

ROYAL  
ACADEMY  
OF  
MUSIC

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PHILANTHROPY  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2022/23





# CONTENTS

WELCOME	5
YOUR IMPACT	6
TODAY'S ASPIRATION, TOMORROW'S ARTIST	8
PREPARED FOR THE PROFESSION	10
STUDENT SUPPORT	12
INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS	16
TRANSFORMING ACCESS TO MUSIC	18
TEACHING THE MUSIC OF TOMORROW	22
OUR SPACES	24
HELP US SHAPE MUSIC'S FUTURE	26
THANK YOU	28





## WELCOME



For over 200 years, the Royal Academy of Music has been the place where young musicians come to focus intensively on honing their craft and fulfilling their creative potential. As the Academy's global reputation becomes ever greater, our place in national life has never been more vital in securing the future of music.

Apart from teaching deserving and talented young musicians, we advocate for the critical part music plays in our lives. Our alumni make an incalculable contribution to society by permeating all areas of the music world and serving as artistic leaders in the UK and internationally.

Funding to support the best training has, I believe, enabled the Academy to illuminate musical life at a time when the world needs it more than ever. I am proud of the collective part we have all played up to now.

Thank you for your wonderful support. I hope you enjoy reading about the difference you make.

**Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE**  
Principal



Whenever I speak to our supporters, I am reminded that we share a common focus: young and dedicated musicians. Whether supporting a scholarship, funding wellbeing and mental health, attending concerts or helping students to make connections to the profession, we are all part of a vital network that ensures that music has a bright future.

Philanthropy plays a central role in this network. In fact, last year 50% of our income came from donations. Since we launched our campaign in 2022 to raise £60m, I can assure you that the funds raised are making a real impact on the Academy, our students and by extension the creative industries.

There is still so much more to be done to support, and indeed shape, the future of music. Thank you for all that you are doing to help young musicians, the immense impact of which is illustrated throughout this report.

**Kirsty MacDonald**  
Deputy Principal (Advancement)



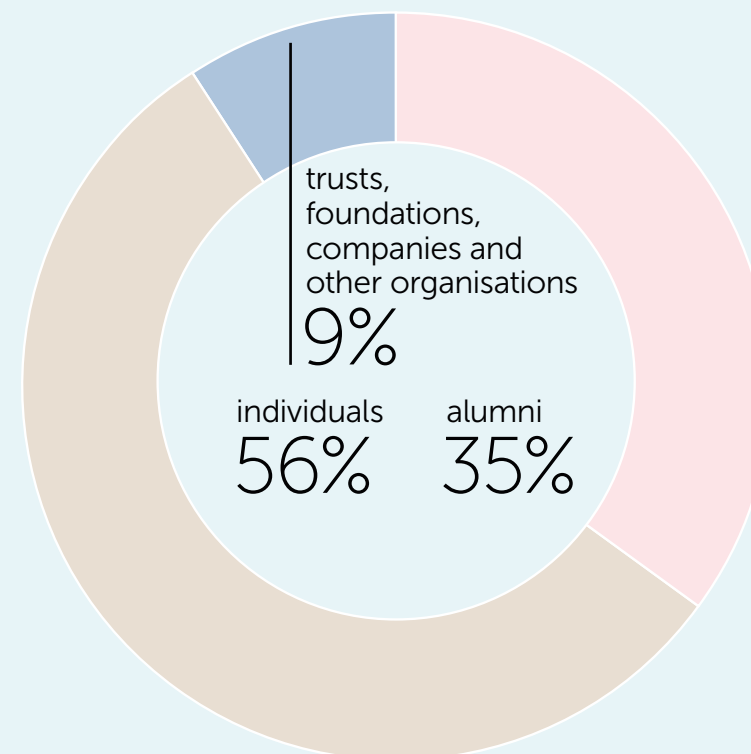
# YOUR IMPACT



£10.04m

donated

749 donors



83%  
of students  
financially supported  
through scholarships  
and bursaries

536k donated for  
Widening Participation

2 new  
Endowed Chairs

4.3m donated  
in legacies

117k donated for students affected  
by the war in Ukraine

198k donated for student  
wellbeing services



# TODAY'S ASPIRATION, TOMORROW'S ARTIST



From Junior Academy to doctorate level, we help students turn aspiration into achievement

We seek out potential wherever it exists, encouraging students to find their voices through a dynamic curriculum. Musicians come from all over the world to study here, with over 50 countries and 50 different disciplines represented in the academic year 2022/23.

Academy alumni lead the way in concert halls, opera houses and theatres across the globe. We are hugely proud of the breadth and diversity of their careers and the significant contributions they make to the music profession.

Graduates from the reporting period who are making their mark include:

- **Helena Mackie**, who accepted the position of Principal Oboe with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra on her final day at the Academy.
- **Baritone Vitor Bispo**, who joined the Opera Studio of the Bavarian State Opera upon graduating.
- **Charlotte Corderoy**, who was appointed Assistant Conductor at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for the 2023/24 season.
- **Gavin Adams, James Lim, Jessica Johns-Parsons and El Haq Latief**, who joined the casts of *Aladdin*, *Les Misérables* and *Cabaret* upon graduation from the Musical Theatre Department.

They join a diverse and thriving community of young alumni, made up of artists such as Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Freddie De Tommaso and Freya Waley-Cohen.



**'I chose to audition for the Academy because I'd researched the course and seen the fantastic alumni. The Academy felt like an exciting and inspiring place to be – I knew I would make connections with like-minded creative people'**

**Harriet Cameron**  
BMus, Vocal Studies



# PREPARED FOR THE PROFESSION



Young musicians need to be adaptable to gain employment, especially in uncertain times. Every philanthropic gift allows a young person to grow and fulfil their potential



In 2022/23 our students performed in over 500 public events, working with globally renowned conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Barbara Hannigan, Semyon Bychkov, Masaaki Suzuki, Sir Mark Elder, Trevor Pinnock and Ryan Bancroft.

Each term our packed programme of events provides many opportunities for students to gain ensemble experience and perform publicly, not only in the Academy itself, but in world-famous venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Snape Maltings.

We have embedded our Artist Development programme throughout the curriculum, which has grown significantly since its inception in 2018, with activities increasing by 150%.

Artist Development empowers students to work sustainably in the music profession, and make their career whatever they want it to be.

Students are taught important skills, including:

- **Creating professional documents**
- **Preparing for auditions**
- **Applying for funding**
- **Producing online content**
- **Managing finances as a self-employed musician**
- **Building a teaching portfolio**

Experts from all fields of music are invited to the Academy, from established solo artists to agents and festival directors, as well as musicians who have started their own companies, sharing with our students the possibilities for their careers.

With the help of our donors, 12 new initiatives were established in 2022/23. These included *Opera Unplugged* with Glyndebourne, Future Artists with the Southbank Centre and a three-day workshop supported by players from The Multi-Story Orchestra. More than 120 students also took part in their very own Students Create Festival over two days. Established in 2021, the festival has become an annual event, showcasing 42 world premieres to an audience of over 1,500 in 2022/23.

**'I chose the Academy because I felt it was best placed to equip me with the necessary skills, experience, and connections to begin my career in music'**

**Emilia Bertolini**  
MA, Vocal Studies



# STUDENT SUPPORT

£5.1m in scholarships and bursaries to  
650 students from 50 countries  
42 new scholarships established  
247 students supported by means-tested bursaries

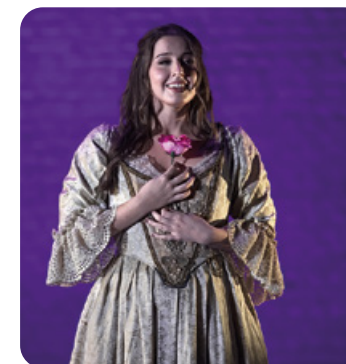
The offer of a scholarship could be the key that unlocks a young musician's potential

Many of our supporters choose to donate to scholarships and bursaries for the immediate impact they make early in a musician's life. More than 83% of Academy students received a scholarship or bursary in the 2022/23 academic year.

The decision to study at a conservatoire can be daunting, with tuition fees of at least £9,250 per year and a sharply rising cost of living, especially in London. For many students, a scholarship or bursary will cover their rent, bills, food and travel costs so that they can fully commit to their musical education without financial anxiety. Making the decision to pursue a life in music is never easy, and young artists need all the encouragement they can get.

Against a backdrop of reduced government funding for the arts and a severe decline in music education in schools across the UK, the Academy's place in our national life has never been more vital in securing music's future. Every philanthropic gift helps us to support students so that they can fully commit to a life in music.

During the reporting period 330 students accepted the opportunity to learn from our world-class teachers and benefit from our dynamic curriculum.



**'Without my scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to move from the USA to achieve this life goal. Now I have access to the enviable opportunities that only Academy students get'**

**Alexandra Dunavant**  
MA, Vocal Studies





## STUDENT WELLBEING

Studies at performing arts institutions show that students struggle with mental health, especially performance anxiety

We are still seeing the profound effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people, which is why we are investing in the long-term growth of the Academy's student wellbeing care. The unique pressures of being in an intense environment mean that a sense of belonging is vital for young people in the crucial years of their training.

In 2022/23, a transformational gift helped us to increase the number of staff counsellors from 8 to 11 and provide 78 hours of mental health support each week, a significant increase from the 25 hours per week provided during the 2021/22 academic year.

We now have much better provision and support for staff who deal with emergencies or complex cases, especially where safeguarding is concerned, as well as better mechanisms to connect staff members when a student's case crosses multiple areas of responsibility. Those who are particularly vulnerable and need extra support can now receive counselling twice a week, and beyond the usual limit of 12 sessions.

With your help, we want to monitor and continue to refine what we are offering young people at the Academy, including non-verbal therapies for wellbeing and injury prevention and one-to-one sessions, as well as improvements to our database systems and management structures.

Students reported that our wellbeing services have improved their confidence and given them strategies for managing the demands of the profession.

## UKRAINE RESPONSE FUND

Students affected by the conflict in Ukraine were supported with their studying and living costs

All students affected by the conflict in Ukraine successfully completed the 2022/23 academic year and have gone on to graduate or continue with their studies here at the Academy.

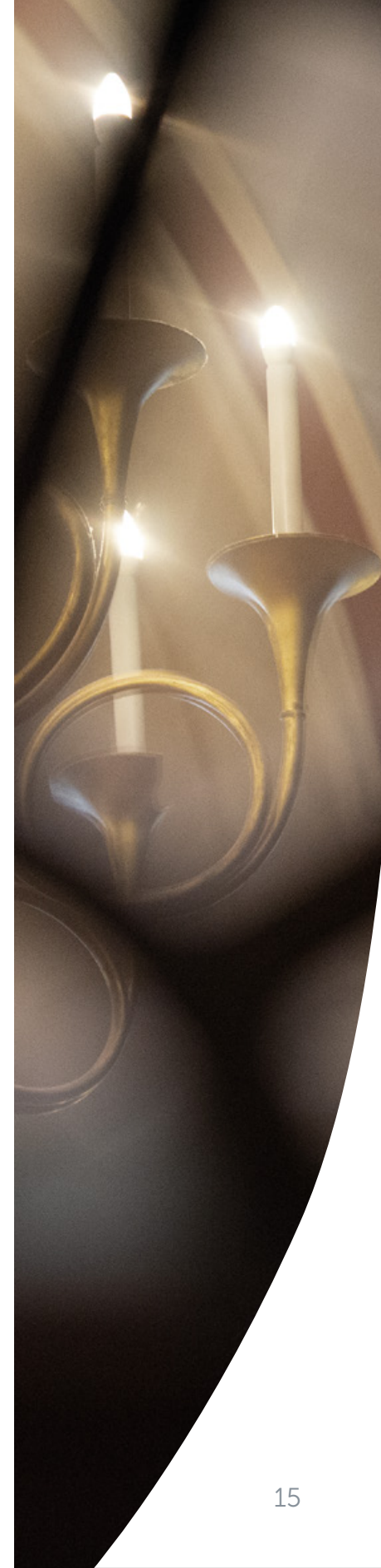
Our donors have given £489,838 to the Ukraine Response Fund since it was set up in March 2022, with £116,550 raised during the 2022/23 academic year.

**'Before the war started, I was studying in Ukraine. The assistance has been very important to me because my family is unable to financially support my education. I am incredibly thankful for this support; it has already given me a lot of opportunities as a musician'**

Undergraduate bassoonist supported by the Ukraine Response Fund

**'Despite the hardship and conflict, we now have a thriving community of Ukrainian students of whom we are immensely proud as they contribute enormously to our musical and internationally focused life at the Academy'**

**Professor Elizabeth Kenny**  
Dean of Students





# INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Music is fundamentally an international profession, and working musicians regularly perform abroad.

With help from our supporters, the Academy has become a vibrant global musical community, promoting the countless benefits of collaboration and the free exchange of ideas unlimited by national borders.

The challenges resulting from the UK leaving the European Union mean finding alternative ways for students to train internationally. The Academy remains committed to attracting the best talent from around the world and needs help in building the funds that will make this possible.

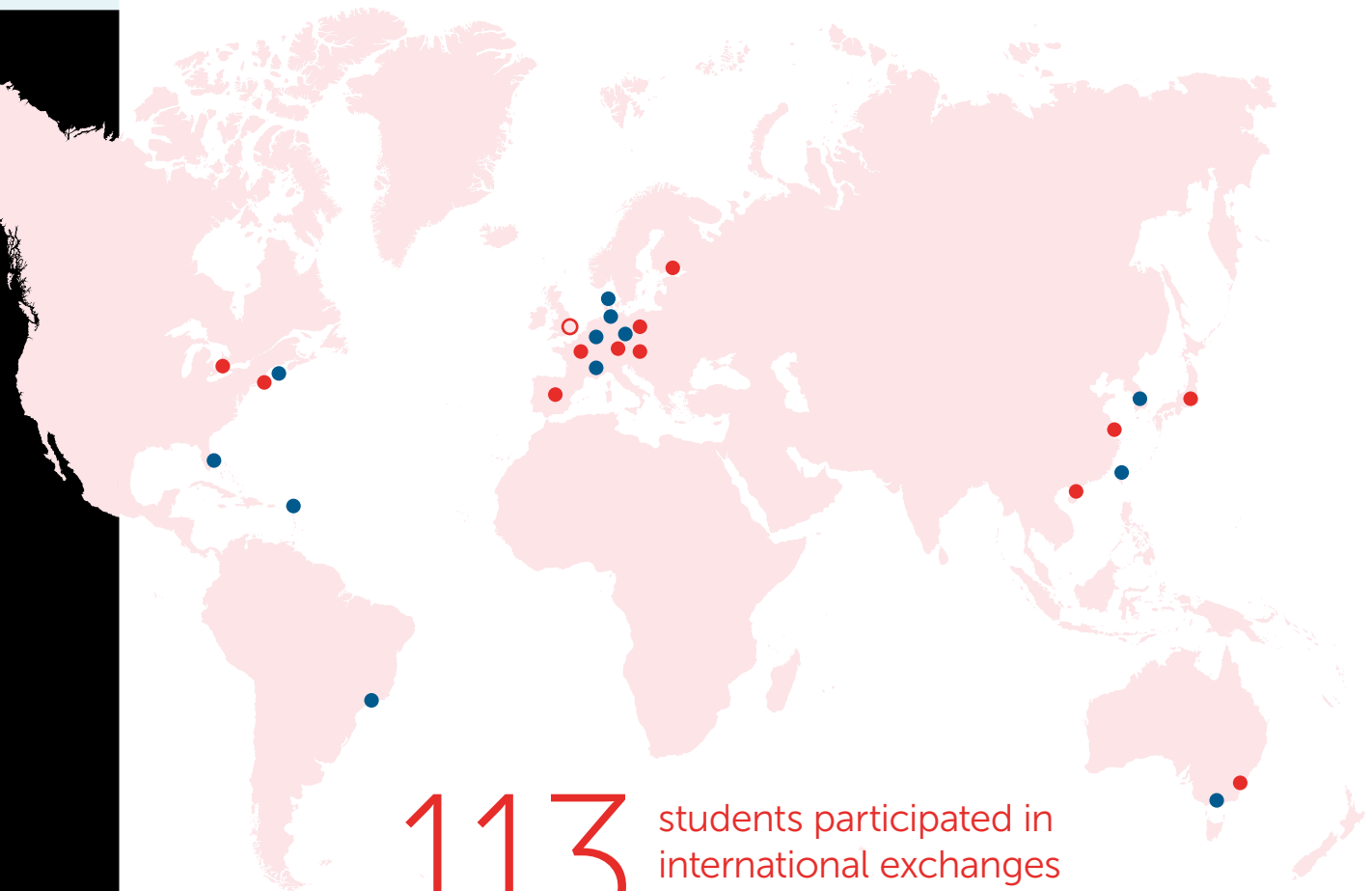
The Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme, the largest international opportunity for our students, was set up in 2022, allowing students to travel to and study in some of the leading conservatoires around the world.

Partners are located across four continents and 11 countries (shown in red on the map) and the programme covers the cost of travel, accommodation and tuition for all involved.

This Academy-led consortium involves these institutions:

- The Juilliard School, New York
- Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP)
- mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
- Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki
- Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, Madrid
- University of Music and Performing Arts, Munich
- Hanns Eisler School of Music, Berlin
- The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- Shanghai Conservatory of Music
- Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto
- Tokyo University of the Arts Faculty of Music and Graduate School of Music

We also offer a number of exchange and collaborative opportunities including in **Weimar, Melbourne, Seoul, Taipei, Boston, Leipzig, Buenos Aires, São Paulo and Copenhagen** (shown in blue on the map).



**113** students participated in international exchanges and projects

**'Music can and should transcend borders, and I am delighted to be supporting a scheme which offers high-level, tangible opportunities to talented young musicians coming together from many different countries'**

Sir Elton John





# TRANSFORMING ACCESS TO MUSIC

We identify, support and mentor young people from groups currently under-represented among those who study at conservatoires

School music lessons are in severe decline across the UK, with the number of students taking music for GCSE and A-level at an all-time low. Without access to high-level musical training, many young people do not get the chance to have their talent recognised or nurtured.

The Academy tackles this by intervening at the earliest stages. Our Widening Participation Department enables the musical progression of young people across 18 London boroughs through numerous activities, ranging from short-term projects and workshops to summer schools and ongoing mentoring.

Hannah Lam is a former Composers' Club participant who progressed to the Junior Academy programme. She is now completing her undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Music at a Russell Group university. Last year, she was selected to take part in the ORA Singers Young Composers' scheme and was the winner at the final showcase.



620

participants aged between 5 and 18 took part in

27

projects

27

young musicians joined one of our programmes

7

students went on to study music at undergraduate level

**'Without Composers' Club and the mentoring I received, I doubt I would have gone on to study music at university. Thank you so much for being inspirational and exposing me to new opportunities'**

**Hannah Lam**  
Programme participant





## OPEN ACADEMY

Participatory and community music programmes are vital in training students to deliver and encourage music-making

All of our students are given the opportunity to train with Open Academy, offering seminars and workshops alongside hands-on experience in participatory and community music programmes. Open Academy also offers fellowships to graduating students who will be future leaders of this work.

Projects include workshops with children and young people in mainstream schools and special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, adults with disabilities, those receiving treatment in hospital, residents and staff of care homes and people attending day centres. Our students gain valuable experience by working in such settings alongside skilled Open Academy staff. The projects also help students to build their CVs and develop skills that will prepare them for the professional world.

With the help of philanthropic gifts, Open Academy plays a vital role in enabling access to music, irrespective of background. In 2022/23:

- **59 Academy students engaged with 7,675 people**

and support from our donors helped us to establish new partnerships, including with:

- **Great Ormond Street Hospital, with young people receiving mental health care**
- **60 Penfold Street care home, for people living with dementia**
- **City Lit Inclusive Choir, alongside people with learning difficulties**

Thanks to a gift from the Constance Travis Charitable Trust, Open Academy now facilitates sessions at 60 Penfold Street. Alongside professional musicians and dancers, Academy students are encouraged to improvise using sound, objects and movement, explore working co-creatively and build connections to support participants' wellbeing and sense of agency.



**'We have been able to work with a huge range of people in ways that have never before been possible for us. The Constance Travis Charitable Trust's support is so appreciated'**

**Julian West**  
Head of Open Academy



# TEACHING THE MUSIC OF TOMORROW



One of the biggest influences on a student's musical development is their teacher

A gift to fund a teaching post can help us attract exceptional teachers who will be unwavering mentors to students finding their own voices.

Over the past two years, our donors have made it possible for the Academy to establish the first fully endowed chairs of any UK conservatoire. These are teaching positions supported by donors, allowing the Academy to recruit and retain the very best teachers in their areas of expertise.

Generosity from our donors has already begun to secure teaching posts for the decades to come. In April 2022 we announced the Academy's first fully endowed chairs and one endowed professorship:

- **Gatsby Chair of Musical Theatre**
- **Dame Myra Hess Chair of Piano**
- **William Lawes Chairs of Chamber Music**
- **Aud Jebsen Visiting Professor of Piano**

Then in 2022/23, two remarkable donors endowed two further posts:

- **Becket Chair of Historical Performance**
- **Fernside Chair of Choral Conducting**

In the same year, we also received funding for Sheku Kanneh-Mason to become the Menuhin Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring.



'I am fortunate to have such a supportive teacher, Tessa Nicholson, with whom I've been studying for the last four years now. She has really helped me to grow as a performer and develop as a pianist'

Ellis Thomas  
MA Piano



# OUR SPACES

**'A core requirement of an ambitious conservatoire is a beautiful environment that can inspire and become integral to students' creative experience'**

**Jonathan Freeman-Attwood**

## Our students deserve access to cutting-edge technology and the best performance spaces

Whether reconfiguring, reconditioning or refurbishing new buildings, capital developments are driven by what our prime educational priorities are — now, as well as in the decades to come. It is vital for us to continuously invest in the latest technology and ensure we offer the finest rehearsal and performance spaces.

Our donors' generosity has improved spaces from the theatre and practice room refurbishments to digital composition suites and improved equipment rooms.

During the reporting period, Simon and Glenda Weil established two adjacent teaching rooms, the Terence Weil Room and the Deirdre Moody Room, named after Simon's parents who were both Academy alumni. Hamish and Sophie Forsyth transformed one of our main teaching and rehearsal spaces, modernising the soundproofing, and improving the overall aesthetic. In recognition of this invaluable support, the Academy renamed the space The Forsyth Room.

Dianne Roberts enabled us to invest in brand new equipment to elevate the sound of our live performances. Thanks to Dianne's generosity, the Academy was able to purchase two brand-new, state of the art Yamaha Rio Stage Boxes, allowing for 32 independent audio inputs each. The new environment has been commended by members of our alumni community including legendary jazz pianist, Gwilym Simcock.

The Academy also received a significant gift from The Band Trust to support the upgrade of our boilers, which has allowed us become more environmentally sustainable. The Academy as a result consumes 12.6% less energy per year.

With further support from our community of donors, we can focus our attention on a comprehensive masterplan of our home on Marylebone Road. Rather than maintaining the status quo, we want to ensure that we are constantly improving our environment for students so that we remain a distinct, financially sustainable and ambitious conservatoire.

By contributing to the development of our spaces, you make an impact on our students' ability to hone their craft.

**'The students did such a fantastic job of learning, preparing and performing my music. Their fine efforts were only worthwhile and audible thanks to your generous benefaction. The sound amplification for an ensemble of that size is absolutely crucial, and I really thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did for us'**

**Gwilym Simcock**  
(in a letter to Dianne Roberts)





# HELP US SHAPE MUSIC'S FUTURE

This year has seen remarkable acts of generosity from our donors. From investments into student wellbeing support and in capital projects, to provisions for scholarships and bursaries, the Academy has been able to vastly improve what we offer the musicians of tomorrow

As an ambitious conservatoire, we know there is always more to be done. With your help, we can sustain the Academy for the future and ensure that we continue to discover and nurture the next generation of young musicians, including:

- Improving teaching, rehearsal, performance and museum spaces
- Making music accessible to people from a wider range of backgrounds
- Securing funding to attract and retain the best teachers in the world
- Expanding on the opportunities established by the Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme

To learn more about how you can make a gift to the Academy, please contact Lucie Kennedy, Director of Philanthropy, on [director.philanthropy@ram.ac.uk](mailto:director.philanthropy@ram.ac.uk) or call **020 7873 7401**





# THANK YOU

We wish to thank the donors who have given £1,000 or more between 1 Aug 2022 and 31 July 2023.



We're incredibly grateful to the many companies, trusts, foundations, and individuals who have had such a significant impact on our organisation and the lives of Academy students throughout 2022/23. Philanthropy plays a critical role in ensuring the future of music, and we're enormously proud to recognise everyone who has made a generous contribution. We hope you have enjoyed reading about our talented students, their inspirational stories, and the remarkable opportunities your gifts have made possible.

**Lucie Kennedy** Director of Philanthropy

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