



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES **2020-21**



ROYAL ACADEMY
OF MUSIC

WELCOME

When your family, friends or teachers ask you why you want to study at the Royal Academy of Music, your answer is probably that you would like to become a professional musician. Our internationally respected BMus degree can make those aspirations a reality.

The Academy's central objective is to prepare students for a career in music. Our collaborative performance environment will nurture your talent, and you will study with distinguished teachers and visiting professors who insist on the highest standards of musical excellence.

You can expect your four undergraduate years here to be challenging, engaging, motivational, inspirational and, above all, tailored to your personal interests and career goals. You will make friends for life and begin rich musical relationships that will sustain your professional career.



IMAGE CREDITS
SIMON JAY PRICE cover CHRIS CHRISTODOULOU pages 2, 3

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LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

The Academy's distinctive and stimulating learning environment is made up of four key factors:

TEACHING AND PERFORMANCE

One of the biggest influences on your development as a musician is your teacher; at the Academy you will find the very best. And, with over 500 events taking place each year, performance is central to what we do.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It takes more than being a superb performer to make a life in music. Our Artist Development provision teaches you the practical skills you'll need to build a successful career.

PLACE

The Academy's location in the heart of London gives you access to a wide range of performance opportunities, adding significant value to the start of your career.

PASTORAL CARE

We offer personal support on all things social, financial and artistic, guiding you through every aspect of your study to ensure that your musical wellbeing is sustained and enhanced by everything you do.



Find out more about our BMus Programme at ram.ac.uk/study

Contact our Registry Department at registry@ram.ac.uk or 020 7873 7393 with any questions.



MARÍA ESPINO CODES

'Whether we're taking part in screened orchestral auditions, workshops or concerts, we are always expected to give our all'

For me, coming to the Academy is not just about studying at a prestigious conservatoire – I see it as the start of my career in music. The standards here are so high and the teachers treat us as if we are already professionals. Whether we're taking part in screened orchestral auditions, workshops or concerts, we are always expected to give our all.

I'm only halfway through my undergraduate studies but I've already been lucky enough to take part in some incredible projects, including performances at Wigmore Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, as part as the BBC Proms. I've worked with internationally respected musicians including Trevor Pinnock, with whom we recorded an arrangement of Bach's Goldberg Variations, the violinist Josef Špaček, and the conductor Edward Gardner.

I would not have been able to achieve any of this without my violin teacher, Maureen Smith. Even when I'm not happy with my playing, I always come out of my lessons feeling inspired, motivated and determined to keep practising. She has given me so many exercises and tools to improve my bowing technique, which was one of my priorities. She has also taught me never to settle for a mediocre sound and, most importantly, to let the music sing.

After two years of hard work, I can definitely say that I have matured, both as a violinist and a person. I'm looking forward to discovering what awaits me at the end of this journey.



OUR VALUES

Artistry, Belonging and Challenge are the 'ABC' of your studies at the Academy

ARTISTRY

We believe that being a successful and well-rounded musician requires a wide range of skills. Principal Study lessons are your primary means of preparing for a professional career, and you will need to master technique and cultivate musical artistry.

Our varied BMus Programme reflects this, with exciting opportunities including:

- Performance classes with visiting professors such as Rachel Podger, Steven Osborne, Reinhold Friedrich, James Ehnes and Patrick Messina.
- Workshops with composers including Magnus Lindberg, John Adams and Sir Harrison Birtwistle.
- Masterclasses with distinguished artists such as William Bennett, Andrew Marriner, Pascal Rogé, Emily Beynon and Angelika Kirchschrager.
- Chamber music coaching with ensembles such as the Escher and Doric Quartets.

- The possibility of placements with top UK orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and London Sinfonietta.
- Sessions with principals of the very best European orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Lucerne Festival Orchestra.
- The chance to perform in concerts under high-profile conductors – recent visitors include Sir Mark Elder, Semyon Bychkov and Trevor Pinnock.

BELONGING

With a vibrant mix of students from over 50 countries, the Academy is a truly cosmopolitan place to study. We are deeply committed to our identity as a global community and value everyone equally, regardless of background. As the UK's oldest conservatoire, the Academy also has an extraordinary

heritage. We will help you to explore what it means to belong to a distinguished lineage, and to make music today (and tomorrow) with the support of this distinguished tradition behind you.

CHALLENGE

Your Academy journey will be a demanding and fulfilling one. We will support your artistic development by challenging you constantly, rewarding your success and encouraging you to explore your musical horizons to the limit. Our intensive performance schedule provides numerous opportunities to perform publicly, not only in our own performance spaces but also in world-famous London venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall. And you will get to work with our outstanding staff, visiting artists and guest conductors. You will graduate from the Academy ready to challenge the world as an artist.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

To make a life in music you will need to develop many personal, practical and technical skills. We can offer you the best chance to succeed in your chosen career

Young musicians today are entering a competitive and dynamic profession in which it takes more than being a superb performer to sustain a career. We want you to leave the Academy fully prepared for life as a working musician, so we set out to empower you – the next generation of artists – to make the most of your individual skills in the professional realm.

Our Artist Development strand is an integral part of your programme, preparing you practically, creatively

'This building has been absolutely at the centre of everything that I have done, everything that I have learnt'

Sir Simon Rattle

and strategically for the road ahead. Through a series of lectures, one-off events and individual guidance, we cover topics including the creation of industry-standard promotional material, curating your web presence, how to practise, starting and running ensembles, the audition process, how to work with promoters, and tax for the self-employed.

We train you to think strategically about your artistic identity: how you might nurture and have confidence in your individual talents, and integrate them into your future professional life. With this in mind, speakers working inside and outside the mainstream will deliver the sessions. Together with orchestral players and soloists, agents and festival directors, our speakers might be West End fixers, improvising

musicians, or musicians who have started their own companies. They will give you a broad range of perspectives to draw on when considering your own trajectory as an artist. We also engage with the particular health and wellbeing concerns of musicians, inviting speakers who are experts on injury prevention and psychological resilience.

Provision consists of weekly lectures and small group workshops with a variety of Academy staff and external professionals on all aspects of skills development and wellbeing. One-to-one career coaching is available to help you hone your artistic goals and objectives, and there are dedicated Artist Development Days for all students, whether undergraduate or postgraduate.



JAMES NASH

'One of the things I love most about studying here is the sheer variety of opportunities on offer'

Having completed my first year of trumpet studies at the Academy, I can say with confidence that choosing to study here was the right decision. I had no previous experience of learning at a conservatoire so wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I have felt supported since the moment I arrived. I meet regularly with my two teachers, who help me develop my orchestral, solo and technical playing and have worked with me to create a bespoke practice plan. They're always available if I need advice.

One of the things I love most about studying here is the sheer variety of opportunities on offer. The regular masterclasses with such world-class professional artists as Reinhold Friedrich and Eric Aubier have helped me to develop my musical interpretation and self-awareness, especially when learning new repertoire. I have taken part in Symphonic Brass projects led

by Ian Bousfield, Jeroen Berwaerts, Septura and Mark David. One of the highlights of the year was my first Academy Symphony Orchestra concert – Shostakovich's 10th Symphony under John Wilson.

The social life is good, too. Everybody is friendly and it's great to be around like-minded students. Four friends and I created our own brass quintet, W1 Brass, and with the Academy's support we were able to compete in the Philip Jones International Brass Ensemble Competition this summer, as well as spending time working with Stockholm Chamber Brass in Sweden.

It has been a whirlwind of a year, and I can't wait to continue my studies.

Patron

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Marylebone Road
London NW1 5HT

[ram.ac.uk](https://www.ram.ac.uk)

T: +44 (0)20 7873 7373



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