Welcome to upbeat...

This issue we’re celebrating the 20th anniversary of HRH The Prince of Wales as our President.

Since taking over the role from HRH Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1993, he has visited the RCM almost every year for our annual awards ceremony. To mark the special occasion, a new award has been created and you can read all about the first recipient, RCM percussionist Ruairi Glasheen, on page 11.

We’ve also been delving into our archives and found some incredible imagery of his visits over the past 20 years. Turn to page 12 for some of our favourite photos including honorary awards for Sir Paul McCartney, Sarah Connolly and Lang Lang. If that’s whet your appetite, visit our Facebook page for more photos or our YouTube channel for a short video about Ruairi and the new President’s Award.

We’re always keen to hear from students past and present and there are now many ways to stay in touch with the RCM: join the conversation on Twitter @RCMLatest, find us on Facebook or email us with your news and pictures at news@rcm.ac.uk by Monday 23 September 2013 to be featured in the next edition of Upbeat.

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Front cover – HRH The Prince of Wales © Michael Dunlea
Inside front cover – Images of the RCM Baroque Orchestra and RCM Chamber Choir © Chris Christodoulou
Inside back cover – A selection of images from ‘Journeying Boys’, a colourful evening of song devised and directed by BBC Radio 3 presenter Iain Burnside © Chris Christodoulou
All photography © Chris Christodoulou
In the news...

ROSIL Success for Morgan Pearse

RCM baritone Morgan Pearse has been awarded the Gold Medal and First Prize of £10,000 at the Royal Over-Sea League Competition Final.

Held at the Southbank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall, Morgan wowed the judges with a wide-ranging programme of Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Schumann, Korngold and Donizetti. Winners of the four solo awards competed for the top prize including star RCM violinist and winner of the String Section Michael Foyle. The evening also included performances by The Françoise-Green Piano Duo, winners of the ROSL Ensemble Prize.

Other notable wins for the RCM included the Accompanist Prize for Jennifer Hughes, awarded for her performances in both the Wind and Singers’ sections of the competition.

For 50 years, the Royal Over-Sea League has been devoted to the career development of talented young professional artists and musicians from the UK and the Commonwealth. The organisation provides scholarships and performance opportunities for musicians at major venues such as the Wigmore Hall.

Ferrier Success for Louise Alder

RCM soprano Louise Alder has been awarded Second Prize at the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier Awards.

The Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund’s Annual Competition – which has a reputation as “Britain’s most prestigious singing awards” – offers the chance for young professional singers to compete for glittering cash prizes and instant international recognition.

The Final took place on Friday 25 April at London’s Wigmore Hall. After the competition Louise commented: “The Wigmore is the most magical place to sing in and the atmosphere was electric! I was honoured to be in the final and heard alongside such talented young artists.”

Ashkenazy Live!

Vladimir Ashkenazy conducted the RCM Symphony Orchestra on 27 February in a sell-out concert featuring Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto, performed by star RCM pianist Oxana Shevchenko, and Rachmaninov’s popular Symphony no 2.

The performance was also streamed live to an enthusiastic global audience via the RCM website and we were delighted to receive many enthusiastic comments. Patrick and Marina Breen from Northern Ireland wrote: “Fantastic performances, wonderful playing such a joy to hear and see”, while Madeleine Liger from France said: “Many thanks to the RCM for offering us this great moment to watch our daughter performing.”

If you missed the performance, visit our YouTube channel for exclusive rehearsal clips and an interview with Vladimir Ashkenazy, offering a fascinating insight into the rehearsal process: www.youtube.com/rcmlondon
Vice-President and former RCM Director, Michael Gough Matthews, has died.

Michael’s long association with the RCM began when he was eight, with a Junior Exhibition award from Sir Percy Buck to study piano. Advised by the RCM against evacuation during World War II, as that would have affected his studies, he travelled to the RCM throughout the Blitz from his parents’ home in Essex. At 15, he won an Open Major Scholarship to study with Frank Merrick, returning after National Service to win the Hopkinson Gold Medal in his final year.

Private studies followed with Harold Craxton who prepared him for the 5th Chopin International Competition, where he won a Chopin Fellowship for advanced studies and a series of recitals throughout Eastern Europe. He later won an Italian Government Scholarship to Rome, and gave his Wigmore Hall debut recital in 1960.

In 1964 he set up a Junior School for gifted children at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow and was later appointed Director of the Junior Department at the RCM. Following Sir David Willcocks’ appointment as RCM Director in 1974, Michael successively held the posts of Registrar, Director of Studies and Vice-Director before becoming Director in 1984.

He always endeavoured to promote the RCM overseas and succeeded in repositioning the RCM internationally. In 1985 Michael was invited by the Sultan of Oman to establish the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and the following year embarked, with the late Belle Shenkman, on organising RCM concerts at more than 40 Embassies and High Commissions worldwide, sponsored by Jaguar Cars. On his retirement in 1993, Michael was appointed a Vice-President of the RCM. He continued to teach and adjudicate, and sat on a number of musical charities well into his retirement.

Michael Gough Matthews died on 11 April 2013. He was loved and respected by students and staff alike for his kindness and generosity of spirit. His legacy is still much in evidence today.

The Royal College of Music is delighted to announce the appointment of Miranda Francis as the new Head of Junior Programmes.

Miranda takes up her appointment in September. In this new role, she will succeed Peter Hewitt as Head of the RCM’s Junior Department and will also work closely with RCM Sparks, the RCM’s wide-reaching learning and participation programme.

Miranda is currently Head of Academic Music at the Purcell School. She is also Principal Examiner of Performance at Advanced Level for Edexcel and Area Leader for Aural Training at the RCM. She studied double bass at the Royal Academy of Music and received an MA in Music Education from the Institute of Education (University of London).

Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the RCM, commented: “I am absolutely delighted to announce Miranda’s appointment to the position of Head of Junior Programmes. This new position represents the RCM’s commitment to providing both elite training for the most talented musicians and inspirational musical experiences for all.”

Rag Week

The RCM Students’ Association organised a week of events in February in aid of this year’s charity the Parkinson’s Movement for the Cure Parkinson’s Trust.

Events during the week included a Cheese and Wine soiree, a salsa lesson and a pub quiz. Other fundraising efforts this term have included the second concert by the RCM Student Film Music Orchestra, featuring a special performance of Michael Kamen’s cult score for Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.

New Head of Junior Programmes
The President’s Visit 2013

On Wednesday 15 May, HRH The Prince of Wales visited the Royal College of Music where, in his role as President of the RCM, he presented special honours at the RCM’s annual awards ceremony.

This year was particularly special as it marked 20 years of HRH The Prince of Wales as our President and the creation of a brand-new honour, The President’s Award. You can read more about the award and its first recipient, RCM percussionist Ruairi Glasheen, on pages 10-11.

His Royal Highness conferred the Fellowship of the Royal College of Music (FRCM) on five outstanding figures in international musical life: Tony-Award winning tenor Alfie Boe, RCM Head of Percussion and principal with the BBC Symphony Orchestra David Hockings, guitarist and composer Gary Ryan, flautist and conductor Jaime Martin and Guildhall School of Music and Drama Principal Barry Ife.

Honorary Membership of the Royal College of Music (HonRCM) was presented to six individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to music and to the RCM: philanthropist Graham Bamford, composer and educator Rachel Leach, RCM Director of Finance Marcus McDonald, RCM Director of Development Samir Savant, philanthropist Dasha Shenkman and Philharmonia Orchestra chief David Whelton.

Leading British conductor Christopher Hogwood, universally regarded as one of the world’s leading exponents of historically-informed performance, was presented with an Honorary Doctorate.

His Royal Highness also presented the Tagore Gold Medal to two students who graduated last year – violinist Mari Poll and trumpeter Christian Barraclough – and the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rose Bowl to pianist Caterina Grewe.

After the ceremony, His Royal Highness attended a short concert in which the Tagore medallists and Rosebowl winner performed works by Ravel, Hertel and Rachmaninov, and then met RCM students and supporters.
Windsor Festival International String Competition

RCM violinist Ben Baker has triumphed at the prestigious Fourth Windsor Festival International String Competition, winning both the First Prize and the Audience Prize.

Ben beat off competition from seven other semi-finalists – some the world’s finest young string players – to be awarded the top prize fund valued at more than £20,000. The prize also includes a concerto performance with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the competition’s associate orchestra, at the Windsor Festival in September and a solo recording opportunity with Champs Hill Records.

Ben, who is an ABRSM scholar at the RCM studying with Natasha Boyarsky, said of his win:

“Performing in the historic and inspiring surroundings of Windsor Castle was very special, and to come away with such a coveted prize has been quite overwhelming. The reality is still sinking in but I am already looking forward to returning to Windsor to play with the Philharmonia in September.”

Musical Impact

The UK’s nine top conservatoires have come together for a new £1 million project on the health and wellbeing of performing musicians.

Musical Impact is a four year project that aims to generate new knowledge of the physical and mental demands of music making and to identify effective strategies for promoting musicians’ health and wellbeing. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the participating institutions, it aims to provide comprehensive resources to maximise musicians’ educational and professional opportunities.

Professor of Performance Science at the RCM Aaron Williamon, who will be leading one of three strands of research, said: “I’m thrilled about Musical Impact, which offers an exciting opportunity to make a tangible difference to the lives and health of musicians.”

Director of the RCM, Professor Colin Lawson, commented: “Nothing is more important to the members of Conservatoires UK than the health and wellbeing of our students. We are delighted to be working together on a project that promises to make such a positive difference to their lives.”

The project will be led by Conservatoires UK and also involves scientists from Cardiff University and Cardiff Metropolitan University. Crucially, these centres of learning will also be working with professional musicians and their employers – via the Musicians Union and the Association of British Orchestras – as well as health practitioners and researchers linked to the British Association for Performing Arts Medicine and the International Health Humanities Network. For further information, visit www.rcm.ac.uk/cps/musicalimpact

The Story of Music

RCM musicians Anne Marie Christensen and Emmanuelle Fleurot, and RCM Quartet in Association the Sacconi Quartet have all featured in Howard Goodall’s BBC2 programme The Story of Music.

In the six-part series, composer Howard Goodall traced the story of music from the ancient world to the modern day, and suggested that music has always been a crucial part of human existence.

Lang Lang Music World

Professor Vanessa Latarche, Head of Keyboard at the RCM, has been appointed Vice Chairman of Lang Lang Music World: Lang Lang’s school for gifted pianists in Shenzhen, China.

This advisory role will see Vanessa make a number of visits to the school, where she has already given several masterclasses.

The appointment represents the latest phase in the close relationship the RCM enjoys with Lang Lang, who recently visited the RCM for two immensely popular masterclasses, received an Honorary Doctorate, and met participants in the RCM’s International Piano Course.

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In the news...

Composer of the Week

Two much-loved RCM composers, Gordon Jacob and Joseph Horovitz, have been the subject of BBC Radio 3’s popular programme Composer of the Week.

Gordon Jacob (1895–1984) composed more than 400 works and spent much of his time tutoring at the RCM. His star pupil Joseph Horovitz (born 1926) followed in Jacob’s footsteps, and has himself taught at the RCM for almost 50 years.

Each day, from 15 to 19 April, Joseph Horovitz joined presenter Donald Macleod to explore both his own music and that of his teacher. The producer of this edition was Luke Whitlock, RCM alumnus and former member of staff.

Joseph Horovitz teaching at the RCM

2013 Rod Williams Memorial Concert

The RCM was pleased to welcome Nigel Woolner and Jeremy Pickering, representatives of the Mills Williams Foundation, to a concert by the RCM Classical Orchestra conducted by Sir Roger Norrington.

The current Mills Williams Junior Fellow, pianist Yulia Deakin, was delighted to attend the event and be presented with the Mills Williams Medal, which Peter Mills commissioned for all recipients of the award.

Peter Mills established the Mills Williams award on the death of his life-long partner, Rod Williams, in 1995. To date, the award has endorsed 17 Mills Williams Junior Fellowships and continues to fund an annual concert at the RCM in memory of Rod Williams. Peter himself died in 2006 after a long battle with cancer, but happily the Mills Williams Foundation lives on with the objective of supporting music and young musicians.

Yulia Deakin

RCM and the BBC Proms

This summer the RCM once again plays a big part in the BBC Proms, the world’s greatest classical music festival. Every Prom will be preceded by a Proms Plus event in the RCM’s Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall.

In addition RCM Sparks Summer Music runs alongside the BBC Proms season and offers a range of events for participants of all ages and levels of ability.

This year the series includes fun workshops for 6 to 12 year olds that explore music from selected Proms and an exciting new three-day course for young people aged 10 to 12, inspired by Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition. For teenagers, a five-day composition course sees participants create an eclectic new ensemble and compose a new piece inspired by music from the Proms. Finally, new hands-on taster workshops for families offer storytelling in the RCM Museum of Music, samba drumming and gospel singing. All participants are eligible for special Prom concert ticket offers.

For more information visit www.rcm.ac.uk/summermusic

Yulia Deakin

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The Boconnoc Music Award

The Cataleya Quintet has been named as the second recipients of the Boconnoc Award.

Comprising RCM musicians Diego Aceña, Alasdair Hill, Pablo Ortiz De Urbina, Sophie Robertshaw and Adrian Somogyi, the ensemble will be resident at Boconnoc from 22 to 26 July, culminating in a public concert on 26 July in the estate’s parish church as well as recitals at Boconnoc House on 23 and 25 July.

The award was established last year thanks to the generosity of Anthony and Elizabeth Fortescue, owners of Boconnoc, in Cornwall. The prize constitutes a week’s residency on the estate, with all travel, lodging and costs covered, providing a valuable opportunity for the musicians to work intensively on repertoire and technique in a private and unique environment.

Pablo Ortiz de Urbina said: “There is nothing more exciting than being given an opportunity to be inspired by music and to do so in a peaceful environment. An opportunity like the Boconnoc Award is so valuable to our professional careers and reminds us why we love music so much.”

To find out more about Boconnoc and the Cataleya Quintet concerts, please email info@boconnoc.com, telephone 01208 872 507 or visit www.boconnoc.com.

A royal trip to Qatar

Musicians from the RCM performed for royalty during a recent trip to Qatar.

RCM Artistic Director Stephen Johns, together with RCM cellist Sarah Joyce and violinist Joseph Devalle, travelled to the capital city of Doha in March.

During their visit they worked with young musicians from the Qatar Music Academy and gave a performance at the Katara Cultural Village for Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. For the concert, Stephen conducted works by Purcell and Shostakovich, while Sarah and Joseph joined forces with RCM alumna Amira Fouad, Artistic Director of Qatar Music and Arts, to play the Andante from Mendelssohn’s D minor Trio.

The three RCM representatives also took time to visit the English Speaking School in Doha, where they gave performances and masterclasses, and the city’s Yamaha showroom for an introduction to the RCM.

A history of ABRSM

A new book on the history of ABRSM has been written by David Wright, previously Reader in the Social History of Music at the RCM.

Published by Boydell & Brewer, this ground-breaking history explores how ABRSM became a formative influence and looks at some of the consequences resulting from its pre-eminent position in British musical life.

Upbeat readers can claim a 35% discount by entering the offer code 13032 on the Boydell & Brewer’s website. The offer is valid until the end of August.
The RCM calendar is always packed full of extraordinary and intriguing concerts, masterclasses, lectures and events. But among all of these there’s one annual event that always stands out: The President’s Visit, when students, staff and supporters get to rub shoulders not only with HRH The Prince of Wales, but also with musical royalty in the shape of our honoured prize-winners and award recipients.

The list of those who have attended the President’s Visit is quite extraordinary, and reads like a “Who’s Who” of classical music in the last 100 years. In addition to the most significant British composers, conductors and performers, the RCM has played host to international figures such as Abbado, Barenboim, Boulez, Casals and Domingo (for letters E to Z you’ll have to visit the website...). They have all made the pilgrimage to Prince Consort Road to shake hands with royalty and to sign the RCM’s hallowed Book of Honours, surely one of the musical world’s most treasured objects.

There’s no doubt that Prince Charles’s presence is a big draw for these figures, and Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the RCM, is enormously appreciative of his support. He told Upbeat: “The Prince of Wales is a wonderful advocate for the RCM and indeed for music itself. We know that he loves music and particularly the music of our second director, Hubert Parry. There’s no doubt that having that sort of advocacy at this level is very important to us.”

Of course the President’s Visit isn’t all about the awards. After the ceremony, there’s a more informal part of the day, when students can meet the Prince and talk to him about music. (On one particularly memorable occasion, they even engaged with him in an impromptu pool tournament!) The Prince always seems to relish this part of the day, and takes a genuine interest in the lives of the current generation of RCM students.

The 2013 President’s Visit was a particularly special occasion. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of his Presidency, Prince Charles decided to inaugurate a brand new award, honouring a student for their outstanding work in the wider community.

Professor Lawson is particularly delighted that the award will celebrate achievement in this area of the RCM’s activity. “Every musician today has to work out how they can interact with the community, and outreach work is a very important part of what we do. The RCM Sparks programme not only gives our students a tremendous opportunity to work with young people, but also gives a wonderful experience to the children themselves, who are inspired by what we have to offer.”

This May – having commissioned Norfolk-based wood carver Tim Plunkett to carve a rose bowl from a piece of oak from his Duchy of Cornwall Estate – His Royal Highness presented the inaugural award to Irish percussionist Ruairi Glasheen, who has been working with RCM Sparks for four years. After receiving the award, Ruairi joined with students on the RCM’s Sparks Juniors programme to give a special performance for His Royal Highness.

Professor Lawson described Ruairi as a “wonderful choice for this award”, and told Upbeat: “He’s done a great deal for our Sparks programme, which brings the RCM into the wider community and benefits thousands of young people. He is a fantastic advocate – a very fine percussionist, a great personality – and really embodies all the RCM values!”

HRH The Prince of Wales annual visits to the Royal College of Music are always special occasions and we look forward to welcoming him back for many years to come.
Why do you do so much education and outreach work?

For me, making music is so much about the people. Part of the reason why I came to the RCM and pursued music is because of the great people. And particularly working in the community and in schools you’re always meeting amazing new people. That is really inspiring for me.

Also I didn’t start playing percussion until I was 17, and I think because I came to it so late, that’s really been a great driving force for me to get involved in education and outreach, and work in the community.

Do you have a favourite project that you’ve worked on?

Among many other things, I’m a percussion teacher at Holland Park Secondary School. When we started teaching there through the RCM’s “Musicians of the Future” programme there was very little music happening in the school. But in the three years that we’ve been there it’s just grown and grown, and it’s now a really thriving department. When they came to the RCM and did a performance as part of the percussion festival – with a human metronome! – that was really good fun!

How do you feel about receiving the award?

When I found out about the award I was very honoured, obviously. I’m in my final term here now, so real life is impending! And it’s always great to move on with some recognition for what you’ve been doing.

My mum and dad came all the way from Ireland, and two of my band mates from my band Tir Eolas came along too. So it was a good celebration!

How and why did you come to percussion aged 17?

Well it’s funny really! I was born in the UK but my parents are both Irish, and when I was very little – about 4 – I started playing the bodhrán. When I was 7 my family moved back to Ireland and funnily enough, I then stopped playing the bodhrán completely. I didn’t play anything at all until the age of about 16 or 17, when I got an urge to play the drum kit.

Seeing a performance by Evelyn Glennie, seeing how she did things, was a very clear moment. I think that when you get to that age of 16 or 17, you really lock into something, and find your passion. It was very instant, and I just decided: that was it. And two and a half years later, I somehow managed to get into the RCM!

Can you tell us about your band?

When I first moved to London I didn’t know anybody at all. And on my very first day in the kitchen at our halls of residence, I met a very nice lady called Pippa Mercer, and we both started our undergraduate degrees at the same time here at the RCM. We were pretty much best friends from the very start, we met guitarist Laura Snowden a couple of months later, and we formed a band called Tir Eolas.

We were originally a trio, but over the years we’ve added and changed shape, formation and outlook. It’s been about four years since we really started making music together. It’s a great part of what I do, or my creative output. We’ve recently played at Ronnie Scotts and at The Forge, which were two amazing gigs. We’re recording an EP, and it would be great to do a few more videos.

How do you work together?

We all write together: I do write songs separately too and Laura writes a lot of the songs, but it’s a really collaborative group and we all contribute.

When I came to music I couldn’t read music, and it’s still my great weakness – it always has been. When I play in the band there’s very seldom sheet music involved and it’s all very organic. And I think that aspect of my work – where things aren’t written down – transfers really well to the outreach and education work, maybe because it’s so accessible.

Did you enjoy the day?

I was very excited, of course! In particular, I really enjoyed playing: I think it’s much easier getting up and playing than having to talk about things!
Celebrating 20 years of
HRH The Prince of Wales
as President of the Royal College of Music

Over the past 20 years many students, staff and distinguished guests have had the opportunity to meet HRH The Prince of Wales at his annual visit to the Royal College of Music. Here are just a few of our favourite moments captured on film.
1998: HRH The Prince of Wales enjoys a game of pool in the student bar as part of his annual visit to the RCM.

2002: HRH The Prince of Wales tries his hand at the RCM’s gamelan.

2004: HRH The Prince of Wales confers the FRCM on world-renowned soprano Dame Emma Kirkby.

2007: HRH The Prince of Wales confers the FRCM on baritone and alumnus Gerald Finley.

2008: HRH The Prince of Wales listens to a performance by RCM Sparks, the Royal College of Music’s learning and participation programme.

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Meet the supporters...

Ruth West

Scholarship supporters Ruth West and her husband Michael share a life-long interest in music and have supported five RCM musicians over the past few years. Upbeat caught up with Ruth as she visited the RCM for a scholarship reception.

Has music always been important to you?

My father was very musical and there was a lot of music at home when I was growing up. I have fond memories of singing around the piano on a Sunday evening. I’ve always loved ballet and opera, and remember being very excited as a young girl when Sadler’s Wells came to Belfast. I went for music lessons with an eccentric teacher, who unfortunately never managed to teach me the piano, but she did teach me how to listen to music. So that’s how it all began. My husband, Michael, is not from a musical background but when we came over from Ireland to live in Birmingham we enjoyed going to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to see plays and operas. Then we lived in Germany for a few years before moving to London in 1985, when we began to go to the Royal Opera House.

How did you first hear about the RCM?

We’d supported the RSPCC for many years, but I was looking to find a way of doing something a bit more personal for young people. As I’ve always enjoyed music, supporting young musicians seemed the perfect idea. The thing that attracted me most to the RCM was the sense of enthusiasm; I was immediately engaged by what the RCM was doing.

Who have you supported so far?

As I love opera so much I was particularly keen to support a singer. But actually my first student was José Antonio Domené, a harpist. So out of the blue came José with his harp into my life! He was a lovely chap and we put on a musical evening in our house for about 30 people. He really loved studying at the RCM and was always very good about keeping in touch. He’s now a professor in Spain and also occasionally plays for the opera house in Barcelona. José’s father, who had been a promising singer, became a nurse because he didn’t have the funds to support his own musical training. So it was lovely to be able to support his son in this way.

Who else have you supported?

Since then I’ve supported a countertenor called Rupert Enticknap. He’s now gone on to great things in Vienna. In fact, he wrote to me recently to tell me he had to step-up last minute to the title role in Handel’s Radamisto at the Theater an der Wien.

And what about your husband, Michael?

My husband supports two saxophonists. It came about in a rather funny way actually, Michael half-jokingly said to Professor Colin Lawson: “I don’t suppose you accept saxophonists here at the RCM?” And he said, “Oh yes we do!” And so at the moment he supports two terrific performers from South Africa and Slovakia. We met them both at a marvellous Big Band concert in February.

So altogether we’ve supported five students over the past few years. You become very interested in your students and you really want them to do well. We’re now in a position to put back something and it’s lovely to give people a chance who might not otherwise have it. They’re so talented and it would be such a shame if they missed their place for lack of funds.

Are you looking forward to coming to the scholars’ reception tonight?

Yes, and it’s the first time that we’ll meet our current student Tai Oney, who is a countertenor studying at the Opera School. I’m so excited to meet him. It’s lovely to meet the personality behind the talent.

What would you say to someone who’s thinking about supporting the arts?

You meet some very interesting people. It’s just lovely to see them progressing, moving on to better things and knowing that you have supported that. It opens up new interests too. I didn’t know very much about the harp at all before meeting José, but I became very interested in the instrument as a result. For example, I’d not noticed how many harps there are in the Ring Cycle!

I think it’s also the welcome you get here, the RCM is a lovely place to have a relationship with. I’m not very knowledgeable about music, but no-one makes you feel out of place. It’s just wonderful to be able to give young musicians the chance to succeed.

Welcome to new Friends and Supporters

We are delighted to welcome the following people who have recently made their first donation to RCM

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For more information about supporting the RCM, visit www.rcm.ac.uk/supportus.
Alternatively, contact Irisa Frankle on 020 7591 4861 or irisa.frankle@rcm.ac.uk.
Composition collaborations

RCM composers Laurence Osborn, Gerardo Gozzi, Raquel García Tomás, Ryan Cockerham and Andrew Baldwin have collaborated with English National Ballet dancers to create a series of new pieces. Choreographics – A Letter to... was performed at The Place in May... RCM Junior Department composers Aidan Judd, Phoebe McFarlane, Gabriella Noble and Joseph Reynolds have collaborated with young choreographers and dancers from The Place as part of this year’s Sound Moves project... Pedro Faria Gomes’ new work – Tereza’s Dreams – has been premiered by members of the London Chamber Orchestra at Cadogan Hall.

Vocal achievements

Soprano Sinead O'Kelly has been awarded First Prize at the Association of English Singers & Speakers (AESS) Courtney Kenny Award... Ahead of the London Handel Festival and RCM production of Imeneo in March, singers Louise Alder and Morgan Pearse appeared on Resonance FM’s Opera Hour while Hannah Sandison, Tai Oney, Katherine Crompton, Luke D Williams and Bradley Travis featured on BBC Radio 3’s In Tune to discuss the opera and talk about their experiences of studying at the RCM... Soprano Laura Wright has sung I Vow To The My Country in the February edition of Songs of Praise, broadcast from St Mary’s Church in Portsmouth... Baritone Morgan Pearse has won the John Hosier Award... Soprano Anna Rajah has been awarded the Musicians Benevolent Fund Miriam Licette Scholarship and the Audience Prize at the Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards.

Keyboard accomplishments

Oliver Poole, Pedro Gomes, Miklos Veszpremi, Mei Hui Tan and Julian Toha along with Head of Keyboard Technical Services Chris Moulton have visited Hurstwood Farm Pianos in Kent to try out some of the most innovative pianos in the world, including the first and only all-carbon fibre piano known as the ‘Phoenix’... Pianist Ian Tindale has been awarded the Accompanists’ Prize at the Association of English Singers & Speakers (AESS) Courtney Kenny Award.

String successes

The Vasara Quartet, comprising Emma Oldfield, Jessica Coleman, Emma Purslow and Kristiana Ignatjeva, has won joint First Prize at the Britten Intercollegiate String Quartet Competition. Sponsored by the Britten-Pears Foundation, the competition celebrated the early chamber works of Britten in his centenary year.
Violinist Lyrit Milgram has won the 2013 Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award for emerging musicians in Canada with Jewish roots.

Violinist Aisha Syed has given concerts in Tel Aviv, Madrid and the Dominican Republic with Pasió n Latina World Tour. She has also won the Soberano Award in the Dominican Republic for Best Classical Artist Abroad... Guitarist Giacomo Bigoni has won Third Prize at the Celano Guitar Competition and First Prize in Città di Treviso International Musical Competition in Italy... Violinist Alessandro Ruisi has been awarded the Musicians Benevolent Fund Emily English Scholarship... Violinist Valeria Kurbatova and flautist Luce Zurita have won a place in the finals of the Croydon Concerto Competition.

Brass successes

Kensington Brass, a detect featuring Ryan Linham, Toby Street, Adam Stockbridge, Tom Griffiths, Finlay Bain, Tom Barton, Adam Taylor, Gordon Maclachlan, Jim Alexander and Stephen Calow, performed along the route of the London Marathon, rallying on the many runners including Head of Strings Mark Messenger and Concert Manager Jess Pearce... Junior Department trombonist Jasper Rose has won the British Trombone Society Carol Jarvis Jazz Competition. His prize includes an all-expenses paid trip to the USA to attend the Centrum Jazz Workshop in Washington.

Research achievements

Doctoral student Alessandro Sanguineti has published an article in the American journal Performance Practice Review. His article is entitled ‘Unearthing Forgotten Treasures: Anonymous Arias with Obbligato Violoncello at the Estense Library, Modena’.

Spotlight on...

RCM composers Raquel García Tomás and Ryan Cockerham have provided the soundtrack to an intriguing sculpture exhibition.

Galleries at the Royal British Society of Sculptors (RBS) have been transformed by sculptor Rob Olins’ large scale work In Visible, a series of bright, unnaturally coloured concave acoustic dishes which challenge visual perceptions and auditory responses. Raquel and Ryan complemented the installation with a series of pieces recorded by combining natural and manmade sounds from the surrounding area with new music technologies. Raquel’s piece steel:speeches was installed until 26 April, while Ryan's will be in place until the end of August.

In Visible is open to view 12.00pm – 5.30pm Wednesday to Friday (or by appointment) at The Royal British Society of Sculptors on Old Brompton Road, London SW7.
Professor of Performance Science **Aaron Williamon** is in residence at the Cheltenham Music Festival in July. He will give a series of talks with Professor Roger Kneebone from Imperial College on how professional musicians and surgeons cope with the stress of life on the front line. There will also be an opportunity to try out the RCM’s new Performance Simulator, a training facility to help musicians with the transition from the practice room to the stage.

Junior Department piano teacher **Clara Rodríguez** has curated a series of concerts at London’s Bolívar Hall. The programmes showcased the best of Classical, South American and Jazz music, performed by a host of well-loved Venezuelan and French musicians.

Director of Opera **Michael Rosewell** has conducted Bach’s St John Passion with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. It was the first time the work has been performed on Good Friday in the National Concert Hall in Dublin. The soloists included tenors **Mark Wilde** (as the Evangelist) and **Eamonn Mulhall**.

Violin professor **Yuri Zhislin** and his orchestra, the Russian Virtuosi of Europe, have given an early evening concert at Kings Place, London. The programme featured concertos by J S Bach and Vivaldi, string works by Kreisler and Shostakovich and a sextet by Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff.

Violin professor **Natalia Lomeiko** has performed Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra at Cadogan Hall. Conducted by Music Director Pavel Kogan, the concert formed part of the Zurich International Concert Series for 2012–13.

Junior Department musicianship teacher and cellist **Shirely Smart** has organised a popular music jam session – Gypsy Nights – at the Green Note in Camden, London. The regular event attracts many top musicians from the world music scene and welcomes new musicians to join them.

**Vasco Hixel**, Area Leader in Composition for Screen, has contributed music for BBC1’s *Panorama* and Channel 4’s *Supersize vs Superskinny*. Together with Academy Award winner Jan A P Kaczmarek, he is in the process of setting up a series of short screen composition courses at the Rozbikte Institute in Poland for autumn 2013.

**Dave Conservatoire**, an online music school created by Web and New Media Officer **David Rees**, has taught its 50,000th lesson. Over the past 12 months, nearly 12,000 students from more than 120 countries have visited the site, which offers short video lessons and interactive exercises on music theory, history and technology. Find out more at [www.daveconservatoire.org](http://www.daveconservatoire.org) and follow [Dave Conservatoire](https://twitter.com/dconservatoire) as it develops.

**Paul Dawson-Bowling**, the husband of Junior Department harpsichord teacher **Elizabeth de la Porte**, has published a new book on Wagner. *The Wagner Experience and Its Meaning to Us* is the first large-scale, stand-alone account for many years to expound the stories and context of Wagner’s great dramas.
Vocal professors Janis Kelly, Justin Lavender and Roderick Earle have visited the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Singapore. During their visit they gave one-to-one lessons and a masterclass, and sang in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony at the Esplanade Theatre with the NAFA chorus, conducted by alumnus Lim Yau. They look forward to welcoming students from the NAFA to the Royal College of Music in September.

Junior Department viola teacher Sarah-Jane Bradley has recorded Matthew Taylor’s Viola Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. The CD will be released on Toccata Classics this autumn. She also looks forward to the release of Walther Braunfels’ Viola Concerto, which she recorded with the BBC Chamber Orchestra for Dutton Epoch, in October.

HR advisor Vicki Brock has sung in the chorus of Cole Porter’s popular musical Anything Goes. Organised by the Wimbledon Light Opera Society, it was performed at the New Wimbledon Theatre over four nights in June.

Concert Manager Jess Pearce has run the London Marathon, raising more than £3,000 for The Neuro Foundation, a charity that provides support, advice and help to those affected by neurofibromatosis. Visit www.justgiving.com/jessrunsthelondonmarathon to support her.

Head of Historical Performance Ashley Solomon and RCM Ensemble in Association Florilegium have been in residence at the Bath International Music Festival. The highlight was a performance of Purcell’s Dido & Aeneas with RCM alumnae Helen-Jane Howells (Dido) and Elin Manahan Thomas (Belinda), and nine members of the RCM Chamber Choir in the chorus. The staged production was conducted by Ashley and given in the Roman Baths (which the local authority drained for the performances!).

Brass Band in Residence Zone One Brass has played live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show as part of ‘2Day’, a 12-hour celebration of everything the radio channel has to offer. Live from the stage of London’s Hackney Empire, the band played a mix of pop tunes, including some of Chris Evans’ favourites, and a live version of the Breakfast Show jingle.

Head of Strings Mark Messenger has run the London Marathon, raising more than £4,000 for students who would otherwise not be able to study at the RCM. The event took place on the same day as Super String Sunday, the RCM’s annual string extravaganza, and Mark even made it back to the RCM to play Mendelssohn’s Octet in the final performance of the day.

Opera Coach Michael Pollock and has released a new CD of English songs with baritone Anthony Michaels-Moore. Featuring works by alumni Charles Villiers Stanford and Ralph Vaughan Williams, the recording is one of three first releases from Opus Arte in conjunction with Rosenblatt Recital Series.
James Brown has been named Artist Manager of the Year at the ABO/Rhinegold Classical Music Industry Awards. James was honoured principally for the successful year of pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, whom he manages.

David W Tattersall has been awarded an Order of Australia (OAM) for services to music through education and administration. David has recently retired as Director of the University of Canberra College of Music, which he established ten years ago.

Composer Alex Wilson has been selected as Fellow of the Cheltenham Music Festival, following a grant from the BBC Performing Arts Fund. In this role, he will work under the guidance of a professional mentor to develop his skills, as well as lending support to the festival.

Violinist Ruth Palmer has performed Korngold’s Violin Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Conducted by Yutaka Sado at Nottingham’s Royal Concert Hall, the programme also included Rimsky-Korsakov’s Capriccio Espagnol and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony no 4.

Soprano Sophie Bevan has been named Best Young Singer at the first International Opera Awards. She beat off steep competition from a host of rising international stars. Also nominated for the award of Best Female Singer was alumna Sarah Connolly.

Singer Alison Arnopp has won Third Prize and $7,500 at the Lotte Lenya International Theatre Singing Competition. Held at the Eastman School in Rochester, New York, the competition was set up in honour of Lotte Lenya and recognises talented young singers and actors.

Pianist Alan Chu has performed Saint-Saëns’ The Carnival of the Animals with the Pro Arte Orchestra of Hong Kong under the baton of maestro Ho-Man Choi.

Soprano Elizabeth Watts has released a single of Handel’s aria Lascia ch’io piana with the charity Streetwise Opera. All proceeds go towards supporting the work of the charity with homeless people. The track is available from iTunes.

Saxophonist Amy Dickson has released a new album, Dusk & Dawn, on Sony. The disc features a collection of classical pieces, songs and film music including several arrangements by big-band specialist Chris Walden and composer/orchestrator Nan Schwartz.
Guitarist Manus Noble has released his debut CD. Nightshade features world premiere recordings including Hot Club Francais written by Assistant Head of Strings Gary Ryan.

Composer Christopher Letcher has contributed music to the BBC2 drama The Challenger. The ambitious factual show followed physicist Dr Richard Feynman (played by William Hurt) on his painstaking journey to search for answers following the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster.

Bob Hayden-Gilbert has written a series of interactive, tutorial CDs for beginner wind players. Known as iBegin*, the first four titles for Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet and Alto Saxophone are available online from musicroom.com

Jeremy Morris has celebrated 50 years as choirmaster at St Andrew’s with Castle Gate United Reformed Church in Nottingham. Over his time there he has built up a strong adult choir of between 25 and 30 singers.

Composer Francesco Antonioni’s new work Ballata has been performed by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) at London’s Wigmore Hall. Commissioned by BCMG in 2009, the piece takes its inspiration from two songs: a lullaby from southern Italy and a ballade, Ecco la primavera, composed in the 15th century by the Florentine Francesco Landini.

Composer David Braid’s Second Piano Sonata has been premiered at The Forge in Camden by Sergei Podobedov. His first sonata was performed for the first time last July at the Purcell Room.

Countertenor Rupert Enticknap has sung the title role in Vincent Boussard’s production of Radamisto at the Theater an der Wien. He made his debut there at the start of the season singing L’umana fragilita / Pisandro in Claus Guth’s production of Il ritorno d’Ulisse.

Violist Isabel Villanueva reached the final of the VII Yuri Bashmet International Viola Competition in Moscow. She performed Bartók’s Viola Concerto with the New Russia National Symphony Orchestra and Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante with the Moscow Soloists.

Composer Marcos Fernandez has released his latest CD – Piano Underscore – on iTunes and Amazon. Featuring his own compositions for piano, the disc was recorded with Cre.Art Ensemble, RCM graduates and members of the Symphony Orchestra of Oviedo. Marcos has also won the Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga Composition Prize organised by the SGAE and Fundacion Autor and heard his winning piece performed by Grupo Instrumental SXX at the Reina Sofia National Museum in Madrid.

Composer Monica Hunter (née Kendrick) reports on a recent alumni gathering...

In November last year, a group of alumni who earned their GRSMs in 1957 met in Cranmer Methodist Church to hear a very fine performance of Grieg’s Piano Concerto, played by alumna Sothie Paul-Duraisamy. Sothie, bridesmaid to one and loved by all her year group, came from Kuala Lumpur to perform with the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra at the behest of Margaret Myatt (née Lucas), violinist with the orchestra.

Sothie’s charming husband, Louis, also came with her and we had a celebration meal the night before the concert with Jackie Chapling (née Knight) and enjoyed catching up on all the news.

Our friendships have been fostered over many years with regular reunions held in Cambridge – often for some 20 guests – providing an opportunity to share national and international musical experiences.
Obituaries

RCM alumnus and renowned conductor **Sir Colin Davis** died on Sunday 14 April. Sir Colin Davis made an amazing contribution to British musical life, working with many of the world’s leading orchestras. He was Principal Conductor and President of the London Symphony Orchestra, and internationally renowned for his interpretations of Mozart, Sibelius and Berlioz. Sir Colin was a Foundation Scholar at the RCM from September 1944 to July 1946. He studied clarinet with Frederick Thurston, as well as the piano, and received an ARCM in Clarinet Solo in December 1945. In 1946 he was awarded the E F James Prize. His studies were interrupted by a period of National Service with the band of the Household Cavalry, but he re-entered the RCM in April 1948 thanks to an award granted by the Minister of Education. He left in July 1949, and was awarded the FRCM in 1969. You can read a full obituary and leave a message of condolence on the London Symphony Orchestra website at www.lso.co.uk

RCM alumnus, former professor and RCM Fellow **Stephen Dodgson** has died. Stephen was a student at the RCM from April 1947 to July 1949. His principal instrument was horn, which he studied with Frank Probyn, but he described his second study of composition – which he initially took with R O Morris and then with Patrick Hadley – as his “real incentive”. He won two composition prizes: the Cobbett Memorial Prize in 1948 for his *Fantasy String Quartet* and the Sullivan Prize in 1949. He also won an Octavia Travelling Scholarship in the summer of 1949, enabling him to visit Italy. In 1956 he returned to the RCM as a teacher and conductor of the Junior Orchestra. He was later appointed to the professorial staff, and taught composition and theory from September 1965 until he retired in July 1982 to devote more time to composition. He was awarded the FRCM in 1981. A special memorial concert for Stephen Dodgson will be held on Wednesday 23 October at the RCM. Further details will be available on the RCM website from 21 August when the autumn season goes on sale.

Marriages

**Alumni Alan Chu** and **Fabiola Wong** married on New Year’s Eve 2012 in Hong Kong after meeting each other in London eight years ago.