

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC



ALMANAC
2023/24

A CATALOGUE OF THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL,
ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Plínio Fernandes interviewed in [Gramophone magazine](#) about his new Decca Gold album on 21 July.

Sir Simon Rattle, Edward Gardner, Lucy Crowe, Allan Clayton, Sir Mark Elder, Roxanna Panufnik, John Wilson, Sir Stephen Hough, Sheku and **Isata Kanneh-Mason** and **Anna Lapwood** – to name just a few – appeared in BBC Proms over the summer.

Alim Beisembayev performed Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor at Prom 30 on 6 August, stepping in for fellow alum **Benjamin Grosvenor** at the last moment. Alim's performance received praise in [Bachtrack](#) and five stars in The Guardian.

Emma Rawicz described by journalist **John Adcock** in [Jazz Journal](#) as a 'major new British jazz talent' on 31 August, and her album *Chroma* was The Guardian's Jazz Album of the Month in September.

Junior Jazz Programme described as 'a crucial entry point for countless young musicians' by **Mike Flynn** in Jazzwise on 26 September.

The Doric String Quartet released the first volume of their Beethoven String Quartets cycle on Chandos Records on 10 November, earning Classical Recording of the Week in The Sunday Times.

Ezra Collective featuring **Joe Armon-Jones, Femi Koleoso** and **Ife Ogunjobi** performed 'Victory Dance' on The Graham Norton Show on 31 December.

PREMIERES

Isabella Gellis won the Druckman Prize for the premiere of *Valedictions* at Aspen Music Festival on 10 July.

APPOINTMENTS

Gavin Adams cast in the title role of *Aladdin* in the UK and Ireland tour for 2024/25.

Colin Currie appointed Visiting Professor of Modern Ensembles.

Ben Glassberg appointed Music Director of the Vienna Opera House from January 2024.

Adam Hickox appointed Principal Conductor of Glyndebourne Sinfonia for 2024/25 season.

Helena Mackie appointed Principal Oboe with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Emily Nebel appointed Assistant Concertmaster of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Christian Thielemann appointed to succeed **Daniel Barenboim** as Music Director of the Berlin State Opera from September 2024.

Hannah Roberts named the Academy's Jacqueline du Pré Professor of Cello.

Aya Robertson appointed Young Artist Repetiteur for Opera Holland Park's 2024 season.

Charles Maxtone-Smith appointed Organist of Buckfast Abbey, starting January 2024.

Hamish Wagstaff appointed Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle for 2024/25.

COMPETITION SUCCESS

Michael Ronan won 2023 John Christie Award at Glyndebourne on 29 August.

Nicolò Umberto Foron won the Förderpreis Deutschlandfunk award at Bremen Music Festival on 10 September.

Florian Störtz awarded First Prize and the Audience Prize at the Helmut Deutsch Lied Competition on 16 September accompanied by **Mark Rogers**.

Kasparas Mikūžis awarded third prize at International M.K. Čiurlionis Piano and Organ Competition on 24 September.

Timothy Ridout, Edward Gardner, Jennifer France, Claire Barnett-Jones and **Dame Felicity Lott** won prizes at the Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2023 on 4 October.

At OPUS KLASSIK awards on 8 October **Rachel Podger** won Solo Instrumental Award and **Martynas Levickis** named Instrumentalist of the Year.

Emmanuel Coppey won Lillian and Maurice Barbash JS Bach String Competition on Friday 20 October.

Johannes Moore and **Ilan Kurtser** won First Prize at the Copenhagen Lied-Duo Competition on 29 October.

At Kathleen Ferrier Society Bursary for Young Singers competition **Lizzie Estrada** won First Prize, **Aksel Rykkvin** Second Prize and **Zany Denyer** the Accompanist's Prize on 30 October.

Madison Horman won Second Prize in the Lockwood NZAria on 7 November.

OTHER NEWS

On 20 September the Academy announced a partnership with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) to include an annual exchange programme. Members of both academies will spend up to 14 days with each other as part of the collaboration from 2025.

Director of Primary Academy **Krystyna Budzynska** received 'Outstanding Contribution Award' at the Action for Children's Arts J.M. Barrie Awards on 9 November.

Naarah named Tasmania's [Young Australian of the Year 2024](#) on 10 November.

The Financial Times listed *Speaking Musically: Great Artists in Conversation at the Royal Academy of Music* as one of the year's top three classical music publications on 17 November.

CONCERT AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Academy Jazz Orchestra marked 50 years since the release of Herbie Hancock's *Head Hunters* album on 11 October.

Trevor Pinnock conducted Academy Chamber Orchestra in Schubert's Symphony No 9 in C on 13 October honouring memory of former Academy Principal **Sir David Lumsden**.

On 27 October **Sir Mark Elder** conducted the Academy Symphony Orchestra in Sibelius' *The Oceanides*, Ravel's *Ma mère l'Oye* and Bax's *Tintagel*.

Autumn Piano Festival on 31 October featured 26 of Liszt's finest pieces.

Students performed Gershwin and Stravinsky in a Septura SIDE-BY-SIDE on 10 November.

Jazz Department celebrated Bheki Mseleku on 15 November as part of EFG London Jazz Festival.

Royal Academy Opera's production of *Ariodante* ran from 21 to 24 November. **Richard Bratby** wrote in [The Spectator](#): 'It wouldn't have looked out of place on a professional stage.'

Bach in Leipzig drew to a close with Bach's Magnificat, BWV 243, conducted by **Iain Ledingham** on 3 December.

Holly Clark, Thomas Thornton and **James Kelly** performed Bach's *Christmas oratorio* conducted by **Lionel Meunier** on 12 December at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris as part of the Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme.

Gina Gallacher and **Megan Humphries** visited the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía for a concert conducted by **Péter Csaba** on 14 November as part of the Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme.

Edward Gardner conducted the Academy Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Sibelius' Symphony No 5 in E flat and Tárrodi's *Zephyros* on 1 December.

Royal Academy Musical Theatre Company's end-of-year staged production, *Cy Baby*, took place over two concerts on 5 December. Awarded four stars in [Musical Theatre Review](#).

STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (ABC) published an article about **Nina Korbe**'s career so far: 'From the butcher shop to the stage: Nina Korbe's opera journey' on 22 January.

[Classic FM](#) published an article entitled: 'Who is Jacob Collier, the viral musician turning audiences into choirs?' on 7 February.

Decca Classics signed guitarist **Alexandra Whittingham** to its label, reported by Martin Cullingford in [Gramophone](#) on 9 February.

Matt Anderson's album *Live at the Leeds Jazz Festival* was released on 1 March. [Jazz in Europe](#) named it 'a must-listen'.

APPOINTMENTS

Elizabeth Bass appointed Principal Harp of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Matthew Brett appointed Principal Percussionist of Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido appointed sub-principal cellist of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Principal Trumpet of the Philharmonia Orchestra, **Jason Evans**, appointed James Watson Visiting Professor of Trumpet at the Academy.

Oleksandr Ilvakhin and **Anita Monserrat** to join opera studio of the Vienna State Opera from the 2024/25 season for two years.

Thomas Isaac appointed section leader cellist for Ulster Orchestra starting in 2024/25 season.

Henry Ross to join opera studio of German Opera on the Rhine starting September 2025.

Duncan Stenhouse to join Canadian Opera Company's Young Artist Ensemble Studio for 2024–2026.

COMPETITION SUCCESS

Sir Elton John reached 'EGOT' status (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award winner) with 'Outstanding Variety Special (Live)' Award at the 75th Emmy Awards on 15 January.

Madison Horman awarded runner up in 2024 Clonter Opera Prize on 3 February.

Jacob Collier won Best Arrangement, Instrument and Vocals at Grammy Awards on 4 February, making him the first British artist to win a Grammy for each of his first four albums.

Anna Im won the 2nd Stuttgart International Violin Competition on 26 February.

Ossian Huskinson won Fifth Prize and the Mozart Prize at the Concorso Tenor Viñas on 3 March.

Lotte Betts-Dean won the Young Artist Award, tenor **Nicky Spence** won the Singer Award and **Aaron Akugbo** achieved a nomination in the Young Artist category at the 2024 Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Awards on 5 March.

Tohi Harada won 1st Prize in the International Guitar Competition Ida Presti during its fourth edition held from March 8 to March 10 in Samobor, Croatia.

OTHER NEWS

Launched *SIDE-BY-SIDE: Developing the Next Generation of Composers and Performers in London* programme with Riot Ensemble supported by the Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne on 5 February.

History of Musical Theatre teacher **George Hall** celebrated his 99th birthday on 5 February. George has worked as an actor, director, writer and teacher and his theatre career spans over 65 years.

Royal Academy Opera's production of *Albert Herring* ran from 12 to 15 March. **Peter Reed** wrote in [Classical Source](#): 'the standard delivered by the Royal Academy of Music's singers and instrumentalists was very high.'

Barbara Hannigan conducted the Academy Symphony Orchestra in Haydn's Symphony No 49 in F minor, 'La passione', Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre* and Vivier's *Bouchara* on 15 March.

CONCERT AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Eamonn Dougan led Academy Baroque Soloists in the first performance of *Resounding Shores* on 12 January. The programme included Gibbons' *O Lord, in thy wrath*, Byrd's *Arise Lord into thy rest* and Purcell's *O sing unto the Lord*.

The annual *Students Create Festival* took place from 15 to 17 January.

John Wilson conducted the Academy Symphony Orchestra, featuring **Kasparas Mikužis** as soloist in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor, on 9 February.

Ryan Wigglesworth conducted the Academy Chamber Orchestra in Nielsen's *Commotio*, Op 58 and Symphony No 6, arranged by Hans Abrahamsen, on 23 February.

The Academy Jazz Festival featured collaborations with **Laura Jurd**, **Jim Hart** and **Kit Downes** from 14 to 15 February.

Vedran Janjanin, **Yuzhang Li** and **Tracy Tang** performed in the Academy Piano Series at Wigmore Hall from 10 January to 13 March.

Academy students performed *SIDE-BY-SIDE* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic and Riot Ensemble over January and February 2024.

STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Freddie De Tommaso joined Classic FM to host a new six-part series about Italian classical music from 5 April.

A Charlestonian Rhapsody: The Story of Edmund T Jenkins presented by **Allyson Devenish** and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 last year on 16 April received a Silver Award at the New York Festivals Radio Awards.

Ignas Maknickas appeared on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* on 30 April performing works by Chopin, Schubert and Liszt.

Katherine Jenkins, Lucy Crowe and Myleene Klass appeared together at BST Hyde Park on 5 July.

Chloe Flower was the soloist in *Rhapsody in Blue* at the 'A Capitol Fourth' concert on 7 July at the White House.

APPOINTMENTS

HM King Charles III became the new Royal Patron of the Academy.

Matthew Brett appointed Percussion Section Leader of Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Chloe Harris to join Scottish Opera as a 2024/25 season Emerging Artist.

Hilary Hahn appointed a visiting professor at the Academy starting September 2024.

Barbara Hannigan announced as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra commencing August 2026.

Daniel Hope elected Intendant and Artistic Director of the Gstaad Menuhin Festival and Academy for 2025.

Ossian Huskinson announced as Jette Parker Artist with Royal Ballet and Opera in 2025/26 season.

Henry Kennedy appointed first Resident Conductor of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Lorna McGhee appointed Principal Flute of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Kari Novilla appointed Principal Harp with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and selected as one of 11 Civic Fellows.

Enyi Okpara announced as Calleva Assistant Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for 2024/25 season.

Joshua Simões appointed Assistant Director of Music at HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace.

COMPETITION SUCCESS

George Xiaoyuan Fu won the Newcomer Award for his debut album *Mirrors* in the 2024 BBC Music Magazine Awards on 18 April.

Tristan Weymes and **Gerard Lim** competed in inaugural International Competition for Choral Conductors: Magister Inside on 27 April. **Tristan** won Second Prize and **Gerard** was awarded Third Prize.

Kasparas Mikužis won Second Prize at the Sheepdrove Piano Competition on 19 May.

Junyan Chen announced as one of 24 pianists through to the second round of the Leeds International Piano Competition on 6 June.

OTHER NEWS

The Brubeck Living Legacy Prize providing support for a jazz musician to release music on the Ubuntu Music record label was announced on 10 April.

On 15 April Open Academy partnered with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in their continuing work with people experiencing homelessness to create a '[SoundWalk](#)' in central London.

We celebrated artists and members of the Academy community including **Alfred Brendel, Es Devlin, Alexis Ffrench, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Anthony Gritten, Peter Holder, Carolyn Sampson, Alasdair Tait, Timothy Ridout, Yuja Wang, Rufus Wainwright, Errollyn Wallen, Roderick Williams** and **Damian Wisniewski** at our [Honours Ceremony](#) in July.

On 22 May the Academy marked 10 years of Open Academy's Royal London Hospital Project. Eighty-one Academy Fellows and students have worked with hundreds of children since its inception.

Rachel Podger released new album *The Muses Restor'd* on 24 May, featuring Elizabeth Kenny and produced by Jonathan Freeman-Attwood.

CONCERT AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Freddie De Tommaso gave a masterclass to Vocal Department students on 16 April.

Xiaowen Shang, Harry Rylance and **Julian Chan** performed at the Academy Piano Series at Wigmore Hall that ran from 17 April to 12 June.

Students performed SIDE-BY-SIDE with the Academy of Ancient Music, the Knussen Chamber Orchestra and CHROMA over April, May and June.

Royal Academy Opera students performed Martinů's *Comedy on the Bridge* and *Twice Alexander* from 8 to 10 May. **Curtis Rogers**

wrote in *Classical Source*: 'This is a delightful pairing of operas, astutely demonstrating two sides of Martinů's art'.

Musical theatre students performed *Spring Awakening* from 6 to 9 June. Jeremy Chapman wrote in [Musical Theatre Review](#): 'The glorious harmonies when they all sang 'The Song of Purple Summer' to close the show were thrilling.' The company also performed *Into the Woods* from 27 to 30 June. It received five stars in [Musical Theatre Review](#).

The Summer Piano Festival ran from 12 to 14 June. The programme included film improvisation and a day dedicated to **György Kurtág**.

On 24 June, Academy and Frost School of Music students presented the rarely performed works of Kenny Wheeler alongside jazz vocalist **Norma Winstone** at Vortex Jazz Club.