasily Petrenko conducts the RCM Symphony Orchestra with RCM soloist Shizuku Tatsuno



# CONNECTING OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI

The Royal College of Music is immensely proud of its community of alumni from 104 countries who are some of our finest global ambassadors. Our worldwide network now stands at more than 18,600 alumni.

We are delighted that so many of our alumni maintain close contact with the College. This year Dame Sarah Connolly returned to give a masterclass, former clarinet student Marie Lloyd was appointed Head of Woodwind, and experimental composer Shiva Feshareki curated an electronic music concert.

Our former students continue to have enormous success professionally and in competitions around the world.

Violinist Roberto Ruisi has been appointed as the first new leader of The Hallé in 25 years and conducting alumnus Nicolò Foron won the Donatella Flick LSO Conducting Competition and has taken up a year-long contract as Assistant Conductor with the orchestra.

Pianist Alim Beisembayev was announced as a BBC New Generation Artist for 2023–25 and made his BBC Proms debut this year, stepping in at the last minute for Benjamin Grosvenor, to play Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no 2 conducted by fellow alumnus John Wilson.

Composers Helen Grime MBE and RCM Junior Department alumnus Jon Hopkins had works premiered at the Proms, as did Gavin Higgins who also won a Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Award for Large-Scale Composition.

RCM Opera Studio alumna Julieth Lozano Rolong was awarded the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Audience Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2023, and tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies won a place on the Royal Opera House Jette Parker Artists Programme.

Composition for Screen graduate Christopher Tin was nominated for two Grammys including one for Best Score Soundtrack for Video Games and Other Interactive Media.

Classic FM's Rising Stars list of 30 musicians under the age of 30 this year included RCM alumnus pianist George Harlono and RCM Junior Department alumna Mathilde Milwidsky. Her fellow violinist Esther Abrami has played on Classic FM with free-form string group Her Ensemble and has a social media following of more than 270,000, while pianist Silu Wang (known as BiBiPiano) now has one million subscribers on Bilibili, the largest video sharing platform in China, and her albums have been streamed 2.6 billion times globally.

Opposite  
Pianist Alim Beisembayev in his BBC Proms debut performing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no 2 conducted by fellow alumnus John Wilson



# SUPPORTING TALENT

The Royal College of Music remains committed to its founding principle that those with talent should be able to access tuition from the best professors and enjoy our unrivalled facilities, regardless of their means.

The RCM Scholarship Fund enables gifted musicians from all over the world and all backgrounds to study at the College. This year £4.3 million was awarded in life-changing scholarships and a record sum of £137,338 was raised for the RCM Scholarships Fund in the 2022 Big Give Christmas Challenge. This meant that 52% of our students received financial support in 2022–23, a fantastic investment in our students' futures and one which would not be possible without a community of generous donors. We thank you all for your support.

A large donation of over £1 million has come from the Victor Ford Foundation on behalf of Ramona and Trevor Swale to support jazz musicians and performances at the College.

Jane Avery has made a generous donation to support the outreach work of RCM Sparks and establish The Robert Avery Scholarship in memory of her late husband. The scholarship supports UK undergraduate students from a non-traditional, migrant or underrepresented background, and this year's funding is matched by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Fund for Scholarships and Bursaries doubling the impact of the gift.

A new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Visiting Artists Fund is also set to expand the diversity of visiting artists invited to work with students.

Our scholars have had another successful year:

Tenor Dafydd Jones (Ivor Llewellyn Foster Scholar supported by The Leverhulme Arts Scholarship) won the Ferrier Loveday Song Prize at the 2023 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, while mezzo-soprano Annabel Kennedy (Siow-Furniss Scholar supported by the Sir Gordon Palmer Scholarship) and soprano Madeline Boreham (RCM Scholar) won first and second prize in the Royal Over-Seas League Vocal Final. Annabel is also a Glyndebourne Jerwood Young Artist for 2023.

Jelena Horvat (Rose Williams Scholar) was awarded the 2022 Royal Philharmonic Society Emily Anderson Prize, and her fellow violinist Mira Marton (Russell Race Scholar) was selected for the Chamber Orchestra of Europe Academy.

Adam Lee (Rhona Reid Charitable Trust Award Holder supported by the Henry Wood Accommodation Trust) is now Principal Clarinet no 2 of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and in further new appointments David Nebel (Big Give Scholar) has become Concertmaster of the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and collaborative pianist Avishka Edirisinghe (John Lewis Partnership Scholar supported by the Victor Dahdaleh Foundation Scholarship) the new Assistant Chorus Director of English National Opera.

## Opposite

Tenor Dafydd Jones (Ivor Llewellyn Foster Scholar supported by The Leverhulme Arts Scholarship) and mezzo-soprano Annabel Kennedy (Siow-Furniss Scholar supported by the Sir Gordon Palmer Scholarship) in the Opera Studio's performance of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*



**I would like to extend my gratitude to all the donors and supporters of RCM students. Your support is invaluable and enables many, like me, to realise what would not have been achievable otherwise.**

David Horvat, Orpheus Scholar supported by the Michael Redman Scholarship





# NURTURING TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS

The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) offers advanced training at the highest level to young musicians aged 5–18 years, combining individual tuition with chamber music, choral, musicianship and orchestral training.

The RCMJD is committed to nurturing the next generation of music students from a diverse range of backgrounds and to ensuring successful applicants are not prevented from attending through financial hardship. This year over £200,000 of support was allocated to families most in need with bursaries supported by the Music and Dance Scheme, the RCMJD Bursary Fund, The Leverhulme Trust, the Wolfson Music Awards and other donors.

About 70% of our students go on to study music, many of them being offered scholarships to continue at the College.

We are constantly developing new initiatives to reach out to and recruit students from diverse backgrounds and to enable as many as possible to progress to the senior RCM. We have strong partnerships with like-minded organisations including Future Talent, the London Music Fund, Music Masters, Nucleo, and the Tri-borough Music Hub.

RCMJD students performed in more than 117 concerts as members of 110 ensembles this year, with works by underrepresented composers featured in every major concert. There were also more than 460 solo and chamber performances in our weekly Performance Platforms and as part of our new RCMJD Soloist concert series.

Our pupils have performed at prestigious venues including the 606 Club, Cadogan Hall, St James's Palace and St James's Piccadilly, while our chamber music competition finalists played at Wigmore Hall.

RCMJD musicians continue to dominate the major youth orchestras, including the National Children's Orchestra and The National Youth Orchestra (NYO). A record number of 28 students joined the NYO for their 2022–23 season, including Isabell Karlsson, the orchestra's leader.

Seven students also competed in the category finals of the BBC Young Musician competition in 2022, with percussionist Jordan Ashman winning the overall title of BBC Young Musician of the Year.

Opposite  
RCMJD musicians in  
an RCMJD Symphony  
Orchestra rehearsal

 **My time at the RCMJD has shaped me as a player. My teachers have both nurtured and inspired me and I've grown in confidence as a performer. Thanks to the support of my teachers over the years, I have had amazing opportunities, including my first solo recital at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Classical Coffee Morning series. I can't imagine my life without the JD!** 

Amalia Beeko, clarinettist, aged 18, joined the RCMJD aged 11



# WIDENING ACCESS: RCM SPARKS

RCM Sparks is the College's learning and participation programme, designed to engage young children in schools and the local community where support is needed most.

RCM Sparks offer workshops and live music experiences for children, young people and families from low-income households, groups underrepresented in higher education and children and young people with disabilities. Free or subsidised places are available for children (and their families) who are eligible.

The programme has given more than 2,700 children and young people a live music experience this year and has provided 155 RCM students and graduates with practical training experience and work placements.

RCM Sparks has worked closely with the Tri-borough Music Hub in the London Boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. They were partners for the Music Makes Me project for which Sparks Juniors and RCMJD students were part of a cast of 1,000 young performers from some 40 local schools on stage at the Royal Albert Hall. Young musicians were supported by 15 RCM students as mentors.

Other RCM Sparks initiatives include the Mini Sparks early years programme; the innovative Musical Futures scheme, funded through the RCM's Knowledge Exchange, that provides training for London Early Years Foundation (LEYF) social enterprise nurseries to support their music teaching; and a pilot event of creative workshops and performances for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and/or blind or partially sighted.

RCM Sparks also worked closely with the Royal College of Music Museum on Explorers music-making courses and offered accessible workshops at the Festival of Percussion, FestivALL and the Great Exhibition Road Festival.

This year also saw the launch of the Springboard: Young Composers course kindly supported by Jane Avery. Year 9 and Year 10 students from underrepresented groups took part in practical composition workshops, working closely with RCM musicians and composers.

Opposite

An RCM Sparks participant at the *A Sea Symphony* RCM Sparks Explorers workshop

 **Working on Music Makes Me as a mentor was such a fulfilling experience. I saw first-hand the excitement of the children and felt the team of RCM students getting stronger together, allowing the children to have greater confidence in us and reach their full potential.** 

Rubie Besin, RCM Sparks Student Mentor



# GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

**Legacy gifts play an essential role in supporting future generations of talented young musicians and enable us to offer them life-changing opportunities.**

We are immensely grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our legators. A record £817,000 in endowed legacy income was directed to the Scholarships Fund this year with £1.9 million awarded in scholarships by 94 donors who left gifts in Wills or named a scholarship in memory of a loved one.

A third of donations to the RCM are gifted through Wills on average each year, so bequests are of substantial benefit to the College and our students.

Income from legacy gifts received this year was more than £195,000. However, due to a delay in issuing grants of probate, a number of bequests the College was expecting to receive are likely to come through over the next two years.

Our community of supporters who have generously pledged to leave a gift in their Will now stands at 185, and we have welcomed 11 new pledgers in 2022–23.

The RCM Legacy Ensemble, now in its fourth year, recognises the profound impact those supporters have. At the Legacy Ensemble Lunch in April 2023, members heard performances from current scholars supported by generous gifts in Wills and were given tours of the Britten Theatre and the Performance Studio.

The archive of Joseph Horovitz, one of the longest-serving members of staff in the Composition Faculty, was bequeathed to the College including manuscripts, recordings, videos and interviews. His widow Anna has now generously assigned the rights to his music to the College, which means the RCM will receive royalties from his music for the next seven decades. She has also re-endowed the Joseph Horovitz Prize for Composition for the top graduate in Screen Composition each year. This gesture ensures that Joseph's name will endure in the profession, a fitting tribute to his legacy.

Legacy gifts can support scholarships or go towards enhancing the College's facilities, but they have also come in the form of instruments that are then loaned to students, while unrestricted gifts help the College continue to grow and excel.

**Opposite**  
Musicians in an RCM Symphony Orchestra rehearsal with conductor Jessica Cottis



**In a troubled, uncertain world, music is a vital part of our lives. We need to give young musicians the opportunity to study and perform to the highest standard to become the professional players of the future.**

Caroline Page, RCM alumna who has pledged a legacy to the RCM





# OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Thanks to generous philanthropic support, the Royal College of Music continues to invest in the future of music by increasing access, supporting talent and cultivating innovation.

Together we secured commitments this year totalling almost £6 million, despite the challenges posed by economic and political uncertainty. During 2022–23 more than 1,000 supporters donated to the College, demonstrating the far-reaching impact of the RCM's work.

In particular, we wish to recognise the generous support of the Victor Ford Foundation on behalf of Ramona and Trevor Swale, the Estate of Jill Anderson, Oak Foundation, the Croucher Hong Kong Charitable Foundation, Geoffrey Richards HonRCM and Valerie Richards and the inspired support from our senior volunteers.

This year we welcomed several new members to our Legacy Ensemble which honours those who plan to leave a gift to the RCM in their Will. With their commitments, there are now 185 individuals who have made plans for their love of music to endure in the world by supporting young musicians. Philanthropy at the RCM is helping to ensure that classical music in Britain and beyond continues to thrive and that our talented students can fulfil their potential as future performers, educators and researchers.

This year we awarded £4.3 million in financial support, benefiting over 50% of the student body, thanks to the generous support of many individuals, trusts, organisations and legators. Each donation has played an essential role in enabling us to fulfil our mission to provide exceptional music education to talented young musicians from all backgrounds.

We also received significant matching gifts from Victoria, Lady Robey and the Victor Dahdaleh Foundation for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Fund for Scholarships and Bursaries to support this vital area of our work.

From becoming an RCM Friend to leaving a gift in your Will, every contribution truly makes a difference. We owe a humble debt of gratitude to all our supporters for their key role in helping to secure the future of music.

**Lily Harriss HonRCM**  
Director of Development

Opposite  
RCM musician  
rehearsing for the  
RCM's Chamber  
Music Festival

# 2022/2023 IN NUMBERS

MORE THAN  
**1K**  
TOTAL  
SUPPORTERS

**£5M**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND AWARDS

**46K**  
SUBSCRIBERS TO THE  
RCM YOUTUBE CHANNEL

MORE THAN  
**950K**  
VIEWS OF THE RCM  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL





**£5.6M**

**IN PHILANTHROPIC  
SUPPORT RAISED**

**£195K**

**RECEIVED FROM  
GIFTS IN WILLS**

**52%**

**OF STUDENTS RECEIVED  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING  
THEIR STUDIES**

**STUDENTS OF**

**51**

**NATIONALITIES  
AWARDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**OVER  
33K**

**TICKETS SOLD  
TO IN-PERSON  
PERFORMANCES**



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Music has the power to transform lives. Your generosity enables us to reach and nurture gifted students so they can become the leading musicians of the next generation, and can contribute fully to the worldwide musical community, our society and economy. We would like to thank all those listed below and overleaf, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous, who have generously supported the RCM between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.

We would also like to thank members of the RCM Legacy Ensemble who have so thoughtfully pledged a gift to the RCM in their Will.

## FOUNDING PATRONS

The Estate of George Frederick Burgan  
The Estate of Basil Coleman  
The Croucher Hong Kong Charitable Foundation  
Victor Ford Foundation on behalf of Ramona & Trevor Swale  
The Estate of Christopher Hogwood CBE HonDMus  
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The Leverhulme Trust  
The National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Geoffrey Richards HonRCM & Valerie Richards  
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## Opposite

RCM students in a chorus  
rehearsal for Vaughan Williams'  
*A Sea Symphony* concert

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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The Robert Anderson Trust  
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Kevin Thompson OBE FRCM &  
Patricia Thompson

## SUPPORTERS

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We are grateful to ABRSM for their significant contribution.

## RCM LEGACY ENSEMBLE

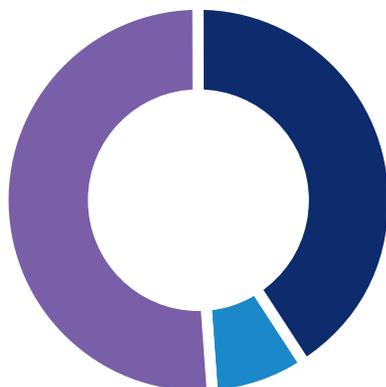
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Kyra von Schottenstein  
Anne Wadsworth OBE & Brian Wadsworth  
Caroline Wallis-Newport  
Timothy Wilcox



# STUDENT NUMBERS

**Home**  
**481**  
(51.3%)



**International**

**384**  
(40.9%)

**EU**  
**73**  
(7.8%)

**Female**  
**495**  
(52.8%)



**Male**

**439**  
(46.8%)

**Other**  
**4**  
(0.4%)

**Undergraduate**  
**476**  
(50.7%)



**Postgraduate**

**415**  
(44.2%)

**Doctoral**  
**47**  
(5.1%)



FAZIOLI

# FINANCES

In 2022/2023, the College made a surplus for the year of £0.2 million. After adjusting to remove the impact of losses on investments and disposals along with pension adjustments, the underlying surplus was £1.3 million. In the previous year there was an underlying surplus of £3.2 million.

	2022/23 £m	2021/22 £m
Reported surplus/(deficit) for the year	0.2	(1.9)
Remove losses on investments and disposals	1.4	2.0
Remove pension adjustments	(0.3)	3.1
Underlying surplus before gains and losses	1.3	3.2

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The late Queen

## President

The former Prince of Wales

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The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Archbishop of York

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The President

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Douglas Gardner

Richard Goulding

Professor Peter Holgate [appointed May 2023]

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Ruth Keatch

Jamie Njoku-Goodwin

Andrew Ratcliffe

Geoffrey Richards HonRCM

Professor Shirley J. Thompson OBE [appointed May 2023]

Dr Paula Walter

Sir Guy Weston HonRCM

James Williams

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Kevin Porter HonRCM (Deputy Director)

Dr Ingrid Pearson HonRCM

Patricia Rozario OBE FRCM

Ann Somerville HonRCM

Tymon Zgorzelski (Students' Union President)

## Clerk to the Council

Sandra D'Souza [until May 2023]

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**Deputy Director** Kevin Porter HonRCM (Deputy Chair)

**Artistic Director** Stephen Johns FRCM

**Director of Communications** Talia Hull HonRCM

**Director of Development** Lily Harriss HonRCM

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**Director of Finance** Rachel Harris

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**Chairman** Lord Black of Brentwood

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