

COUNCIL MEMBERS

2021–22



Lord Black of Brentwood

Chairman of Council and Nominations Committee

Guy Black has spent his career in the communications industry and is Deputy Chairman of Telegraph Media Group and a former Director of the Press Complaints Commission. As Chairman of the Commonwealth Press Union Media Trust and Vice President of News Media Europe, he also has a significant international media role. He has been a member of the RCM Council since 2009, and became Chairman in 2017. He was educated at Brentwood School – where he first discovered his passion for music, and where he is now a Governor – and then at Peterhouse, Cambridge, from which he graduated in history. He is Co-Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary group on Music Education, a former Chairman of The Hanover Band, and a former Trustee of the Imperial War Museum. He was made a Life Peer in 2010, and has spoken widely in the House of Lords on media issues, music education and the Commonwealth.



Jane Barker CBE FRCM

Deputy Chairman of Council, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Jane Barker is a Chartered Accountant and recently stepped down as Chairman of Marsh Ltd and Mercer Ltd. She is a member of the Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral. Her previous executive roles have included being Finance Director and then Chief Executive of the Equitas Group of Companies, of which she remains a non-executive Director, and Finance Director of the London Stock Exchange. In a non-executive capacity she has served on the Council of the Open University and chaired its Audit Committee and was a member of the Partnership Council of Clifford Chance. Jane was awarded CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2014.



Catherine Clarke

Catherine Clarke is a solicitor with a broad spectrum of experience gained at leading law firms in both London and Hong Kong, where she lived for 20 years. She co-founded The Hillcrest Partnership LLP, an independent consultancy which advised businesses on the impact of financial services regulation and corporate governance and has also provided legal and governance support to a number of charities. She is Vice Chair of the Music of Life Foundation, a charity providing access to music-making for children and young people with a range of disabilities, and former Chair of a community charity in the London Borough of Richmond.

Catherine has an MA in law from Queens' College Cambridge and a Diploma in Governance Risk and Compliance from the International Compliance Association. She studied violin and piano at the RCM Junior Department for nine years and continues to study the piano as well as sing with various choirs in London.



Peter Dart

Peter Dart is the Chief Growth Officer of Upfield, the world's largest plant-based food company. He has over 40 years global marketing experience, having worked on many of the world's most recognisable brands. Prior to his current role, Peter was a Director in WPP for 19 years, where his most important client was Unilever plc. He was previously Chairman of Added Value Group Marketing Consultancy, a company he founded in 1988 and which was bought by WPP. From 1978 – 1988 Peter worked for Unilever, where he was Marketing Director in Asia and Europe. Peter read Physics at Hertford College, Oxford, where he was also the Organ Scholar. He is a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music and Associate of Trinity College of Music. He is Chairman of the Royal Choral Society and a Trustee of VCM/Voces8/Apollo5 and the Director of Music of St Mary's Parish Church in Wargrave. Beyond his musical interests and professional life, Peter participates in many charitable, educational and not-for-profit institutions – for instance he helped The Royal Foundation develop Invictus Games and Heads Together and invented the MenStar Coalition for the Elton John Aids Foundation. He has also been a Trustee of The Prince's Foundation and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.



Baroness Fleet CBE

Veronica Wadley is Chair of the London Music Fund and of the Department for Education's Expert Panel for the Model Music Curriculum. She was Chair of Arts Council, London and Board Member of Arts Council England (2010-2018) . From 2002-2009 she was Editor of the Evening Standard and chaired the Evening Standard Theatre Awards and Film Awards. In 2010 she was appointed to the Mayor of London's Music Education Taskforce under the Chairmanship of Karen Brock, Head of Music Services in Tower Hamlets, to develop philanthropic music giving. In 2011, Veronica co-founded the Mayor's Music Fund, now called the London Music Fund and was re-appointed Chair in July 2020. From 2012 - 2016, she was Senior Advisor to the Mayor of London. She has worked with many charities and arts and education organisations including Northern Ballet and City of London Education Board and is currently a Governor of the Yehudi Menuhin School and Shoreditch Park Academy and is a trustee of ABRSM. She has been a Non-Executive Director of the Berkeley Group since 2012. In 2018, she was appointed to the Council of the Royal College of Music. She was awarded a CBE in the 2018 Queen's New Year Honours List for services to the Arts and in July 2020 was appointed to the House of Lords.



Douglas Gardner

Chairman of the Estates Committee

Douglas Gardner is a Chartered Surveyor, having taken a degree in Land Economy at London University. Currently he is Director of Industrial Realisation plc. Previously he was a Governor [1995-2001] and then Chairman of the Board of Governors [2001-09] of Nuffield Health, one of the UK's largest charities; Chief Executive of the Properties Division of Tarmac plc [1975-83]; Chairman and Chief Executive of Brixton Estate plc, a UK listed property investment company [1983-2000]; Chairman of IDP2, an industrial development partnership [2000-07]; a founder and executive Chairman of Halverton REIM, a fund management company [2004-08]; a Director of Invista Real Estate Investment Management Holdings plc, a quoted fund management group [2010-12], a non-executive director of a Jersey based Invesco Trust, Hirco plc, a company undertaking the development of townships in Mumbai and Chennai [2006-11] and Prime plc, a company developing modern GP surgeries. He was also a member of the Investment Committee of AXA's European Industrial Partnership [2001-05].



Sir George Iacobescu CBE

Sir George Iacobescu CBE is Chairman of Canary Wharf Group, a Company with assets of approximately £10.6 billion. The Group has developed 18.4 million square feet in 47 buildings on the Canary Wharf estate with a further approximately 7.9 million square feet in 32 buildings under construction or in design.

Canary Wharf is internationally recognised as the largest and most successful inner-city regeneration project in the world. It has become Europe's second largest banking and business services district with high quality office accommodation. It is the UK's busiest shopping centre with over 300 shops, bars, and restaurants within five retail malls totalling over 1m sq ft, plus 20 acres of landscaped open spaces and three railway stations. Canary Wharf has a working population of over 120,000 people, as large as the City of Cambridge and 50% larger than the financial centre of Frankfurt. Current and future developments include approximately 5,000 residential units, including build-to-rent and social rent housing.

In addition to development at the Canary Wharf site, Sir George and Canary Wharf Group have been responsible for joint venture commercial office developments at Drapers Gardens and 20 Fenchurch Street (the "Walkie Talkie") in the City of London, and the 1.5m sq ft mixed use redevelopment of the Shell Centre on London's South Bank.

Prior to Canary Wharf Group Sir George was Construction Director at Olympia and York leading the construction of landmark projects in the USA and Canada including the Olympia Centre in Chicago and World Financial Center (now Brookfield Place) New York.



Ruth Keattch

Chair of the Investment Committee

Ruth Keattch is an investment specialist with experience in a wide range of financial institutions. After studying mathematics at Oxford, Ruth began her career as a stockbroking analyst and progressed to lead the equities team at Granville plc. Later she launched and managed several investment funds before becoming Chief Investment Officer at Artemis, the fund management firm. She left Artemis in 2016 to develop her portfolio of non-executive roles and to pursue wider interests. Ruth has served on the boards of Redburn (Europe) plc and Ravensbourne University London, and currently serves on the investment committee of The HMS Victory Preservation Company. Ruth is a keen amateur pianist and adult learner, recently completing a music degree with The Open University.



Professor Vanessa Lata arche FRCM

Elected professorial member (August 2016 – July 2019, re-elected August 2019 – July 2022)

Professor Vanessa Lata arche studied at the Royal College of Music and completed her training in the USA and Paris. She has performed as a soloist with international orchestras and in the UK including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra, working with many leading conductors. Vanessa's recital work has taken her to Europe, the USA and the Far East. She is an advisor to Lang Lang's music school, Lang Lang Music World, in Shenzhen, China, where she formerly held the position of Vice-Chairman. Since September 2005, Vanessa has been Head of Keyboard at the RCM having previously been a professor of piano at the Royal Academy of Music for fourteen years. She was made an Honorary Associate of RAM in 1997. After receiving an FRCM in 2010, she was appointed to the role of Personal Chair at the RCM in September 2011, which has given her the title of Professor of International Keyboard Studies and in 2017 as an extension to her keyboard faculty work, she was made the Associate Director for Partnerships in China.

Vanessa is also a Director and Trustee of Eileen Rowe Musical Trust and a Director of London Classical International Piano Competition. She was recently appointed President of Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition for the 2021 competition.



Professor Colin Lawson CBE FRCM

Director, *ex officio* member

Professor Colin Lawson is Director of the Royal College of Music. He taught at Aberdeen and Sheffield Universities before moving to Thames Valley University as Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean (2001-5). He has an international profile as a period clarinettist and has played in most of Britain's leading period orchestras. Colin has published widely, especially for Cambridge University Press. He is editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Clarinet* and author of *Cambridge Handbooks to Mozart's Clarinet Concerto* and *Brahms's Clarinet Quintet*. He is co-editor of a series of *Cambridge Handbooks to the Historical Performance of Music*. He is also editor of the *Cambridge Companion to the Orchestra* (2003), the *Cambridge History of Musical Performance* (2012), and co-editor of *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Historical Performance in Music* (2018).



Professor Natasha Loges HonRCM

Elected professorial member (August 2021- July 2024)

Natasha Loges joined the staff of the Royal College of Music in 2004. She is currently Head of Postgraduate Programmes and Professor of Musicology. Her books include *Brahms and His Poets* (2017), and the coedited collections *Brahms in the Home and the Concert Hall* (2014), *Brahms in Context* (2019), *Musical Salon Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2019) and *German Song Onstage* (2020), and she has published various chapters and essays. Her work has been funded by the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the American Musicological Society, and the Royal Philharmonic Society, among others. A committed public musicologist, Natasha regularly broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, writes for BBC Music Magazine and gives numerous public talks. She is Chair of the Events Committee of the Royal Musical Association, a member of the Equality and Diversity in Music Studies network (EDIMS), and a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Austrian and German Music Research. As a pianist, she has accompanied singers for many years.



John Nickson

John Nickson has worked for the British Council and English National Opera where he was responsible for both communication and fundraising and at the Royal Academy of Arts and Tate where, in addition to fundraising, he was also responsible for the Royal Academy Trust and the Tate Foundation. He has been a trustee of Atlantic College, United World Colleges International, Opera Rara and MANGO (Management Administration for Non-Governmental Organisations) and is currently a trustee of UK Community Foundations; Music Masters, the Beacon Collaborative Trust, and Our Common Good. He is an advisor, mentor and volunteer with a number of education and arts organisations and is also a campaigner for more philanthropy. His first book, *Giving Is Good For You*, was published in 2013. His second book, *Our Common Good- if the state provides less who will provide more?*, was published in 2017. He is the founder of Our Common Good, a philanthropic charity supporting the disadvantaged and left behind communities.



Jamie Njoku-Goodwin

Jamie is the Chief Executive of UK Music, the body representing the UK music industry. Jamie is an experienced campaigner, a communications specialist and a former political adviser who has held senior roles at the highest levels of Government. He previously worked as a special adviser to the Health Secretary Matt Hancock and was also a special adviser at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Before entering Government, Jamie worked for the election strategist Sir Lynton Crosby and as a political adviser for the Conservative Party.

Jamie holds a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Nottingham and a Masters in International Relations. He is a trustee of Britten Pears Arts and sits on the advisory boards of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and English National Opera, as well as the Creative Industries Council. He is a trained pianist and conductor, and frequently appears in the media both representing UK Music and as a political commentator.



Kevin Porter HonRCM

Deputy Director, ex officio member

Kevin Porter is Deputy Director of the Royal College of Music, where he leads the administration of the College, with a particular focus on international initiatives, governance and strategy. His early career was in quality assurance, first at the University of East London and then for the Council for National Academic Awards. He then moved to London Guildhall University where he worked in governance and academic policy, as well as QA. Kevin was a Specialist Assessor for the Association of University Administrators, Chairman of the Conservatoires UK Academic Administration Committee and he also chaired the CUK initiative to develop a new admissions service, UCAS Conservatoires. He is currently a member of the Royal Albert Hall Council and Chairman of the Board of KCG internal audit consortium, among an involvement in a range of HE sector organisations.



Andrew Ratcliffe

Chairman of the Audit Committee

Andrew Ratcliffe is a past President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). He spent his career with PwC, leading a variety of large international audit engagements in a range of industries and carrying out other advisory work. He also served as a member of the PwC UK firm's Board and as the chairman of PwC's Global Board, which oversees the PwC international network. He is a non-executive director of Barclays Bank UK PLC and a trustee of a number of charities. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1976 having read mathematics.



Geoffrey Richards HonRCM

Chairman of the More Music Campaign

Geoffrey Richards was Head of the Fleming Family & Partners International Family Offices, Trust & Administration businesses and Chairman of Fleming Family & Partners in Zurich. He also chaired the Singapore family office and trust services business and was an executive director of the Fleming Group. Following his retirement in 2009, Geoff founded Richards & Partner Consulting Limited in order to continue with his Trustee and Advisory consultancy to international families. He is a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London, a past member of The Prince's Charities Council, a past Member of the Philharmonia Trust and an Honorary member of the University of Lund-Sweden's student choir.



Ann Somerville HonRCM

Elected administrative member (August 2021 – July 2024)

Ann Somerville has been Manager of Vocal and Opera at the RCM since 2008. Having graduated in 1993, her first job was on the stage management team at Opera North. Since then she has worked as a freelance Stage and Company Manager for many opera companies and festivals including Opera Northern Ireland, Wexford Opera, Buxton Opera Festival, Theatre des Champs Elysees and Kings Consort Orchestra, Britten Pears School – Aldeburgh, New Sussex Opera and also in theatre at the Cheltenham Everyman Theatre and Derby and Salisbury Playhouses as well as pantomimes for Kevin Wood Productions. Ann worked on the UK tour of Phantom of the Opera before becoming Festival and Tour Co-ordinator for Grange Park Opera and Pimlico Opera. Ann is also a trained Primary School teacher, and taught for several years before joining Phantom in the West End where she continued to work occasionally until March 2020. Outside the RCM, Ann enjoys gardening and outdoor swimming – her most challenging swim to date has been swimming the length of Lake Windermere. Ann was awarded Honorary Membership of the RCM in 2018.



Sir Guy Weston HonRCM

Sir Guy Weston is Chairman of the Garfield Weston Foundation, a major grant-making body that champions good causes from the small and local to national institutions and centres of excellence. He is an Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Oxford and a graduate of INSEAD. Guy is Chairman of Wittington Investments Ltd, a holding company with interests in the retail, property, food and hospitality sectors. He has chaired successful major appeals for the Bodleian Library and for Westminster Abbey. He is a trustee of the Imperial War Museum and of the Thrombosis Research Institute, and a Director of the London Theatre Company.



James Williams

James Williams was appointed Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) in June 2016. Notable achievements include the appointment of Vasily Petrenko as the RPO's next Music Director (starting 2021); a new Associate Orchestra partnership between the RPO and the Royal Albert Hall; establishing a new home for the Orchestra at Wembley Park in partnership with the developer Quintain; and overseeing an international touring schedule that has involved the RPO performing across the world including major tours of Asia, Europe and the USA. In 2018, the RPO was named by a leading classical music website as the world's busiest orchestra and in 2018/19 Season played to a live audience of over 500,000.

Prior to this, James worked for eight years at the Philharmonia Orchestra (London) responsible for the Orchestra's UK concert and commercial programmes working with conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Lorin Mazel and Vladimir Ashkenazy. Additionally, James led several major audience development and digital programmes including iOrchestra, a virtual orchestra project which introduced orchestral music to over 200,000 people in the South West of England. With a background in music education and former positions including five years working at the Royal Northern College of Music as Programming Manager and a period running a regional branch of Yehudi Menuhin inspiring music education programme Live Music Now, James now holds voluntary Board positions with Metroland Cultures and music charity Mayfield Valley Arts Trust. He is also a Board member of the Association of British Orchestras.



Laura Williamson

SU President

Born in Prestwick, Scotland, Laura Williamson began her musical career aged 8 when she was given a cello by her local primary school. She attended the RCS junior department for seven years then spent two years at Chetham's School of Music. Laura has performed with many orchestras including The West of Scotland School's Symphony Orchestra, both in the section and as a soloist, The Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra and The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, under the baton of conductors such as Sir Mark Elder and John Wilson. Her proudest musical achievements to date are Winning the Ailie Cullen Memorial Prize at the Glasgow Music festival and directing and arranging music for Prestwick Academy's cello ensemble. This year she has been elected as the Royal College of Music Students' Union President where she hopes to raise awareness of injury in musicians. In the future she aspires to work in a professional orchestra.



Charlotte Martin HonRCM

Clerk to the Council

Charlotte Martin read French at the University of Warwick and went on to complete her MA in European Cultural Policy and Arts Management. She worked for five years as House Manager at Warwick Arts Centre, the largest UK arts complex outside of London, and in 2000 was appointed Assistant to the then Director, Dame Janet Ritterman, at the Royal College of Music. In 2005 she became Projects Manager, covering a diverse range of projects. Over the years, her main focus has turned to pensions. She acts as the independent Secretary to the Trustee of the RCM Pension and Assurance Scheme and is the College's liaison and manager for the two other schemes available to staff – the Universities Superannuation Scheme and Teachers' Pensions. She was appointed Clerk to the Council in 2018.