

Embargoed until 7 February, 2017

The Prince of Wales hosts Gala to celebrate Royal College of Music students and alumni

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal College of Music since 1993, hosted a special gala evening at Buckingham Palace to help celebrate talented musicians from the Royal College of Music. Guests, supporters and young musicians joined The Prince of Wales to celebrate the prestigious conservatoire, and the work it is doing to expand its reach and projects through its *More Music Campaign*.

Renowned violinist Maxim Vengerov (Polonksy Visiting Professor of Violin at the RCM) and conductor John Wilson performed with RCM alumnae Louise Alder (soprano) and current RCM student Emily Sun (violin) as well as the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra in an evening that showcased the music and musicians from the UK's leading conservatoire. The evening included a performance of *Ein Ständchen*, a song written by The Prince of Wales's great great great grandfather, Prince Albert. The piece was specially orchestrated by RCM student Richard Miller and received its premiere at the Gala. Speaking to the audience following the concert, His Royal Highness remarked how proud and moved he was to hear the composition. It was Prince Albert whose vision led to the establishment of the creative and educative centre in South Kensington, later dubbed 'Albertopolis', and as a result the foundation of the Royal College of Music.

As well as the redevelopment of the RCM's South Kensington campus opposite the Royal Albert Hall, the *More Music Campaign* will support a dynamic range of projects including further support for students, new posts and programmes. *More Music* will not only enhance the learning environment for students but also provide more scholarships and transform the College's

public engagement programme, allowing more people than ever before to connect with the RCM in a variety of ways.

The building development will include two new world-class performance spaces, additional rehearsal rooms and recording facilities, a new Royal College of Music Museum and many other enhancements. Renowned architect John Simpson has reimagined the College's site.

The More Music Campaign has received support from across the world and the RCM is grateful for the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Kingdom Music Education Group, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, The Polonsky Foundation, Classic FM and Landor. Other significant gifts have come to the RCM from a wide variety of supporters, including alumni from across the globe. Thanks to this support, *More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music* has already raised 60% of the overall target.

RCM Director, Colin Lawson CBE, comments: 'I am delighted that the More Music Campaign has gathered such momentum and am grateful to all the individuals, Trusts and Foundations who have contributed to the Campaign so far. This philanthropic investment will be one of the most significant contributions to music education in our lifetime.'

Campaign Chairman, Bob Wigley, comments: 'I am proud to Chair the More Music Campaign. Philanthropy is vital to the future of the Royal College of Music and will enable us to deliver an inspirational learning environment for our talented students; they are the future of music.'

-ENDS-

For Further Information

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Notes to Editors

ABOUT THE ROYAL GALA CONCERT

Programme

Sullivan **Overture** **The Yeoman of the Guard**

Arthur Sullivan was the first Principal of the National Training School of Music, the forerunner of the RCM. His score for *The Yeoman of the Guard*, the manuscript for which is in the RCM Collections, is regarded as his finest, and in particular the innovative and majestic overture.

Music for violin and orchestra

Maxim Vengerov Director and Violin
Emily Sun Violin

Bach **Concerto for two violins in d minor BWV 1043 I: Vivace**

Parry **Two movements from Lady Radnor Suite for strings**

Hubert Parry succeeded George Grove as Director of the Royal College of Music. His influence as a teacher and educator was exceptionally wide, and his works, including the great choral works *I was glad*, *Jerusalem* and *Blest Pair of Sirens*, continue to be performed regularly to this day.

A sequence of songs for soprano and orchestra

Finzi **Wonder (from *Dies Natalis*)**
Prince Albert **Ein Ständchen**
Ireland **My true love hath my heart**

Ein Ständchen is a new orchestration of a song by Albert, Prince Consort, whose vision led to the establishment of the creative and educative centre in South Kensington, later dubbed "Albertopolis", and as a result the foundation of the Royal College of Music. The song is complemented by Finzi's reflective song from his cycle on the metaphysical poems of Thomas Traherne, and Ireland's exuberant love-song.

Music for violin and orchestra

Maxim Vengerov Director and Violin

Mendelssohn **Concerto for Violin and Strings in d minor MWV 03 III: Allegro 3'30**

Mendelssohn was one of music's great prodigies, and the early violin concerto was written when he was just thirteen. It was resurrected and premiered by Yehudi Menuhin in 1952, 129 years after its composition.

Haydn Wood **A state ball at Buckingham Palace 6'30**

Haydn Wood was a star pupil at the Royal College of Music, both as violinist and composer. His prolific output included many lighter works, including this sparkling waltz from his series of *London Cameos*.

Vaughan Williams

Serenade to Music

13'00

This ravishing work for orchestra and sixteen vocal soloists was written by Vaughan Williams as a tribute to the conductor Henry Wood. It sets text from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* "How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank". Famously moving Sergei Rachmaninov to tears on its premiere, it brings this concert to a gentle and beautiful end.

ABOUT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Some of the most pioneering and influential musicians in British and International music life were students or professors at the RCM, including Thomas Allen, Benjamin Britten, Alfie Boe, James Galway, Gustav Holst, John Lill, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Joan Sutherland, Michael Tippett, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Sarah Walker, Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Wilson.

When HRH The Prince of Wales, Prince Albert, founded the Royal College of Music in 1882 as part of the legacy of the Great Exhibition of 1851, he wanted it to be nothing less than the recognised centre of the musical world, encouraging, promoting and leading the cultivation of music on the international stage. Fifty scholarships were immediately established for the talented but needy, divided equally between the sexes. This early emphasis on access and excellence was encouraged by some generous philanthropic gifts. These provided for the iconic main building and filled it with treasures, such as the earliest stringed keyboard instrument in existence (clavicytherium c1480) and the precious autograph of Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto K491.

The Royal College of Music's home in South Kensington is at the heart of Prince Albert's celebrated vision of access and excellence. The redevelopment of the Royal College of Music estate is a crucial investment for our students and visitors. It will transform the RCM's capacity for teaching, learning, research and performance.

More Music: Reimagining The Royal College of Music supports the commitment of the RCM to provide an educational experience that inspires students, professors, visiting musicians and the tens of thousands of visitors who come to the RCM each year. The *More Music* development will further secure the Royal College of Music's position as an international centre of excellence for music, reflecting and supporting our ambitious plans for the future.

In 2016, the RCM was ranked by *The Guardian* as the leading Higher Education Institution in the UK for studying music, as the top UK conservatoire, second in Europe and joint third in the world for the Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings and as the top UK conservatoire in the Complete University Guide's Arts/Music Institution League Table 2017. With over 500 events each year, RCM students are offered unrivalled performance opportunities and the majority of our events are open to the public.