

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

A GUIDE TO LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL





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

YOUR LEGACY IS THE FUTURE OF MUSIC



Opposite

Deniz Sensoy, ABRSM Scholar
© Chris Christodoulou

As someone who loves music deeply, you will know only too well the unique power music has to bring people together, and its ability to inspire, energise, and enrich our daily lives.

Like me, you probably can't imagine a world without music. Whether it is the grandeur of a fully staged opera, the intimacy of a chamber music concert, the wonder of discovering our past through priceless manuscripts and historic instruments, or experiencing music using cutting-edge technologies, music in all its forms continues to evolve through the creative talents of musicians who serve society.

I am continually inspired by the extraordinary creativity and talent of our students, staff, alumni, and visiting artists, and by the richness of our history, the beauty of our surroundings, our buildings, and precious collections. Since 1883, the Royal College of Music (RCM) has nurtured generations of performers, composers, and conductors who have each, in their own way, touched and transformed lives and made positive contributions to society through their music.

We all hold a stake in this remarkable institution, and importantly, we have an opportunity to shape the future of music education. I invite you to reflect on what the RCM means to you and to consider, as I have done, leaving a gift in your Will to the Royal College of Music.

Legacy gifts are vital to the RCM's future. Thank you for considering a gift in your Will to help talented young musicians thrive and inspire future generations through music.

James Williams LVO FRCM

Director
Royal College of Music

OUR MISSION

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



Richard Zheng and Paul Hill
Award Supporters and Legacy
Ensemble Members.

Right
RCM Sparks workshop
delivered by RCM students
Photo © Sheila Burnett

FUTURE TALENT

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

At a time when the performing arts struggle from nationwide funding cuts to universities and the cost-of-living crisis, the generous support we receive from our donors is critical in seeking out and supporting brilliant young people wherever they may be.

FUTURE ACCESS

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



RCM Sparks provides families, schools, and young people informal and engaging music education. The RCM Junior Department offers training for young people aged 8 to 18.

Through high-quality performances, events, talks and exhibitions, we invite everyone to explore and enjoy music, both online and in person.

FUTURE INNOVATION

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

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

The RCM has always focused on building a foundation that could endure. It's that long-term vision that helped it rise to, and remain in, its position as one of the world's leading conservatoires. Pledging a legacy to the College has truly enriched our lives. It's not just about giving and forgetting. We benefit greatly from this connection. The enjoyment, the insight, the sense of purpose – it's invaluable. At this stage in our lives, we never imagined we'd be gaining new experiences that bring us so much. It will stay with us, always.

Richard Zheng

WHY LEGACIES MATTER

Training world-class musicians takes lifelong, personalised commitment - it's an intricate and extended process. Tuition fees and government funding only cover the basics; generous supporters make world-class education and life-changing opportunities possible.

Legacy gifts have funded:

- State-of-the-art facilities and performance spaces
- Research
- Performances, creative projects, and fellowships
- Career support and other enriching student activities

Legacies help students that may struggle to afford tuition and daily living expenses.

- Over a third of RCM scholars can study thanks to legacy gifts
- £1 million+ is awarded annually in scholarships from Wills or in-memory gifts
- Endowed scholarships (funded by legacies) support talented students in perpetuity, regardless of financial means

Legacies have also brought fine instruments, portraits, sculptures, and manuscript collections to the RCM.

- A quarter of the fine instruments loaned to students were gifted through Wills.

Legacies let the RCM plan ambitiously:

- Gifts in Wills contributed over a third of the £42.5 million More Music Campaign
- This funded a new performance hall, performance studio, café and courtyard, and award-winning Museum
- The Cotes-Burgan Atrium and several teaching and practice rooms are named after generous legators

Lewis Kentaro Isaacs Percussion Douglas and Hilda Simmonds Scholarship
© Harry Pseftoudis



I am privileged to be the recipient of this wonderful scholarship that has supported over 270 students since 2006. Thanks to the support from Douglas and Hilda Simmonds, I have not only been able to focus on my percussion studies but also broaden my career as a composer during my time here at the RCM. Having this opportunity has meant so much to me

Lewis Kentaro Isaacs



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

THE
COTES-BURGAN
ATRIUM

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

Please contact our **Philanthropy Manager (Legacies & Individual Giving)** at +44 (0)20 7591 4761 or Legacies@rcm.ac.uk

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A gift in your Will is a powerful way to support the Royal College of Music (RCM).

WHAT SORT OF GIFT COULD I LEAVE IN MY WILL?

Gifts towards the RCM's general purposes (unrestricted gifts) allow us to make the most of your generosity according to the area of greatest need at the time.

Restricted gifts are used only for the purpose specified, for example scholarships or another area of our work. If you have a specific programme or initiative you would like to support, we invite you to contact us and write a Letter of Wishes to accompany your Will.

THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF LEGACY GIFTS:

A **residuary gift**, whether it encompasses a percentage of your estate or its entirety, holds immense value for the RCM. Such a generous contribution can make a lasting impact for the future of music.

A cash gift, also referred to as a **pecuniary legacy**, involves leaving a specific and fixed monetary amount in your Will, which can be used to support various initiatives at the College.

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

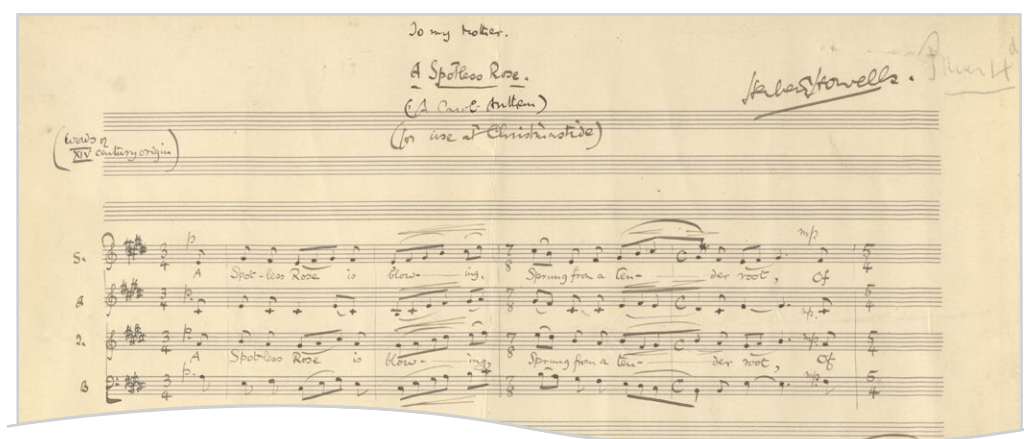
WHERE SHOULD I START?

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



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

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



Left

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

MAKING OR UPDATING YOUR WILL

If you already have a Will, it is easy to update it through your solicitor or will-writing provider.

A valid Will is essential to avoid complications for family and friends. If you have not yet created one, the process is simpler and more affordable than you might expect.

WHAT DETAILS MUST MY WILL CONTAIN?

The name, address, and Registered Charity No. of your proposed beneficiary: Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BS UK

(Registered Charity No. 309268)

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR A LEGACY TO THE RCM IN YOUR WILL

'I give to the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London,

SW7 2BS UK (Registered Charity No. 309268) ('the Charity')

a XX % share of / the residue of my estate

OR the sum of £____ (specify value)

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

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



As a self-employed musician I cannot donate a meaningful sum now, but I can pledge a legacy in my Will. I hope others want to do the same as I know how much the College values this commitment.

Madeleine, Legacy Pledger



Music has been at the heart of my life for as long as I can remember. Adding a legacy to my Will has been the most natural thing to do.

Humphrey, Legacy Pledger

Please note that this wording applies to an unrestricted gift. If you wish to specify which aspect of our work you would like your gift to support (i.e., a restricted gift), please contact our **Philanthropy Manager (Legacies & Individual Giving)** at +44 (0)20 7591 4761 or Legacies@rcm.ac.uk



Rianna Henriques, Master of Performance, flute student in rehearsal © Chris Christodoulou



Soprano Henna Mun in RCM Opera The Merry Widow in Spring 2024 © Chris Christodoulou

TAX MATTERS

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

At the time of printing, the Inheritance Tax nil-rate band is £325,000 per individual. Estates above this are taxed at 40% on the value exceeding the allowance. If 10% or more of the net estate is left to a UK charity, the tax rate is reduced to 36%, meaning many can leave a transformational gift to a favourite cause while reducing the cost to their loved ones. The RCM strongly recommends you seek advice from a solicitor or tax adviser before writing or updating your Will. Up-to-date guidance is available on the HMRC website.

DEED OF VARIATION

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



Bella Marslen

Soprano, Andrew Treagus Scholar supported by The Mimi and Colin Watts Scholarship (2024-25)

Below

RCM musicians rehearsing in the new Performance Hall



I am immensely grateful to be the recipient of the Andrew Treagus Scholarship, and The Mimi and Colin Watts Scholarship. This in memory and legacy gift has enabled me to travel from Australia to London to undertake a Master of Performance degree (Vocal) at the Royal College of Music. Being a privileged recipient of my scholarship has allowed me to focus fully on my studies and make great strides in my improvement as a performer and artist. It has given me a life-changing opportunity.

Bella Marslen





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

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

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

Chris Christodoulou

THANK YOU

Above

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

Right

Isabel Easin
Master of Performance viola
da gamba student, performs
the Barak Norman viol from
the Kessler collection at the
2024 Legacy Ensemble Lunch
© Harry Pseftoudis

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

RCM LEGACY ENSEMBLE

In 2019, we established the RCM Legacy Ensemble to express our gratitude to individuals who have made a commitment to include a gift for the RCM in their Wills. This ensemble pays tribute to the increasing number of supporters who share our vision of securing the future of music and celebrates the transformative impact their generous gifts will have. We warmly invite you to join our community of like-minded individuals to stay informed about our ongoing endeavours.

Your generous contribution will be recognised in various meaningful ways. As a member of the RCM Legacy Ensemble, you will receive regular information about our ongoing work, invitations to unique events, and access to behind-the-scenes activities.

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





FAQS

What happens if I don't have a Will?

If you pass away without having made a Will, you will be classed as dying 'intestate'. This means that your estate might not be distributed as you would want, and if you have no family members your estate could go in its entirety to the Crown.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time about leaving a gift in your Will. Gifts in Wills are very personal, and we understand that circumstances can change. To make small amendments to your Will, you can write a Codicil which must be kept with your Will and signed and witnessed in the same format.

How do I find a solicitor?

We recommend that you contact a solicitor to help write your Will. The Law Society website ([lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk)) will have a list of solicitors local to you.



Can the RCM help?

Yes, you can take advantage of our partnership with the National Free Wills Network should you wish, which you can find more about here rcm.ac.uk/support/legacies/freewillservice

Do I need to tell anyone about my Will?

You do not need to share the contents of your Will with anyone, but you should tell the person(s) you have chosen to be Executor(s) the location of your physical Will. If you have left the RCM a gift in your Will, we would love to hear about it so we can thank you during your lifetime.

What instruments can I leave to the RCM?

We are always keen to hear about your wishes to leave the College an instrument in your Will. Please get in touch with us in the first instance.



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London



© Chris Christodoulou

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

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Patron His Majesty King Charles III

Director James Williams LVO FRCM

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