



**R O Y A L**

**C O L L E G E**

**O F M U S I C**

*London*

# RCM STRINGS FESTIVAL

Sunday 22 June 2025

*We would like to thank Jerwood Foundation for their generous support of this event through the Jerwood Visiting Artist Fund*



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# Welcome

A very warm welcome to the 2025 RCM Strings Festival. It's a considerable challenge to showcase on just one day the full richness of musical activity that takes place within the RCM Strings Faculty across an entire year but today's events hopefully give you a flavour of musical life at the RCM and feature a wide variety of performances in many different musical styles.

We welcome the LGT soloists, the Sacconi Quartet and students from the Stauffer Academy in Italy, who will be performing alongside RCM professors in concerts later today.

Jazz guitar professor Dr Milton Mermikides brings together current RCM guitarists and alumni in the form of his Eclectic Guitar Orchestra (EGO), highlighting the recent launch of the RCM's Unplugged Exhibition which features the most expensive guitar in the world in the form of Kurt Cobain's Martin guitar (alongside the oldest guitar from 1581 made by Belchor Dias). We also welcome the brilliant young Scottish guitarist Ian Watt who will be performing a lunchtime concert at 12.30pm in the Performance Hall.

Chamber groups from the RCM's Junior Department will be performing in the afternoon concerts and we have workshops taking place for young double bassists.

The music featured across the day ranges from well-loved favourites such as Vaughan William's Lark Ascending and Elgar's Serenade for Strings to lesser-known works in the form of Enescu's Octet which opens the festival. I have also programmed a few personal favourites in the form of Finzi's Eclogue for Piano and String Orchestra and John Ireland's Elegy from A Downland Suite.

There are also many smaller pop-up performances around the building featuring solo and duo repertoire, through to piano trios, string quartets and quintets.

Hopefully there is something for everybody and we hope that you are able to stay and savour as much of the day as possible. You will hear wonderful music in all corners of the building, which in many ways is the perfect way to summarise the RCM. Do also take time to enjoy the RCM Café, where you can relax between concerts.

It is a real pleasure and privilege to work in such an amazing musical environment and (like all great performances) the festival is very much the product of teamwork and collaboration. With this in mind I would like to thank everybody who is performing today and also my colleagues in Faculties and Performance and Programming who have helped to bring the festival together. We very much hope you enjoy the day.

**Gary Ryan**

Head of Strings

# WHAT'S ON

## ENESCU OCET IN C MAJOR OP 7

11AM | AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL

Esther Park, Jordan Brooks, Joe Macdonald,

Emmanuel Webb violin

Kassia Ren, Zephyr Wills viola

Rasmus Andersen, Lily Dai cello

## STAUFFER: AROLA QUARTET

12PM | PERFORMANCE STUDIO

Ravel String Quartet in F major

Shostakovich Quartet no 7 in F sharp minor op 108

Samuel Hirsch violin Alla Ternova violin

Viktoria Vanteeva viola Zoia Sudnis cello

## IAN WATT RECITAL

12.30PM | PERFORMANCE HALL

Described by *Classical Guitar Magazine* as 'a guitarist of outstanding skill and originality', Scottish guitarist Ian Watt has given solo recitals throughout the world. Additionally, he has made three solo recordings for Nimbus Alliance. In addition to performing, he is a committed teacher who has given masterclasses throughout the world and is at present a lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

**Mangoré** La Catedral

*Preludio saudade*

*Andante religioso*

*Allegro solemne*

**Madrigal (Gavota)**

**John McLeod** Three Mythical Pieces

*Amphion's Lyre*

*Salamander*

*Ariadne's Thread*

**Debussy** Préludes Book 1

No 8 'La fille aux cheveux de lin' (trans. Watt)

No 12 'Minstrels' (trans. Castelnuovo-Tedesco)

**Castelnuovo-Tedesco** Capriccio Diabolico op 85

**Morricone (arr. Watt)** C'era una volta il west

**Albéniz** Seguidillas op 232 & 235 (trans. Watt)

## CAFÉ CONCERTS

1PM & 6PM

Experience live music in the Carolean, the RCM's café! Join some of RCM's top string ensembles performing short works in a unique venue, whilst enjoying all the refreshments on offer from the RCM café. This is an informal, accessible venue and is suitable for all.

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT: STRING ORCHESTRA

1.30PM | AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL

**Mozart** Allegro from Eine kleine Nachtmusik

**Ireland** Elegy from A Downland Suite

**Finzi** Eclogue for Piano and String Orchestra

**Elgar** Serenade

**Sam Scheer** conductor

### Violin 1

Annika Bowers

Audrey Au

Anthony Knight

Lily An

### Violin 2

Zoe Hirst

Alice Younger

Maria Panczyc

Sofia Holovchuk

### Viola

Katharine Wing

Danya Rushton

### Cello

Magdalena Drmac

Jimena Ferndandez

Flores

### Double Bass

Ines Araujo

## STRING SPOTLIGHT 1

2.30PM | PERFORMANCE HALL

**Grandjany** Rhapsody

**Tannaz Beigi** harp

**Shostakovich** Piano Trio No 1 in C minor op 8

**Enya Barber, Niccolò Citrani,**

**Matthew Clemmet**

**A Beach** Piano Quintet in F sharp minor op 67

**Elif Cansever, Sanni Talvitie, Norea**

**Quirijnen, Eddie Mead, Misha Kaploukhii**

## SACCONI QUARTET OPEN REHEARSAL

2.30PM | CARNE ROOM

Drop in to the Carne Room to hear our performers rehearsing for the 4.30pm concert.

## RCM GUITARS AND MILTON'S BIG EGO

3PM | AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL

### RCM Guitars:

**Golfam Khayam** Thousand Mirrors

**Hope Cramsie** guitar

**Aguado** Rhondo No 2 in A minor

**Hill Lee** guitar

**Piazzola (arr. S Assad)** Bandonéon

**Roco Dal Cin, Nathaniel Merkies** guitar

### Milton's Big EGO:

**Gillespie (arr. M Mermikides)** A Night in Tunisia

**Nirvana (arr. M Mermikides)** Smells Like Teen

Samba

**M Mermikides on a traditional Venezuelan melody**

Bogando a la Luz del Sol

**Tizol and Ellington (arr. M Mermikides)** Caravan

**Rollins (arr. M Mermikides)** St. Thomas

### EGOtists:

Gary Ryan

Milton Mermikides

Bridget Mermikides

John Wheatcroft

Amanda Cook

Pavel Ralev

**Double Bass**

Laura Snowden

Tess Miles

Hope Cramsie

Nathaniel Merkies

**Percussion**

Sacha Bistany

Lewis Isaacs

### The Eclectic Guitar Orchestra (aka Milton's Big

**EGO)** is a vibrant collective of classical, jazz, folk, flamenco, rock, and experimental guitarists. Since its founding by Milton Mermikides in 2006—following his recovery from leukaemia—it has brought together players including John Williams, Paco Peña, Thomas Leeb, and Craig Ogden, performing unique arrangements to raise money for cancer, bone marrow transplant, and other charities. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Milton's life-saving bone marrow transplant. All performers—RCM professors, alumni, and current students—have generously donated their time and talent for this special event.

## STRING SPOTLIGHT 2

4PM | PERFORMANCE STUDIO

**Shostakovich** String Quartet No 8 op 110

*i Largo*

*ii Allegro molto*

**RCM JD Quartet: Keira Asad, Jin da Silva,**

**Natan Sarker, Alex Cetateanu**

**Ravel** Sonata for violin and cello M 73

**Sharon Zhou, Alina Maries-Reim**

**Shostakovich** Piano Trio No 2 in E major

**Clara-Sofia Wernig, Yoel Rubin, Mischa Carr**

## COLLABORATION CONCERT

4.30PM | AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL

**Schubert** String Quartet no 14 in D Minor D810

*i Allegro*

**RCM JD Quartet: Peter Ryan, Richard Eichhorst** violin

**Harry Rughoo** viola **Madeleine Murray** cello

**Tchaikovsky** Serenade

**Sacconi Quartet\* with RCM students:**

### Violin

Ben Hancox\*

Hannah Dawson\*

Gabriele Brasaitte

Ray Sun

Kenza Stamselberg

Lucy Ruuskanen

Emma Demetriades

India Reilly

### Cello

Cara Berridge\*

Fabiola Sebastian

Guijarro

Vivian Tupker

### Double Bass

Levi Andreassen

Natalia Vazques

### Viola

Robin Ashwell\*

Zephyr Wills

Florence Cope

**Shostakovich** Octet

**RCM Professors\* with Arola Quartet:**

### Violin

Natalia Lomeiko\*

Gaby Lester\*

Samuel Hirsch

AllaTernova

### Viola

Yuri Zhislin\*

Viktoria Vanteeva

### Cello

Richard Harwood\*

Zoia Sudnis

## BACH'S INVENTION: MILTON MERMIKIDES

5PM | PERFORMANCE HALL

This lecture reveals not just the brilliance, emotional depth but the sharp wit behind J S Bach's sublime music. From puzzle canons, hidden messages, mirrored melodies, to playful constraints, Bach still teaches us what makes a true musician: intellect, emotional depth, and generous dash of mischief.

**Milton Mermikides** is an educator, composer and guitarist with a diverse range of musical interests and outputs. He is the 37th and current Gresham Professor of Music (a post founded in 1597 whose previous incumbents include John Bull, Joanna MacGregor and Iannis Xenakis). He is Professor of Music at the University of Surrey and has been the Professor of Jazz Guitar at the Royal College of Music since 2004. [Miltonline.com](http://Miltonline.com)

## STRING SPOTLIGHT 3

5.15PM | PERFORMANCE STUDIO

**J S Bach** Concerto for 4 harpsichords in A minor, BWV 1065 (arranged for harp)

**Ian Lim, Dian Yi, Milly Chan, Ansley Kan**

**Duncan Strachan** Zarabanda for solo cello

**Layla Ballard**

**Babadjanian** Piano Trio in F sharp minor

**Kenza Stamselberg, Rebekah Tan, Louis Hirst**

## LGT SOLOISTS

6.30PM | AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL

**Vaughan-Williams** Lark Ascending

**Piazzola** Four Seasons de Bueno Aires

**Alex Gilman** Director

### Violin

Alexander Gilman

Elif Ece Cansever

Emmanuel Webb

Kiana Chan

Deniz Sensoy

Derin Sensoy

### Cello

Rasmus Andersen

Louis Hirst

### Double Bass

Daniil Margulis

Nathan Perry

### Viola

Aisha Goodman

Norea Quirijnen

## RCM MUSEUM

11AM-6PM

The Royal College of Music Museum maintains one of the richest and most relevant collections of music-related objects in the UK and Europe. Standing in excess of 14,000 items, it represents a range of music-making activities over a period of more than five centuries.

### Kurt Cobain Unplugged

Experience rock history up close – visit the Royal College of Music Museum this summer as one of the most famous acoustic guitars in rock history – Kurt Cobain's Martin D-18E – goes on display.

Please visit the RCM Box Office to book your ticket.

### Own a piece of rock history

Enter our prize draw for your chance to win Kurt Cobain's plectrum, used for the 1993 MTV Unplugged performance. The plectrum is one of three Dunlop picks found inside Kurt Cobain's Martin D-18E guitar case, which was sold at auction in 2020 and is currently on display at the Royal College of Music Museum. All proceeds to the prize draw directly support students and the Future Music Fund at the Royal College of Music, London. Enter now at [bit.ly/cobainplectrum](http://bit.ly/cobainplectrum)

# RCM STRINGS FESTIVAL 2025 TIMETABLE

	11AM-12PM	12-1PM	1-2PM	2-3PM	3-4PM	4-5PM	5-6PM	6-7PM	7-8PM
AMARYLLIS FLEMING CONCERT HALL	11AM-12.00PM Enescu Octet			1.30-2.30PM Lunchtime Concert: String Orchestra	3-4PM RCM Guitars and Milton's Big EGO		4.30-5.30PM Collaboration Concert		6.30-7.30PM LGT Soloists
PERFORMANCE HALL		12.30-1.15PM Ian Watts Recital		2.30-3.30PM String Spotlight 1			5-6PM Bach's Invention: Milton Mermikides		
PERFORMANCE STUDIO		12-12.45PM Stauffer: Arola Quartet				4-5PM String Spotlight 2	5.15-6PM String Spotlight 3		
PARRY ROOMS				2.30-4PM Sacconi Quartet open rehearsal					
RCM CAFÉ			1-1.30PM Café concert					6-6.30PM Café concert	
RCM CAFÉ	10.30AM-7PM Open for Refreshments								
MUSEUM	11AM-6PM Don't miss the Summer Exhibition: Kurt Cobain Unplugged - <i>tickets to be purchased separately</i>								

Please note that there is limited capacity for many of these events. Entry will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Concert
  Open Rehearsal
  Lecture

# ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC MAP

