

# PROSPECTUS

## 2027/28



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*





# WELCOME TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

**The Royal College of Music (RCM) has been launching the careers of exceptional musicians since 1883. Excellence drives everything we do, from our teaching and facilities to our unique student experience.**

This prospectus showcases our ethos, people, resources and the rich opportunities that await you in our inspiring central London home. I am constantly struck by how the RCM marries its incredible heritage with innovation and creativity, fostering a learning environment that is truly dynamic. Our community and outlook are global – with likeminded musicians from more than 60 different countries studying together and sharing perspectives. The RCM's professors are themselves expert practitioners in their field, offering tailored teaching programmes to support your musical development and forging partnership schemes with the UK's and Europe's leading performance groups. Performance sits at the heart of everything we do, with more than 500 public concerts year, ranging from fully staged opera and symphony orchestras through to chamber music and solo recitals, ensuring that the RCM provides the platform for you to thrive and grow as a musician.

From day one at the College, you'll have access to our Creative Careers Centre, offering resources and paid engagements to support and guide you as you plan your career. Our graduates progress into a huge range of exciting careers in the world of music and beyond. By studying with us, you will step into a legacy of extraordinary talent alongside composers such as Benjamin Britten, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Anna Meredith and Mark-Anthony Turnage, conductors including John Wilson, Jane Glover and Sir Colin Davis, singers such as Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Thomas Allen, Nardus Williams and Alfie Boe, and instrumentalists Sir James Galway, John Lill and Natalie Clein.

We are extremely proud of the many accolades the College has achieved, including last year a Queen Elizabeth Prize for Education. I hope that this prospectus gives you a full and rounded picture of just how rich and inspiring studying with us can be. As you consider your next steps, please explore our online resources, get in touch with questions, and if you can, visit our beautiful campus in South Kensington. I am certain you will feel as inspired as I do every day I walk through our doors. We look forward to welcoming you!



**James Williams, Director**  
LVO FRCM



'To be guided by some of  
the world's leading coaches,  
teachers and industry professionals  
is an immense privilege'

**Eden Shifroni, Artist Diploma in Opera**



**Image**  
RCM Opera Studio's  
production of *The Cunning  
Little Vixen*



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# LIFE AT THE RCM



[rcm.ac.uk/life](https://rcm.ac.uk/life)

# LEARN FROM THE WORLD'S BEST MUSICIANS

**Dedicated one-to-one tuition is central to the Royal College of Music experience. With established international careers as soloists, chamber musicians, or as principals with London's great orchestras, our professors have an impressive track record of leading students to success.**

Expert one-to-one tuition, complemented by a programme of faculty classes, will develop your technical skills and versatility as a performer or composer. Wide-ranging performance opportunities will further enrich your preparation for the profession.

We are proud to welcome globally renowned guest artists to each faculty. With recent visitors including Sir Stephen Hough, Alisa Weilerstein, Stefan Dohr and Velvet Brown, leading names join us for regular masterclasses and collaborations.

The Royal College of Music's flexible curriculum enables every student to develop a unique musical identity and career path. Our expert teachers will support you as you pursue innovative creative projects and business ideas, ready to make your mark on the industry.

Whether you are rehearsing, composing or recording, you will have advanced technologies and resources at your fingertips. The RCM Museum and RCM Library offer a wealth of information, and we collaborate with our neighbour Imperial College London on the Centre for Performance Science to empower our students with the tools needed for performance.

We are proud of the inclusivity of the College environment. Talented individuals from all backgrounds are welcomed here and become part of a supportive and diverse international community.



**'On joining the College, you'll become part of an inspiring community of exceptional musicians. Our focus is to provide you with the ideal environment, resources and support for you to grow as a musician, ready to flourish in your career'**

**Dr Diana Salazar, Director of Programmes**

**Image**

RCM clarinetist performing in a masterclass with Maximiliano Martín

'My experience at the RCM has been both inspiring and transformative. The exceptional teaching and collaborative environment has helped me to grow and shape my confidence as an artist'

**Jordan Brooks, BMus, Violin**



# YOUR TIME TO SHINE

**Performance is at the heart of life at the Royal College of Music. Our students give over 500 concerts a year, and enjoy unrivalled opportunities in the spotlight – from solo and chamber recitals to orchestral masterworks, staged operas and cutting-edge new music.**

As a Royal College of Music student you are encouraged to perform extensively in front of your peers, your professors and the public. By simulating the demands of the profession, we aim to build the confidence of each individual in a supportive, nurturing environment.

Our in-house ensembles range from full-scale symphony orchestras to specialist groups for historical performance, jazz and contemporary music. You might find yourself performing at prestigious London venues such as Wigmore Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, touring globally or streaming to large online audiences. You will experiment across genres, learn from the industry's most experienced artists, and grow in confidence on and off stage.

You will be encouraged to form chamber groups and can apply to be part of our lunchtime and rush-hour concert series. We run a regular concerto competition, with the winners receiving showcase performances with our ensembles, and composers can also win the chance to have original music premiered by full orchestral forces.

Each faculty has its own ensembles and offers specialist coaching while every first-year undergraduate has the chance to sing with the RCM Chorus.

Our collaborations with world-class professionals give students insights into performance at the highest level. Guest artists have recently included Martyn Brabbins, Joana Carneiro, Anna-Maria Helsing, Ryan Bancroft, Sakari Oramo, Sir Antonio Pappano and Vasily Petrenko. Principals from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe work and perform with students each year, and we partner with new music ensembles including Explore Ensemble, The Hermes Experiment and the Ligeti Quartet. Recent composers-in-residence working with our new music ensemble have included Chaya Czernowin, Mark-Anthony Turnage and George Lewis.

The RCM Opera Studio is admired worldwide. We present three operas in the Britten Theatre each year. Our spectacular productions are fixtures in the global opera calendar and are staged by the world's most acclaimed directors, designers and choreographers. We also stage productions of mini operas by student composers, and our partnership with the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance offers students the opportunity to work closely with its dancers.

RCM musicians performing at Windsor Castle



**'One of the biggest draws of the College is the vast number of playing opportunities; it allows you to get stuck in as soon as you join and gives you such useful experience being on the stage and facing all the challenges (and rewards) that can bring'**

**Thomas Leighton-Jones, MPerf, Trumpet**



RCM Symphony Orchestra with conductor Kirill Karabits



RCM guitarist performing at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year event  
Background image: Fragile River of Life by Isaac Szabo

The opportunities I  
have had access to are  
world-class – working  
with leading conductors,  
composers and performers’  
**Eve Maxwell, MPerf, Soprano**



RCM musician singing Rodgers & Hammerstein  
in the Chamber Festival



RCM musicians performing in No 11 Downing Street

# PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE

**A Royal College of Music degree opens doors. Whether you aspire to perform at the highest level, become a creative entrepreneur, teach and inspire others or continue your studies, we will position you for success.**

The RCM Creative Careers Centre has a 25-year track record of launching careers across the music industry and is a world leader in career development. Our expert careers service supports your professional development from day one and for up to five years after graduation. Studying at the RCM will expand your professional network as you make connections across the industry.

By supporting you both before and after graduation, we help to maximise your employability and entrepreneurial skills, shaping you and your future career.



**Image left**  
RCM musicians preparing for performance

**Image top-left**  
RCM students working with young people as part of the Sparks learning and participation programme

**Image top-right**  
RCM guitarist performing in the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room



### Side by side

Sit-in schemes with partner orchestras, including the BBC Symphony, London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and Philharmonia orchestras as well as English National Opera, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, provide you with invaluable experience of the professional music world, while enabling you to build up professional contacts.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/preparingforprofession](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/preparingforprofession)

### Find your spark

RCM Sparks is our industry-leading learning and participation programme. We provide hundreds of our students and graduates with real-life experience of music education in all its vibrant variety, building new skills and confidence while contributing to a vital element of the RCM's work in the community.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/studentopportunities](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/studentopportunities)

**'I'm really grateful for the Creative Careers Centre. It's the jigsaw piece that's missing otherwise; it's the bit that allows you to find work and make a career'**

**Dani Howard, Alumna & Composer**



**Find out more**

[rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers](http://rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers)



### Kickstart your career

Our Professional Engagements Service offers paid opportunities to perform at events or to work as freelance orchestral and session players, as accompanists and répétiteurs, as composers and as chorus members.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/performanceopportunities](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/performanceopportunities)

### Get into teaching

Our Teaching Service connects you with motivated pupils to help establish and develop your professional teaching practice, both in London and across the globe.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/creativecareers)

### Develop your ideas

RCM Accelerate invites graduating students to pitch ideas for a new creative project, social enterprise or business to receive grant funding and mentoring support.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/accelerate](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/accelerate)



Creative Careers Centre 25th anniversary panel: RCM Director James Williams, Jane Mitchell (Creative Director/Principal Flute, Aurora Orchestra), Eric Whitacre (composer & conductor, RCM Ambassador for Creative Careers), Peter Brathwaite (RCM alumnus, baritone), Rebecca Allen (President – Audience & Media, Universal Music UK)

# OUR INSPIRING ALUMNI

**A Royal College of Music degree empowers you to shape the future of music. Our alumni embark on a wide range of careers, many of them achieving international success.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON Emily Sun, violin**



Emily studied violin at the Royal College of Music, where she was awarded the Tagore Gold Medal, and she has since returned to the College as an esteemed violin professor. Her students have won top prizes in competitions and have been selected for prestigious orchestral jobs.

Since her Wigmore Hall debut in 2016, Emily has performed in venues worldwide including the Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tchaikovsky Great Hall and Seoul Arts Center. She was also invited to perform for King Charles III alongside Maxim Vengerov in Bach's Double Violin Concerto in Buckingham Palace.



**Wayne Marshall OBE, keyboard**

'My time at the Royal College of Music was life-changing in many ways. I had two wonderful organ and piano professors, both of whom challenged me in many aspects of musical performance and understanding.

I always looked forward to the weekly choral class, held each Wednesday morning, in the concert hall. The Verdi Requiem was the most significant discovery during my first term, and a meeting during one rehearsal, sitting next to the organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, led to my appointment as his successor from 1980 to 1983. The RCM is a special place and I am so grateful for my studies there.'

**Owen Gunnell, percussion**

'The Royal College of Music still has the same incredible energy it did when I studied there – a place where musicians push themselves to be their very best, supported and inspired as they discover their own unique career paths.'





'The Royal College of Music was the place where I realised what I could do in my career, in my life, and how big I could dream'

**Sofi Jeannin, conductor**



**Hugh Cutting, countertenor**

'I loved being at the Royal College of Music. Having lots to learn made me feel productive and energised. There were so many really fine musicians and it was a good cross-section of society; a broad demographic of different types of people who were all there because they'd chosen to be there.'

I learned that opera can be staged in a way that's relatable and emotionally led. Professor Audrey Hyland – with whom I've just recorded an album – changed my whole view of how to perform; to champion honesty by trying to make music something real and relatable and everyday.'



**Dani Howard, composer**

'My studies at the Royal College of music were some of the best years of my life. I'd never studied composition before and didn't feel I knew how to compose, so the first year was a rollercoaster. But it was amazing to be around music all the time. My lessons with Professor Jonathan Cole were phenomenal. He's philosophical and so wise; he really gets you thinking. I learned so much.'

### Iain Hall, recorder

'Studying at the Royal College of Music totally transformed my playing musically and technically, but the most valuable thing I gained was the people. Many of my closest friends and colleagues are fellow RCM graduates; my ensemble, Liturina, was co-founded with three of them, and together we released our debut album last year.'



### Cyrill Ibrahim, piano

'I was recently interviewed by *Tatler* and I told them that the Royal College of Music is the Mecca of classical music! It was inspiring to meet Professor Vanessa Latarche at my audition – she really tries to see the best in you. I had a great time at the College; I had wonderful lessons, and practising with a view of the Royal Albert Hall opposite was really inspiring.

It's good to be in an environment where you learn from other instrumentalists and art forms. One of the things that I took away from the College is this strong sense of building your own career, and understanding that while there is a traditional trajectory, there are also ways that you can approach it differently.'



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/alumni](https://rcm.ac.uk/alumni)

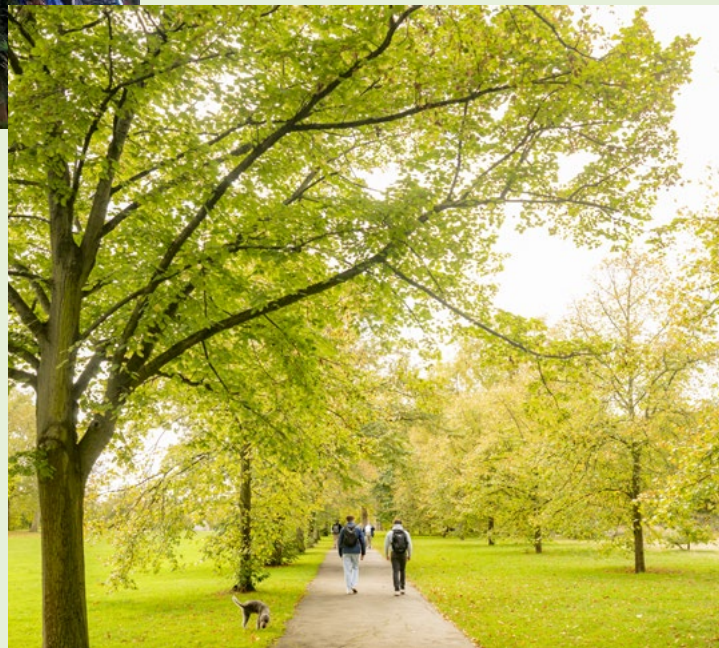
# OUR LONDON LOCATION

The Royal College of Music enjoys an exceptional location at the heart of London's musical life. Our campus can be found in London's 'culture quarter': South Kensington. Moments away from Hyde Park, directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall and within easy distance of famous museums and galleries, our setting is an inspiration, while South Kensington tube station and easy bus routes connect you to every corner of the city.



Natural History Museum

Hyde Park



'The RCM is such a high-quality institution and inhabits a special place in London. Walking out to the Royal Albert Hall always put a smile on my face. Now when I come to conduct at the Proms the reverse happens – I see the RCM and it makes me so happy'

**Andrew Gourlay, Alumnus & Conductor**



Royal Albert Hall

The BBC Proms, the world's largest classical music festival, takes up residence at the Royal Albert Hall every summer and features numerous performances by staff and alumni, while our students made an acclaimed Proms debut in 2024.

'The facilities are excellent, and the location could not be better. Studying in the heart of Kensington is a wonderful opportunity, and I always leave the College feeling inspired'

**Javier Noriega Molina, MMusEd,  
Composition**

The Serpentine



Prince Consort Road



# A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

**At the Royal College of Music you will work, perform and become friends with a community of musicians from more than 60 countries.**

International students play an active role in all aspects of Royal College of Music life. Our professors come from across the globe, bringing with them a wealth of experience and perspective. You will find the RCM a friendly and diverse centre of music-making.

As an international student, you will be supported as you settle into life in the UK. We will help you to find accommodation, and for those who need a student visa, our trained advisors can guide you through the application process.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/international](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/international)

The RCM also works in collaboration with institutions such as the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore, Princeton University and Boston University to further enrich our international community and connections.

We run a variety of exchanges with leading European, American, Asian and Australian music conservatories and universities.

[www.rcm.ac.uk/exchanges](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/exchanges)





'My time at the Royal College of Music has been shaped by exceptional opportunities for performance and artistic development. I have been fortunate to tour with the Historical Performance Faculty to Salzburg, Rome and Siena'

**Alma Balazs, BMus, Violin (Historical Performance)**





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# FACULTIES



[rcm.ac.uk/faculties](https://rcm.ac.uk/faculties)

# BRASS

**It is our responsibility to make the wider brass community a vibrant and diverse group of individuals. We work hard to develop confidence, allowing our students to fulfil their true potential in a mutually supportive atmosphere. The Brass Faculty will equip you with the skills needed for a varied musical career.**

Amos Miller, Head of Brass



## Outstanding professors

The RCM Brass Faculty has an outstanding team of professors, many of whom hold principal positions in major orchestras – from the London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra to London Sinfonietta and the English National Opera and Royal Ballet and Opera orchestras. World-renowned International Visiting Artists such as Stefan Dohr and Sarah Willis (both of the Berlin Philharmonic), and tuba legend Jens Bjørn-Larsen, join us regularly to host masterclasses, deliver one-to-one teaching and coach our ensembles.

## Performance opportunities

You will have unparalleled opportunities to play and be coached in a wide variety of ensembles, from chamber groups formed with other students to our RCM Symphony, Philharmonic and opera orchestras. Our ensembles work with world-class conductors such as Joana Carneiro, Kirill Karabits, Sakari Oramo, Sir Antonio Pappano, Rafael Payare and Chloé van Soeterstède. As brass players you will also have the chance to perform in our acclaimed Jazz Orchestra, which in recent years has performed at Ronnie Scott's, the Southbank Centre and at PizzaExpress Jazz Club.

## Professional experience

We offer sit-in schemes with many major London-based orchestras, maintaining a vital link between conservatoire life and the profession. Brass students from our faculty have joined the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra in rehearsals for the BBC Proms, and have worked with the Philharmonia, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, English National Opera and the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

## Guest artists

Distinguished international musicians give masterclasses throughout the year, with recently invited guests including Abbie Conant, Kris Garfitt, Velvet Brown, Katy Woolley, Håkan Björkman, Sasha Romero, Matthias Höfs, Simon Höfele, Ashley Hall-Tighe, Oren Marshall and Hervé Joulain.

## Related studies

Natural horn, natural trumpet, bass trumpet, jazz trumpet, jazz trombone, euphonium and sackbut are available as second or related study.

For information on natural horn and natural trumpet visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/hp](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/hp)

## Student successes

We are proud that recent brass graduates have been appointed to permanent positions with orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the Ulster Orchestra, as well as making up a significant number of London's top freelance musicians. In 2025, RCM trombone student Robyn Anderson received a place at the prestigious Karajan Academy where she receives mentorship, lessons and performance opportunities with the legendary Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.



**'Amos Miller is an inspiration to everyone. I could not ask for more kind, dedicated and supportive professors'**

**Jessica Anderson, BMus, Trombone**



**Get in touch**  
[brass@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:brass@rcm.ac.uk)



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/brass](http://rcm.ac.uk/brass)



**Watch**  
[rcm.ac.uk/watchbrass](http://rcm.ac.uk/watchbrass)

# COMPOSITION

**The Royal College of Music is a great place for composers to come and develop the skills necessary to build careers in today's world. We have an amazing tradition of leading composers studying here, and our faculty of teaching staff is internationally recognised. Collaborating with performers, students are encouraged to develop their musical voices and to gain the confidence and knowledge needed to grow as independent, creative artists.**

Professor Jonathan Cole, Chair & Head of Composition



## Hear your works come to life

At the RCM we offer composers unparalleled opportunities to collaborate with brilliant performers and to hear works performed.

Regular projects include string orchestra, woodwind ensembles, percussion quartet, early music instruments with electronics, brass fanfares, an experimental music festival, orchestral workshops led by Mark-Anthony Turnage, a biennial opera showcase and many more.

## Exceptional professors

Our professors are some of the biggest names in composition and include Ed Bennett, Deirdre Gribbin, Kenneth Hesketh, Catherine Kontz and Mark-Anthony Turnage. Our International Visiting Artists, Colin Matthews, Michael Finnissy and Errolyn Wallen, regularly visit to offer masterclasses and tuition.

Established composers of concert, film and television music (including electro-acoustic and studio-based work) visit regularly to teach, nurturing and developing your creative and technical skills.

All students are encouraged to work across a vast range of different genres, including classical concerts, video games, experimental electronics, opera, chamber works and wind band. We collaborate with many external institutions, with recent examples including Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

## Professional success

Our composition students have gone on to enjoy huge success in the UK and internationally.

Notable recent achievements have included winners in the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards, Emmy Awards, Hindemith Prize, Grammy Awards, Oticons Faculty of International Film Music, Ernst von Siemens Composer Prize, BMI Student Composer Awards, the Ivor Novello Awards, the BAFTAs, as well as the ASCAP Foundation Michelle and Dean Kay Award.

## Composition for Screen

Our internationally respected postgraduate Composition for Screen course will help you to excel in this competitive and rewarding field.

London is one of the busiest production centres in the world for the film, television and advertising industries. The RCM has extensive professional and collaborative links with film and animation schools, studios and industry professionals including the Royal College of Art, Southbank University, Middlesex University, London Film School, the London College of Communication, and Central Film School. This puts our students at the heart of a powerful creative environment and network.



Head of Composition Professor Jonathan Cole with Joe Hisaishi

Over the past few years we have welcomed Dario Marianelli, Nainita Desai, Christopher Beck, Ruth Barrett, John Lunn, Daniel Pemberton, Rachel Portman and George Fenton as visiting composers to our faculty.

Composition for Screen alumni are working worldwide throughout the industry, from Hollywood to Europe and Asia, and have won numerous accolades including BAFTA, Grammy, Golden Globe and Academy awards for work in film, television and gaming.

## Guest artists

World-leading composers for concert and film regularly give talks and classes to our students. Visitors in recent years have included Chaya Czernowin, Tansy Davies, Brett Dean, Michael Giacchino, Harry Gregson-Williams, Joe Hisaishi, Lisa Illean, David Lang, George Lewis, Sir James MacMillan, Anna Meredith, Alex Paxton, Rachel Portman, Steve Reich, Howard Shore, Dame Judith Weir, Mel Wesson, Debbie Wiseman, Gary Yershon and Hans Zimmer.

Explore works by current students at [www.rcm.ac.uk/compforscreen](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/compforscreen)

The warm and friendly RCM Composition Faculty is supportive of each student at an individual, personal level... We're encouraged to push ourselves and be proactive, as well as benefitting from countless performance opportunities where we collaborate closely with expert musicians'

**Connie Harris, BMus, Composition**



**Get in touch**  
[composition@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:composition@rcm.ac.uk)



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/composition](http://rcm.ac.uk/composition)

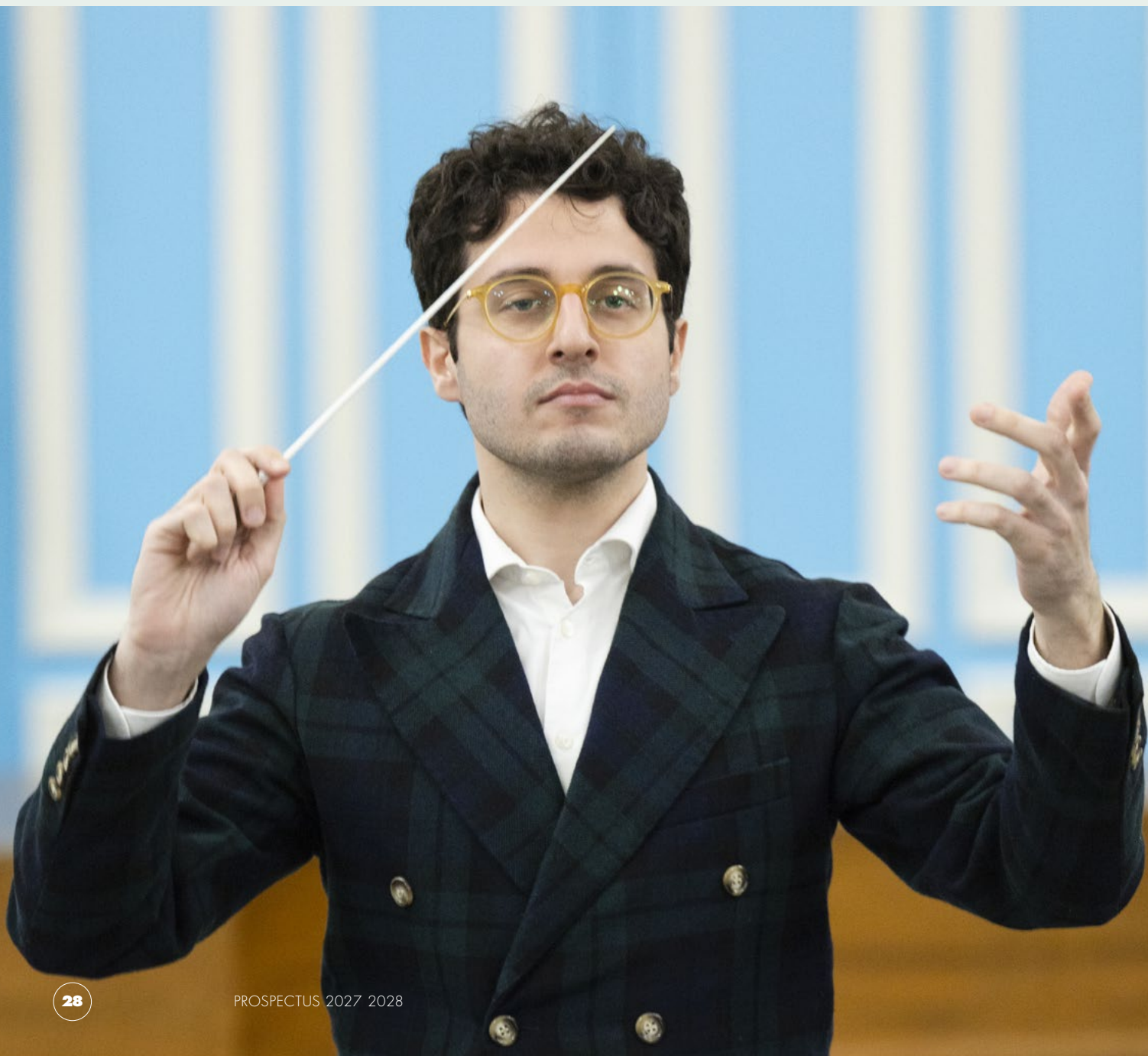


**Watch**  
[rcm.ac.uk/watchcomposition](http://rcm.ac.uk/watchcomposition)

# CONDUCTING

**As a student conductor at any level, you are part of a dynamic community across the whole College. Our two-year Masters course nurtures you as a complete conductor for today, supporting you in developing your individuality and musical voice, with expert mentoring to prepare you for the profession.**

Toby Purser, Head of Conducting



## Creative learning

Supported by three of the world's leading conducting professors, you will explore a detailed programme of repertoire study, equipping you with the practical and professional skills necessary to excel in this complex and demanding discipline.

Alongside group classes and aural training, each first study conductor has 21 hours of focused one-to-one sessions with our professors, and professional mentorship with RCM Artistic Director Andrew Moore and RCM Director James Williams.

Our travel fund supports students to further develop their skills through regular collaborations with external orchestras in the UK and abroad, including the Orquestra do Algarve.

**'The Conducting Faculty's small cohort, close work with three professors and regular opportunities to assist distinguished guest conductors, have allowed me to develop my skills in a focused and supportive environment'**

**Wooju Baik, MPerf, Conducting**



## Podium time

Alongside scheduled ensemble and orchestral time in class, you will be given opportunities to conduct ensemble, orchestral and operatic repertoire. In addition to podium time with the RCM Philharmonic, Symphony Orchestra and various new music ensembles, you will be encouraged to organise your own projects, to participate in our termly Conductors' Podium concert and work with ensembles from across the RCM.

## Student success

Current RCM conductors and alumni have enjoyed professional and competition success in the UK and beyond. Recent graduates have secured notable professional positions including winner of the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, Assistant Artistic Director of Regents Opera and Assistant Conductor of Ensemble intercontemporain, Paris.

## Visiting conductors

We regularly welcome exceptional international conductors to work with our orchestras and ensembles. Whenever possible, these visits include a conducting masterclass and opportunity for students to assist, as well as lead orchestral and sectional preparations. Students regularly work with our International Visiting Artists Vasily Petrenko and Speranza Scappucci, as well as our Chair of Conducting, Professor Martyn Brabbins.

Other recent guest conductors have included Ryan Bancroft, Joana Carneiro, Nicholas Collon, Jessica Cottis, Jonathon Heyward, Vladimir Jurowski, Holly Mathieson, Sakari Oramo, Sir Antonio Pappano, Rafael Payare, Jac van Steen, John Wilson and Thomas Zehetmair.

## Second study

Conducting is available as a second study to undergraduates and postgraduates with significant experience, subject to an audition, and is offered without audition as an elective module class. This involves conducting your peers in set repertoire and focusing on the skills and knowledge necessary to develop in this field.



**Get in touch**  
[conducting@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:conducting@rcm.ac.uk)



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/conducting](http://rcm.ac.uk/conducting)



**Watch**  
[rcm.ac.uk/watchconducting](http://rcm.ac.uk/watchconducting)

# HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

**The Historical Performance Faculty provides intensive training in all aspects of historically informed interpretation. We encourage students to engage with our resources and collaborate with our outstanding professors, so they can present music effectively and make a meaningful contribution to the profession.**

Professor Ashley Solomon, Chair & Head of Historical Performance



## Theory and practice

Our faculty of exceptional professors includes many renowned names from across the world of period instrument performance. We offer specialised training in all aspects of historically informed interpretation and provide individual lessons on the complete range of period instruments.

Your studies will be supported by an outstanding research environment that includes the RCM Library's extensive collection of manuscripts and early printed editions. The RCM Museum also holds an extraordinary collection of historical instruments dating back to the 15th century, some of which are regularly played and performed on by our students.

## Performance opportunities

We have our own dedicated Baroque Orchestra, which regularly performs Bach cantatas and which collaborates with other leading specialist conservatoires including the Salzburg Mozarteum, Bremen Hochschule and the Centre for Baroque Music, Versailles.

Faculty students have performed at major festivals such as the Bath International Music Festival and the London Handel Festival, at heritage venues including Hatchlands Park and at Windsor Castle, where RCM musicians performed for BBC Radio 3's Early Music Show.

Regular chamber performances are held in the King's Gallery at Buckingham Palace, students have performed in the Thomaskirche Leipzig and the Orangery Palace in Potsdam, and video masterclasses have been held with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Royal Danish Academy of Music and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.



In 2021 we launched the New Generation Baroque Ensemble scheme in collaboration with BBC Radio 3 and the National Centre for Early Music. Each year an early career ensemble is mentored by the RCM's Chair & Head of Historical Performance, working in collaborative side-by-side sessions and giving two recitals.

## Global opportunities

As well as providing opportunities in London and across the UK, you will be encouraged to build your experience and perspective through international performance. Recent tours have included festivals throughout Italy as well as performances in Paris, Salzburg, Bremen and Potsdam. Faculty students have also participated in the biennial Festival Misiones de Chiquitos in Bolivia.

## International Visiting Artists

We hold masterclasses with distinguished international exponents of historical performance. Our International Visiting Artists, who visit regularly, are Vittorio Ghielmi and Walter van Hauwe. Recent guest artists have also included Jean Rondeau, Rachel Podger, Bart van Ort, Wilbert Hazelzet, Han Tol, Paolo Pandolfo, Menno van Delft, Susanne Fröhlich, Leila Schayegh, Viola de Hoog, François Lazarevitch and Kati Debretzeni.

## Chamber music

You will be encouraged to form your own chamber groups and expand your repertoire. You can also access 18th-century chamber music coaching from Florilegium, our Ensemble in Association.

The faculty also now curates a programme of lunchtime performances in the RCM Museum that showcases our inspiring collection of original instruments.

'Few places feel as inspired as the RCM's Historical Performance Faculty. With dedicated classes and regular contact time with an extraordinary mix of internationally recognised professors, you gain access to a rich and transformative training – invaluable for every musician'

**Luca Imperiale, BMus, Recorder**



**Get in touch**  
[historicalperformance@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:historicalperformance@rcm.ac.uk)



**Find out more**  
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# KEYBOARD

**We pride ourselves on being a nurturing faculty, encouraging you to achieve your personal goals and develop the skills to be successful in today's music profession. Our programmes will help you to fulfil your potential as a musician and enable you to specialise in a variety of areas.**

Professor Vanessa Lata arche, Head of Keyboard, Chair of International Keyboard Studies and Associate Director for Partnerships in Asia



## Specialised teaching

The Royal College of Music has the largest Keyboard Faculty of any conservatoire in the UK. We provide tuition in piano, contemporary piano, collaborative piano and organ, as well as fortepiano and harpsichord. Our distinguished and experienced professors are drawn from around the globe and are dedicated to helping you develop as a professional musician. Many have successful performing careers, and our organ professors hold positions in prestigious churches and cathedrals. For organists, the faculty organises trips to France, Germany or the Netherlands, where you will have the chance to perform on a variety of instruments.

As a pianist you will have the opportunity to perform and have lessons on Steinway, Fazioli and Bechstein grand pianos, and to practise on the 12 Blüthners in our impressive Blüthner Practice Suite. Organists have access to a selection of fine instruments, including our magnificent Flentrop Orgelbouw organ in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall. You will also have opportunities to play and study on instruments elsewhere, such as the UK's second-largest organ in the Royal Albert Hall.

## Guest artists

We welcome renowned international pianists for a thrilling programme of masterclasses, giving you the chance to play for and learn from today's most accomplished performers. Recent visitors include Boris Berman, Dame Imogen Cooper, Boris Giltburg, Angela Hewitt, Sir Stephen Hough, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Lang Lang, Sir Andrés Schiff and Edith Fischer.

## Performance opportunities

There is a huge range of performance opportunities available to you including recitals, chamber concerts, jazz, orchestral concerts, concerto opportunities and our annual Keyboard Festival.

## Professional success

RCM professors are regularly on the juries of major international competitions and many students have competed successfully in recent years. Recent highlights include first prizes at the Leeds International Piano Competition and at the International German Piano Award, as well as prizes at the Franz Liszt, Van Cliburn, Cleveland and Hastings International piano competitions.

RCM collaborative pianists regularly win accompanist prizes, including in the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and Royal Over-Seas League.

### Image above

RCM pianist performing in a masterclass with Sir Stephen Hough



**'The vast expertise of the entire Keyboard Faculty has nurtured and elevated my pianistic and musical aspirations in ways I could never have imagined prior to coming to the RCM'**

**Daniel Xia, MMus Perf, Piano**

## Collaborative piano

Collaborative piano is available at undergraduate level on a modular basis, and you can focus specifically on this art form as a postgraduate. Our professors in collaborative piano are all successful pianists who can offer unique expertise and insight into this competitive field. You will also have opportunities to work with musicians studying in other faculties. For those hoping to join the postgraduate collaborative piano course, the chances to make lasting working partnerships are numerous. There are regular song classes and recitals programmed especially for those on this course.

Find out about postgraduate collaborative piano at [www.rcm.ac.uk/collaborativepiano](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/collaborativepiano)



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[keyboard@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:keyboard@rcm.ac.uk)



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# STRINGS

**The Strings Faculty is a thriving artistic community of exceptional young musicians united by a love of music. By learning from an array of world-leading performers and teachers, all our students are encouraged to achieve the highest level possible in their solo, chamber and orchestral playing and to become versatile, entrepreneurial musicians well equipped for the international music profession.**

Gary Ryan, Head of Strings



## Outstanding professors

Classes given by International Visiting Artists feature many of today's greatest musicians including Alina Ibragimova, Maxim Rysanov, Peter Herresthal, Vasko Vassilev, Maxim Vengerov, Torlief Thedéen and John Williams.

## Guest artists

Distinguished international musicians give masterclasses throughout the year, with recently invited guests including violinists Tasmin Little and Francesca Deago, violists Roger Benedict and Nora Romanoff-Schwarzberg, cellists Marc Coppey and Alisa Weilerstein, bassists Paul Ellison and Olivier Thiery, harpists Claudia Lucia Lamanna and Isabelle Perrin, and guitarists Gabriel Bianco and Sean Shibe.

## Performance opportunities

RCM chamber groups have numerous opportunities to perform at venues in and out of College including Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall as well as in festivals, collaborations and competitions.

Recent events as part of the RCM's String Quartet Platform have included classes with the Brodsky Quartet, Ligeti Quartet, Marmen Quartet and our Ensemble in Association, the Sacconi Quartet.

The orchestral experience at RCM is unparalleled, with our vibrant ensembles regularly working with renowned conductors such as Martyn Brabbins, Sofi Jeannin, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sakari Oramo (at the BBC Proms), Vasily Petrenko and Rafael Payare, as well as with musicians from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

Students also have the opportunity through the RCM Concerto Competition to perform as a concerto soloist. Other recent performances include Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* and Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony at Snape Maltings as part of the Aldeburgh Festival, Tubin's Concerto for Double Bass and the Castelnuovo-Tedesco Concertino for Harp.

'The RCM is such a vibrant hive of excellent music making. The quality of teaching is outstanding and the professors are extremely encouraging and nurturing. This is the best environment to grow and thrive as a musician and as a young adult'

**Henry Goodwin-Hitt, BMus, Viola**



## Individual development

At the RCM we tailor a unique programme of study to you. Bowed string players work with professional accompanists to develop duo skills, and there are weekly faculty classes for double bass, harp and guitar students led by specialist RCM professors and visiting artists. You are also encouraged to attend and perform in public masterclasses led by a wide range of leading teachers and performers active on the international music scene.

**Image above**  
RCM guitarist participating in a masterclass with Gabriel Bianco



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[strings@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:strings@rcm.ac.uk)



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# TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

**The backbone of your teaching at the RCM will have a clear orchestral focus – many of our former students hold positions in the UK's leading ensembles – but your training will explore all aspects of percussion so that you are fully equipped with the diverse skills needed to excel in today's profession.**

David Hockings, Head of Timpani & Percussion



## Percussion Suite

As an RCM Timpani & Percussion student you will benefit from our purpose-built Percussion Suite, opened by Dame Evelyn Glennie. In addition to our practice rooms, we have spaces dedicated to specific instruments: timpani, vibraphone, marimba and orchestral, as well as a multi-percussion room for recital and ensemble practice. Our large main space for masterclasses and sectional rehearsals features recording equipment, as does our bespoke studio, which also contains two drum kits, Latin instruments, vibraphone and keyboards.

## Specialist teaching

Many of our staff members hold principal positions in major orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Ballet Sinfonia. As an undergraduate you will receive timpani and percussion lessons as well as regular teaching on solo marimba, jazz vibraphone, Latin percussion and drum kit. We offer solo marimba as a principal study instrument on our Master of Performance course. International Visiting Artists such as Jas Kayser and Tomohiro Ando host masterclasses and coach our ensembles.

**'The variety of performance opportunities I get as a percussionist is incredible – this is linked to the breadth of percussion disciplines offered in the College curriculum. No term is the same!'**

**Hoi Yin Ng, BMus, Timpani & Percussion**



## Guest artists

You will have the chance to participate in repertoire classes with players from the London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra as well as masterclasses with distinguished international musicians. Recent visitors have included Marta Klimasara, She-e Wu, Jonny Mansfield, Matt Hardy and Jamey Haddad.

Our annual Festival of Percussion has featured artists such as Dave Weckl, Benny Greb, Pete Lockett, Jojo Mayer, John Riley and Ralph Salmins as well as representatives from leading percussion ensembles and major London orchestras.

## Performance opportunities

As well as regular faculty performance classes and termly percussion showcases, you will have the chance to perform with the RCM's major ensembles and orchestras, our very own American drumline, the Redhocks, and our percussion quartet, PERC'M (Percussion Ensemble of the Royal College of Music).



**Get in touch**  
[percussion@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:percussion@rcm.ac.uk)



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# WOODWIND

**We encourage every student to become a musician with their own individual voice in a supportive, collaborative and stimulating environment. Our professors are eminent musicians in their field whilst being passionate about teaching and supporting future generations.**

Marie Lloyd, Head of Woodwind



## Your learning experience

Our faculty, like the wider RCM community, fosters a culture of nurturing all students in a supportive environment. You will be encouraged to grow into a confident and imaginative performer and to take advantage of all the opportunities available to you.

Central to your experience will be one-to-one lessons with world-class professors, inspiring and innovative musicians – many of whom are principal players in major UK and European orchestras.

Chamber music is a hugely important part of RCM life and your musical development, with a myriad of instrumental combinations receiving regular coaching. There are frequent opportunities to perform at prestigious venues including Cadogan Hall, the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room and the National Gallery.

## Orchestras

We pride ourselves on the quality and variety of our orchestral programme – one of the most extensive of any UK conservatoire. The RCM ensembles cover a wide range of repertoire, from contemporary to Baroque, and include the RCM Symphony, RCM Philharmonic and opera orchestras.

You will work with conductors such as Joana Carneiro, Rafael Payare, Martyn Brabbins, Vasily Petrenko, Sakari Oramo and Sir Antonio Pappano.

Recent highlights have included the RCM Symphony Orchestra's performance of Holst's *The Planets* at the 2024 BBC Proms and Messiaen's *Turangalila-symphonie* at the Royal Festival Hall. All students will have the opportunity to perform and train within an orchestral setting.

## Wind ensembles

The programming of our specialist wind ensemble is eclectic and imaginative, covering many of the most iconic 20th and 21st-century works combined with pillars of the Harmoniemusik repertoire. Our collaborations with other faculties and our visiting conductors extend the possibilities in instrumentation and experimentation. Each termly programme pushes the boundaries of wind playing and gives our students a voice through directing both rehearsals and concerts.

## Outstanding professors

An outstanding roster of internationally acclaimed musicians visits to deliver a range of one-to-one lessons, group classes or masterclasses, including International Visiting Artists Adam Walker, Amy Yule, Jacques Tys, Nick Deutsch and Theo Plath.

Other recent invited guests include Julien Beaudiment, Kai Frömbgen, Sharon Kam, Pascal Moraguès, Lola Descours and Claude Delangle.

## Professional training

We have training schemes with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and the Orchestra of English National Opera. These auditioned and mentored schemes introduce our students to professional orchestral environments.

## Professional success

Our woodwind graduates enjoy unrivalled success. They continue to win or be placed highly in national and international competitions, including several recent winners of the Royal Over-Seas League in both the Chamber Music and Solo Wind Categories. Former students have recently been awarded positions with the Orchestra of the Royal Ballet and Opera, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of English National Opera, BBC Symphony Orchestra and London Philharmonic Orchestra as well as positions with some of the UK's leading chamber ensembles including Riot Ensemble.



'The Woodwind Faculty is such a friendly and welcoming department with extremely passionate and inspiring teachers. This combination makes it an amazing environment to grow and develop as a musician'

**Anthony McKenna, MPerf, Clarinet**



**Get in touch**  
[woodwind@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:woodwind@rcm.ac.uk)



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# VOCAL & OPERA

**You will be welcomed into an innovative, nurturing and collaborative faculty with an exceptional record. Our aim is to help each student reach their full musical and artistic potential.**

Audrey Hyland, Head of Vocal & Opera



## Bespoke training

Your needs as an individual lie at the heart of our teaching. You will work on developing a secure and flexible vocal technique with the help of our team of internationally acclaimed vocal professors and repertoire and operatic coaches. Our comprehensive range of classes will enhance all aspects of your craft and enable you to present yourself with confidence, authority and autonomy in a professional context.

You will be working with distinguished artists inside the RCM and across the professional sector on song, chamber music and themed projects, with numerous opportunities to perform modern and period works in collaboration with the Composition and Historical Performance faculties.

## Outstanding professors & guest artists

We welcome exceptional International Visiting Artists for our regular masterclass series including Brindley Sherratt, Nicky Spence and Edith Wiens. Other guest artists have included Louise Alder, Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Sarah Connolly, Danielle de Niese, Joyce El-Khoury, Gerald Finley, Serena Gamberoni, Angela Gheorghiu, Sumi Jo, Dame Ann Murray and Huw Montague Rendall.

## Professional success

Singers at the RCM enjoy professional success around the globe. Recent international achievements include the Kathleen Ferrier Awards, Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition, BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, Wigmore Hall and Bollinger International Song Competition, S’Hertogenbosch Singing Competition, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Grange Festival International Singing Competition and the Cesti and Viñas competitions.

RCM singers perform on the stages of the world’s greatest opera houses and concert halls including the Royal Ballet and Opera House, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, Wiener Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Festival, English National Opera, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Theater an der Wien, Metropolitan Opera New York, Santa Fe and Aix-en-Provence festivals, Wigmore Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Carnegie Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.

RCM graduates progress each year to internationally renowned young artist programmes including the Jette Parker Artists Programme at the Royal Ballet and Opera House, Bayerische Staatsoper Studio, L’Atelier Lyrique de l’Opéra national de Paris, Zürich Opera Young Artists Programme, Houston Grand Opera Studio, Stuttgart Opera Studio, Strasbourg Opera’s Jeunes voix du Rhin, ENO Harewood Young Artists, Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Programme, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera’s Associate Artist scheme and the National Opera Studio.



**‘My development as a singer has been shaped by outstanding one-to-one lessons and coaching from Vocal & Opera Faculty professors. The RCM community is exceptionally supportive, and I have formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime’**

**Naomi Boot, BMus, Mezzo soprano**



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[vocal@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:vocal@rcm.ac.uk)



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# RCM OPERA STUDIO

The RCM Opera Studio offers one of the world's most unique and prestigious advanced training courses for opera. Our aim is to provide a nurturing environment and to build on the skills, artistry and confidence of our singers, so that they leave fully prepared to meet the demands of the profession.

Michael Rosewell, Director of Opera



'The Vocal & Opera Faculty is so outstanding because it attracts the best singers, pedagogues, coaches, conductors and directors in the business to the teaching staff. All of this, plus being surrounded by equally committed and passionate students every day, makes for an entirely motivational environment'

**Hugo Brady, MPerf, Tenor**



### Rigorous training

As part of an elite and carefully selected group of singers with exceptional talent, you will receive rigorous and supportive training that is sensitive to your individual needs and reflective of the demands of the profession. You will work regularly with a team of coaches, musicians and theatre professionals drawn from the senior ranks of the country's leading opera companies, and you will perform in acclaimed full-scale productions in our first-class auditorium, the Britten Theatre.

### Performance opportunities

We present a number of productions each year as well as sets of fully staged opera scenes, and we replicate professional performance conditions to help make the transition to a career as smooth as possible. You will benefit from rehearsing and performing with highly experienced, influential industry professionals who occupy key posts at the great opera houses of Europe and beyond.

### International Visiting Artists

In addition to receiving regular core training, you will gain unique artistic and professional insights through the mentorship of our International Visiting Artists, Brindley Sherratt, Nicky Spence and Edith Wiens, as well as guest artists such as Sir Thomas Allen and Angela Gheorghiu. Career development and support is an integral part of our offer. We hold regular sessions with Richard Hetherington of the Royal Ballet and Opera as well as with other leading agents in the profession.

Our Centre for Performance Science will also assist you in gathering the information and skills necessary for the development of your future professional career.



#### Get in touch

[rcmoperastudio@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:rcmoperastudio@rcm.ac.uk)



#### Find out more

[rcm.ac.uk/operastudio](http://rcm.ac.uk/operastudio)



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- 46** Undergraduate Degree
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# COURSES



[rcm.ac.uk/courses](https://rcm.ac.uk/courses)

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

The Royal College of Music's four-year BMus (Hons) degree combines world-class artistic training with innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, equipping you with the expertise and versatility for tomorrow's music industry.



## Fulfil your potential

With individual tuition from world-renowned professors and academics, collaborative projects and industry placements, you will gain the skills, knowledge and experience crucial for building a successful creative career.

Royal College of Music graduates pursue diverse professions, from soloists, conductors and principal orchestral players to festival directors, educators and leaders across the creative industries.

Many continue their studies at postgraduate level, both at the RCM and leading institutions worldwide.

## Prepare for your career

As a BMus (Hons) student, you will develop a deep understanding of musical traditions while building the curiosity, confidence and adaptability to thrive as a professional musician today. Alongside your principal study in performance or composition, you will follow a practice-led curriculum that supports both your artistic and professional development. With a focus on versatility, employability and entrepreneurship, you will be prepared for a wide range of career paths.

Core modules in Years 1 and 2 strengthen your all-round musicianship and employability in areas including aural skills, improvisation, theory and analysis, musicology, and music education.

In Years 3 and 4, you will further develop your skills in entrepreneurship and project management. You will also choose from a range of elective modules enabling you to specialise in areas of music research or professional practice aligned with your interests and career ambitions.



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/bmus](https://rcm.ac.uk/bmus)

## Communicate, collaborate, create

You will benefit from a combination of one-to-one principal study tuition, lectures and small group seminars, individual academic support, and practical group projects modelled on current industry practices. Many of our artistic projects and modules are delivered in collaboration with the College's industry partners, providing valuable work-based learning opportunities and access to professional mentors as a springboard for your career.

The RCM BMus (Hons) offers a fulfilling and inclusive experience within a vibrant community of exceptional musicians from across the globe.

**'At the Royal College of Music, you will receive exceptional artistic training from leading professors and academics within a supportive environment that inspires creativity and exploration. You will be part of a community that celebrates artistic excellence, shapes the future of music, and equips you with the skills to thrive in the dynamic creative arts industry'**

**Dr Ann van Allen-Russell,  
BMus Programme Coordinator**



**Image opposite**  
Anna-Maria Helsing  
conducts the  
RCM Philharmonic

**Image above**  
Gail Williams leads a  
horn masterclass

# POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

**Our postgraduate degrees are designed to prepare you for life as a professional musical artist. You'll work alongside world-leading musicians to develop your performance or composition skills to the highest international standard.**



Our flexible courses support your emerging career with rigorous practical training, innovative professional development opportunities and a stimulating research culture.

You will have the freedom to tailor your studies to suit your individual artistic goals, specialising in areas that align with your musical aspirations.

With a uniquely immersive conservatoire experience, you'll be at the heart of a dynamic environment where creativity and collaboration thrive, with a focus on artistic excellence, digital technology, global perspectives and sustainability.

Guided by world-renowned professors and visiting artists in an environment that embraces both heritage and innovation, you'll refine your craft to become not only a highly skilled performer or composer but also a confident and adaptable professional, ready to excel in the global music industry.



**Image left**  
Rafael Payare  
conducting the RCM  
Symphony Orchestra

**Image top**  
The RCM Performance  
Laboratory

## Postgraduate pathways

The Royal College of Music's main Masters course encompasses several degree pathways, all offering exceptional practical training in performance or composition.

- **Master of Performance (MPerf)** and **Master of Composition (MComp)** focus on intensive practical and professional preparation.
- **Master of Music in Performance (MMus Perf)** and **Master of Music in Composition (MMus Comp)** combine this practical training with research into performance or compositional theory and practice. This structure allows you to adapt your studies to your goals, whether focusing on professional artistry or exploring a blend of practice and research.

We also offer degrees tailored to specific career pathways:

- **Master of Music Education: Teaching Musician (MMusEd)** prepares aspiring music educators through a combination of practical training in performance or composition with vocational education skills and theoretical knowledge.
- **MSc in Performance Science**, led by the Centre for Performance Science, explores the art and science of performance, preparing students for careers in fields such as music psychology, performance science and musicians' wellbeing, blending rigorous academic inquiry with practical applications.

## Other courses

Our **Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)** can be awarded to students who have completed 120 credits of a Masters programme.

Our **Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance** is available to vocal students as a bridge to postgraduate study.

**'At the Royal College of Music, we will ensure you are prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing musical world, empowering you to embrace new opportunities and define the future of music'**

**Professor Mark Bowden, Professor of Music & Head of Postgraduate Programmes**



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/pg](https://rcm.ac.uk/pg)

# ARTIST DIPLOMAS

**The Artist Diploma offers an advanced, immersive course for musicians seeking to refine their artistic voice before entering the professional music world.**

These prestigious courses, which focus on personalised one-to-one tuition and practical projects tailored to your career aspirations, offer an ideal platform for perfecting your craft and preparing for a successful career in music.

You will benefit from the flexibility to shape your studies around your individual artistic goals, with intensive support from a faculty of renowned professors and mentors.

The courses' emphasis on practical performance or composition, specialised coaching, collaboration and career development will ensure you are equipped to excel in the ever-evolving music profession.

By blending tradition with innovation, we empower you not only to seize new opportunities but also to shape the future of music.



## **Artist Diploma in Composition**

This course offers concentrated study in composition, allowing students to work on specific projects under the guidance of expert teachers, leading to a final portfolio submission.

## **Artist Diploma in Conducting**

Focused on orchestral leadership and technique, this programme offers advanced training and opportunities to work with major professional orchestras. Designed for one conductor each year, the selected student will hold the Robert Anderson Junior Fellowship, benefitting from podium experience with major professional orchestras, and mentoring and tuition from Chair of Conducting, Professor Martyn Brabbins.

## **Artist Diploma in Opera**

Based in the RCM Opera Studio, this course is designed for aspiring opera singers, offering individual coaching and performance opportunities in opera scenes and fully staged productions.

## **Artist Diploma in Performance**

Focused on solo performance, this course provides intensive preparation for concerts, recitals and competitions, helping students transition to the music profession.

All Artist Diploma in Performance offer holders will be considered for an RCM Junior Fellowship. Working closely with the RCM Artistic Director, these three Junior Fellows will receive a bespoke artistic mentoring and career development programme.

Find out more:  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/fellowships](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/fellowships)

# RESEARCH DEGREES

**Our doctoral programme enables students to undertake a substantial original research project on a topic of their choosing.**

The RCM PhD is one of the most exciting doctoral communities in the country, encompassing research in performance, composition, musicology, organology, performance science and music education. Each student receives expert individual supervision, complemented by a specialist programme of skills training.

Doctoral students develop their research across a wide range of music areas, becoming creative, innovative and transformative researchers.

The Royal College of Music is ranked top UK conservatoire offering music as a single subject in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).



**Find out more**  
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# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



[rcm.ac.uk/study](https://rcm.ac.uk/study)

# MEET THE SU PRESIDENT LEILA HOOTON

## What does the RCM Students' Union offer?

The RCMSU offers a wide range of help and support, events and societies and a platform to make your voice heard. We want you to feel you really belong to our student community. We can help you find societies that suit you, plus special ticket deals, networking and advice about flexible employment – or just pop in for a chat! There are lots of SU-run activities going on, including events themed around different cultures, like Lunar New Year or Portuguese Night. And we organise external events, too: from group walks in Hyde Park to trips to London Zoo.

## How does the SU Committee represent RCM students?

Every member of the SU Committee understands how it feels to be at the College and wants to support students as much as possible, as well as representing the diversity of the RCM and opening up channels of communication with other areas of the College. We're always aiming to build an even stronger community here.

## What were your first impressions of the RCM?

The first time I visited was my audition day, and I was quite starstruck because it's such a magnificent building. Everyone was really welcoming – all the teachers and other staff are extremely friendly.

**'Every member of the SU Committee understands how it feels to be at the College and wants to support students as much as possible'**

## What are some of the highlights of your time at the RCM?

I feel so lucky to have been conducted by artists like Vasily Petrenko, Martyn Brabbins, Jessica Cottis, Ben Palmer – I learnt so much. Sitting in an orchestra surrounded by so many talented musicians means you learn a huge amount about your ensemble playing and orchestral skills. It's a great learning curve and it sets you up for the profession.



'The RCM has been great for developing my independence and drive as a musician. The ability to spend time focusing on my craft to get the most out of my potential has been so helpful'

**Tim Dobinson, BMus, Timpani & Percussion**



# CREATIVE SPACES

**At the Royal College of Music, you will have as your home an historic yet state-of-the-art campus of international renown.**

‘One feels a strong sense of history in and around the College campus, with its interiors paying tribute to legendary alumni from Parry to Britten... I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this musical community’

**Gwydion Rhys, MMus, Composition**



Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall

Our orchestras, large ensembles and chorus regularly perform in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall – our principal 400-seat concert venue.

The Britten Theatre – one of London’s best-loved opera stages – is not just for students of opera. With an orchestra pit and elegant tiered auditorium, it hosts our regular productions as well as a variety of instrumental and ensemble performances.

The Performance Hall provides an alternative, versatile space for chamber performances and orchestral rehearsals, boasts a retractable stage, comprehensive technical infrastructure and variable acoustics – and is home to Fazioli and Steinway grand pianos.



Britten Theatre



Performance Hall



Parry Rooms

Our more intimate venues for chamber and solo performances include the Performance Studio, the Recital Hall, the Parry Rooms and The Carne Room, which overlook the Royal Albert Hall.

The Blomfield Building and our café, The Carolean, and Courtyard, are always bustling.

The South Building houses a performance space, practice facilities, the Percussion Suite and the RCM Students' Union, while RCM Jay Mews provides two further large orchestral and opera rehearsal spaces and more practice rooms.

### Practice facilities

As an instrumentalist or singer, you might find yourself practising in one of our sound-proofed Amadeus music pods. As a pianist, you will have access to our Blüthner Practice Suite with its 12 Blüthner Model A upright pianos. We also have a purpose-built Percussion Suite and a magnificent Flentrop Orgelbouw organ in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall.



Practice Pods



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/facilities](https://rcm.ac.uk/facilities)

## Digital innovation

Our Performance Studio has been transformed into a ground-breaking digital space, with full wall-height screens and a state-of-the-art Meyer Sound Constellation system incorporating dozens of speakers installed into the walls and ceiling. This pioneering Performance Simulator gives you the ability to transform the venue to emulate other performance venues or create entirely new immersive spaces. We also have two Steinway Spirio equipped pianos, allowing us to bring RCM performances to global audiences.

## Creative technology

Your studies are supported by learn.rcm, our virtual learning environment accessible anywhere, while our One-Touch Recording System allows you to record yourself in any of our performance spaces using broadcast quality microphones and cameras. The same system is used to record lectures, seminars and masterclasses to make them available online.

The College is a member of the Global Conservatoire, a partnership of five leading international conservatoires, including Conservatorium van Amsterdam, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Manhattan School of Music and the Royal Danish Academy of Music, which offers students innovative online learning experiences and access to high-definition online masterclasses.

Many concerts are filmed or recorded so you can watch later via our online internal video player, RCM Stream. We also live stream events at [www.rcm.ac.uk/live](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/live)



RCM musicians in a recording session



Steinway Spirio in the Performance Studio



RCM Studios team



RCM Performance Simulator



RCM Library

## RCM Library, Museum and Collections

The RCM Library is home to over 200,000 scores, books, music journals and recordings. The Library consistently receives a top ranking in the National Student Survey (NSS).

You can explore our collection of 30,000 manuscripts and 40,000 early printed editions, which includes autograph scores by Beethoven, Chopin, Elgar, Haydn, Mozart and Vaughan Williams.

You can also access a wide range of online resources including nkoda, Henle Library, Oxford Music Online, RILM, Naxos Music Library, medici.tv, Berlin Philharmonic Digital Concert Hall and the Met Opera on Demand.

The RCM Museum maintains one of the richest collections of music-related objects in the UK and Europe, including the earliest known guitar and stringed keyboard instrument. Its treasures will inspire your learning, with opportunities to participate in Museum concerts and workshops.

The Wolfson Centre in Music & Material Culture provides you with access to over 14,000 early musical instruments, paintings, drawings and sculptures.



The groundbreaking Kurt Cobain exhibition in the RCM Museum

‘Masterclasses and orchestral projects have been invaluable in developing my musicianship, supported by outstanding facilities such as the high-tech Performance Studio’

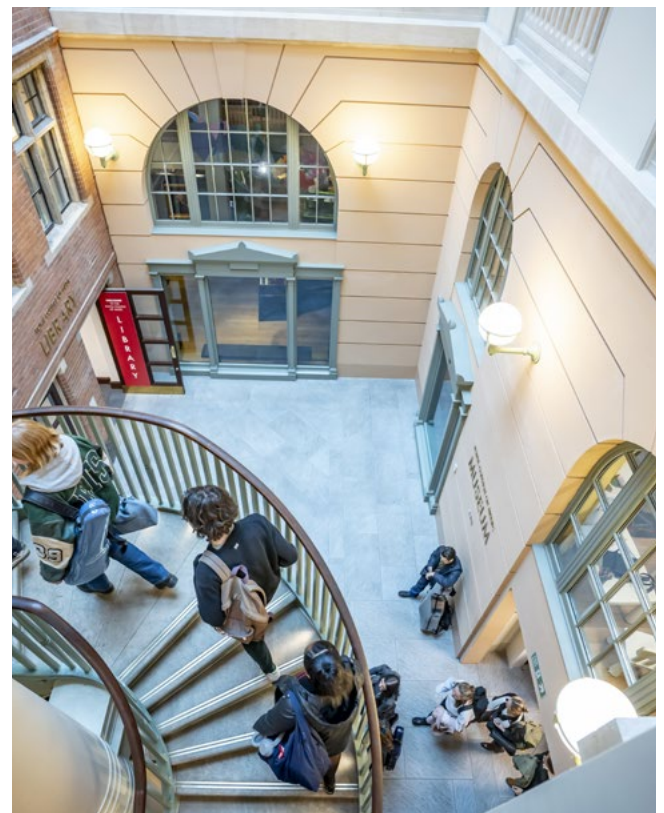
**Ekaterina Chunikhina, BMus, Oboe**



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/museum](http://rcm.ac.uk/museum)



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/library](http://rcm.ac.uk/library)



RCM Atrium

# ACCOMMODATION

**We offer a high-quality hall of residence,  
Prince Consort Village.**





## Prince Consort Village

The Royal College of Music's hall of residence, Prince Consort Village, provides uniquely dedicated high-quality accommodation for music students in London. You can choose from a range of student apartments, en-suite and standard rooms. Prince Consort Village is built specifically for musicians like you, with acoustically treated rooms throughout and 23 dedicated practice rooms (available for use 24/7). Additional facilities include a film room, open-plan space, gym, bicycle storage and a laundry. There is high-speed Wi-Fi throughout, as well as welcoming indoor and outdoor communal spaces.

Located in leafy south-west London, Prince Consort Village is within easy travelling distance of the RCM; you can cycle, take the London Underground to South Kensington, and there are regular buses too.



RCM student in a Queen Alexandra single room, South Kensington

## Alternative accommodation

There are also many alternative halls and private accommodation options available, with London's large rental market offering you a range of options across the city.

You may be eligible to apply for local student halls such as Queen Alexandra's House. Ideally located next to the Royal Albert Hall it provides fully catered, managed female-only accommodation for students of the Royal College of Music, Royal College of Art and Imperial College London.



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/accommodation](https://rcm.ac.uk/accommodation)

# STUDENT SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

**We offer a wide range of support during your time here, including counselling, disability support, wellbeing activities, and advice on health, finance, accommodation and personal matters.**

Our experienced Student Services team is available in person and online to help you tackle issues and access a range of wider support resources. Our counselling service is available to all students, and we are partnered with Togetherall, a 24/7 online platform providing advice and support for those experiencing mental health problems.

We take pride in being an inclusive place to study, focused on removing barriers and encouraging a sense of belonging so that everyone feels part of our community.

You can discuss any support or access requirements relating to a disability with Student Services.

Visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/disabilities](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/disabilities)

You can also talk in confidence to Student Services about personal circumstances such as caring responsibilities or health issues.

The Imperial College Health Centre nearby provides primary care medical services and also has its own counselling service. Imperial College's Chaplaincy Centre welcomes all RCM students, offering wellbeing support, events, and advice relating to faith and spirituality.

We are a member of the Healthy Conservatoires Network and there is a strong tradition of Alexander Technique at the RCM. You can also access free yoga, meditation sessions and low-cost massage therapy.



'What truly makes the RCM is the community: people are really supportive of one another and for me it makes College like a second home'

**Carlotta Vitaloni, BMus, Viola**



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/studentssupport](https://rcm.ac.uk/studentssupport)

# SCHOLARSHIPS, FEES AND FUNDING

**We are committed to nurturing the best musicians from around the world. Thanks to our Friends and Supporters, more than half of our current students receive some level of financial support.**

Everyone who auditions (in person or by video) for a place on a performance or composition programme will automatically be considered for a scholarship or study award. Scholarships are offered on the merits of your performance at audition or interview. Our awards range from a contribution towards your tuition fees up to an award that covers them in full.

If you are offered support, you will receive confirmation in writing following your offer of a place.

Scholarships and Studentships are also available for students on the Doctoral Programme and MSc in Performance Science.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/scholarships)

## **RCM undergraduate bursaries**

Means-tested bursaries worth up to £3,000 per year are available to support UK undergraduate students from low-income households.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/scholarships)

## **Key information on fees and funding**

Our tuition fees are revised annually. Check [www.rcm.ac.uk/fees](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/fees) for the latest information. Home or overseas fee status is assessed using national regulations, considering factors including nationality and country of residence.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/feestatus](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/feestatus)

## **Student loans and other funding sources**

Student loans are available from Student Finance England to England-domiciled UK students on BMus (Hons), Masters and Doctoral courses, and some eligible EU students. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland offer their own student loan schemes.

The RCM participates in the William D Ford Federal Direct Student Loan Program offered by the US Department of Education.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/usloans](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/usloans)

You may have opportunities to apply for similar loans in other countries too.

Full guidance on seeking other funding sources:  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/otherfeesources](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/otherfeesources)

Information correct at time of publication.



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/apply/fees](http://rcm.ac.uk/apply/fees)

'Being awarded a full scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music has been truly life-changing. It has given me access to experiences that would otherwise have been unimaginable, enabling me to strive towards the artist I aspire to become'

**Thomas Luke, BMus, Piano**



# APPLYING AND AUDITIONS

**We aim to provide a friendly and welcoming audition experience, supporting applicants so you can demonstrate your full potential. Don't hesitate to contact our Admissions team at [admissions@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcm.ac.uk) if you have questions – we are here to help!**

**Full application guidance: [www.rcm.ac.uk/apply](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/apply)**

## 01 Visit us

We encourage you to explore RCM life at our annual Open Day or by attending an event in our programme. [www.rcm.ac.uk/openday](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/openday)

## 02 Check your deadline

If you would like to join our September 2027 intake, applications open in mid-July 2026. The deadline for most performance and composition applications is **1 October 2026**. Deadlines for some overseas audition venues and certain postgraduate courses vary. Late applications may be considered where places remain. [www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionlocations)

## 03 Check your entry requirements

You can find entry requirements for your course at [www.rcm.ac.uk/courses](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/courses). Non-UK students must also provide evidence of their English language ability. [www.rcm.ac.uk/english](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/english)

## 04 Apply

You will need to apply online for all taught courses through UCAS Conservatoires. [www.ucas.com/conservatoires](http://www.ucas.com/conservatoires)

PhD applications are submitted directly. [www.rcm.ac.uk/doctoral](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/doctoral)

## 05 Pay your application and assessment fees

Audition/assessment fees can range from £50–£115 depending on your course; Joint Principal Study applications cost £165. Applicants applying via UCAS Conservatoires must also pay the UCAS fee of £34.50. [www.rcm.ac.uk/apply](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/apply)

Low-income UK applicants to the BMus course may be eligible for an audition fee waiver. [www.rcm.ac.uk/feewaiver](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/feewaiver)

## 06 Prepare your audition or portfolio

You can find repertoire requirements for each principal study at [www.rcm.ac.uk/faculties](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/faculties)

Composers are primarily assessed on their portfolio; only shortlisted applicants are invited to an interview.

## 07 Your audition

London auditions normally take place in mid-November to early December. You will have around 15 minutes to warm up on arrival. Accompanists are provided in London, though applicants can bring their own if preferred. Most auditions last 15–20 minutes, however some applicants may be asked to perform for a second panel on the same day. Sight reading is required for instrumentalists. Some arrangements vary at our overseas audition venues. [www.rcm.ac.uk/whattoexpect](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/whattoexpect)

'The sense of community is inspiring, and the campus and facilities create a fantastic environment to learn, study and create. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a welcoming and supportive place'

**Cara Holland, MSc, Performance Science**

## 08 Audition by video

We encourage you to audition in person if possible, but if you cannot, video auditions are accepted for most principal studies and courses. Video applicants can still be considered for scholarships. Make sure you submit both the application and recording by the deadline.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionsbyrecording](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/auditionsbyrecording)

## 09 Respond to your offer

If successful, you will receive an offer via UCAS Conservatoires, with details of your entry conditions. Ensure you reply by the deadline displayed in the UCAS Hub. Offer holders receive further details about choosing a professor, study support, visas (for international students) and registration from the RCM admissions team.



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/apply](http://rcm.ac.uk/apply)

### Useful contact details

UCAS Conservatoires applicant helpline  
0371 468 0470  
+44 (0)330 333 0232 (overseas)

RCM Admissions  
+44 (0)20 7591 4362  
[admissions@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcm.ac.uk)  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/auditions)

# EXPLORE MORE

**Our website tells you everything you need to know about studying at the Royal College of Music, but the best way to explore life at the RCM is to visit! Join us at our annual Open Day, come to a concert or just drop in – everyone is welcome!**

At our annual Open Day in spring, you will be welcome to join us for performances, faculty introductions and sessions.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/openday](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/openday)

Our events allow you to see and hear the RCM in action. You can also tune in online for our live streams or watch performances on our YouTube channel.  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/events](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/events)  
[www.youtube.com/rcmlondon](http://www.youtube.com/rcmlondon)

You can browse our YouTube and social channels to find out more about life at the RCM.  
[www.youtube.com/rcmlondon](http://www.youtube.com/rcmlondon)

## **International students**

International team:  
[international@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcm.ac.uk)  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/international](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/international)

## **Applicants with disabilities**

Applications are welcomed from everyone. Discuss your needs in confidence:  
[disability@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:disability@rcm.ac.uk)

## **General contact**

Admissions team:  
[admissions@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcm.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)20 7591 4362  
[www.rcm.ac.uk/contact](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/contact)



**Find out more**  
[rcm.ac.uk/contact](http://rcm.ac.uk/contact)



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### Designer

May Yan Man

### Editors

Erin McKenna  
Kathleen Quirke  
Joanna Wyld

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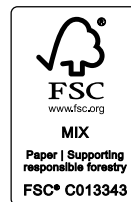
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Any enquiries about this publication should be addressed to [prospectus@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:prospectus@rcm.ac.uk)

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Prince Consort Road  
London SW7 2BS  
United Kingdom

+44(0)20 7591 4300  
info@rcm.ac.uk


[www.rcm.ac.uk](http://www.rcm.ac.uk)

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