

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC



OPEN ACADEMY

WELCOME

Open Academy is the Academy's learning, participation and community initiative, working with thousands of people beyond our enrolled students and staff each year.

As the importance of participatory and community music programmes in areas including education, health and wellbeing continues to grow in the UK and internationally, it is crucial that our students have the opportunity to obtain skills and experience in this exciting and expanding area of work. Open Academy electives at undergraduate and postgraduate level are available to all students, offering seminars and workshops alongside hands-on experience in the field. Open Academy also offers fellowships to graduating students who will be the future leaders of this work.

Open Academy works closely with artistic and community partners, offering opportunities for students and project participants to explore making music together. Projects include workshops with children and young people in mainstream schools and special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, disabled people, those receiving treatment in hospitals, residents and staff of care homes, and people attending day centres. All of our projects are led and supported by skilled professionals, ensuring a high quality of experience for everyone involved and giving our students the chance to develop their musicianship, skills and confidence in a wide variety of contexts.

Open Academy projects enable everyone to make connections with people from all walks of life, and to reflect upon the contribution musicians can make to society through their artistry and some of the ways in which that artistry can find its meaning and purpose in the world.

JULIAN WEST
Head of Open Academy



OUR STAFF

HEAD OF OPEN ACADEMY
Julian West

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**VISITING LECTURERS AND
PROJECT LEADERS INCLUDE:**

Isabelle Adams
Rosie Bergonzi
Sam Glazer
Hazel Gould
Gawain Hewitt
Jessie Maryon Davies
James Moriarty
Hannah Opstad
James Redwood
Tony Robb
Jackie Walduck
John Webb
Caroline Welsh
Tim Yealland
Suzi Zumpe

“This has been the most helpful intervention I have had since my diagnosis. It was an opportunity to be with others who have similar diagnoses, without it being the focus of the group. I have sometimes found professional musicians intimidating, but this was certainly not the case here

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Participant in Out of the Ordinary, a project for people living with dementia

WHAT DO WE DO?

SCHOOLS

Working closely with Music Education Hubs and local schools, we co-design and deliver creative music projects that support classroom and instrumental learning. At the heart of our projects is a focus on creativity, with school pupils working alongside Academy students to develop and share their own new pieces of music. This places music-making at the centre of the experience for everyone.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The positive impact of the arts on health and wellbeing is now firmly established, with the profile of work in this area continuing to grow. We work with hospitals, including the Royal London and Chelsea and Westminster, to support their existing programmes of work and give our students practical experience in these settings. We also collaborate with Wigmore Hall on its world-leading Music for Life project, which, for over 25 years, has brought together musicians, people living with dementia and their families and carers for creative projects that aim to enhance the wellbeing of all involved.

DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

Making music together can be a powerful way to create equality. Our work with City Lit's Percussion Orchestra for people with learning disabilities and our creative projects with SEND schools have enabled us to explore the ways in which a shared creative process can be empowering for everyone, unlocking the musical potential of the whole group.

ONLINE PROJECTS

In recent times we have had to develop ways of continuing our work without being present in person. We have created a range of online projects that keep our core values of connection, communication and creativity at their heart. We have continued our work with schools, hospitals and those living with dementia in new and exciting ways, while also discovering some exciting possibilities for how we might use digital resources in the future to expand our range and scope.

WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

ARTISTIC PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- Wigmore Hall
- Glyndebourne Opera
- English National Opera
- Spitalfields Music
- City of London Sinfonia

COMMUNITY PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- Camden Music Hub
- Tri-borough Music Hub
- Resonate Arts
- Royal London Hospital
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
- City Lit
- Awards for Young Musicians
- IntoUniversity

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

CITY LIT PERCUSSION ORCHESTRA

Since 2016, Open Academy has been working with City Lit's Percussion Orchestra, a music project led by Alex Thomas for adults with learning disabilities and Academy students that aims to create and perform new compositions. The ensemble works throughout the year, exploring the potential of everyone involved and working towards performances at City Lit and the Academy.

ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL

Throughout the academic year, Academy students take part in creative sessions with children who are receiving treatment at the Royal London Hospital. The sessions are planned and delivered in partnership with the hospital school, enabling us to tap into

on-the-ground expertise. Whether the music-making is sustained or fleeting, the moments of connection provide opportunities for children to play and be creative.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

In partnership with Wigmore Hall, Open Academy has developed an online creative project that brings together Academy students, professional musicians and people living with rare forms of dementia across the country. The project aims to nurture the wellbeing of everyone involved through music and the expressive arts.

REBECCA MCNAUGHT

Former Open Academy Fellow

'I experienced first-hand the transformative nature of music on people of all ages and backgrounds'

My year as an Open Academy Fellow was unbelievably rewarding. I worked with the best workshop leaders in the field and experienced first-hand the transformative nature of music on people of all ages and backgrounds. Seeing the joy on their faces when their voices were heard and valued was truly inspirational. I worked in primary schools and secondary schools, with people with special educational needs and people living with dementia. The workshops created connections across these seemingly disparate groups, and music was always at the centre of this.

My Fellowship allowed me not only to offer my musical abilities to these communities, but also to reflect on my own outlook as a musician and explore ways of growing emotionally and gaining confidence.



Roberts-Balanas

FEEDBACK FROM OUR PARTNERS

“Our work with Open Academy really enriches what we can offer patients and is appreciated by everyone in the hospital

Andy Hall
CW+, Chelsea and
Westminster Hospital

“Our learners are really benefiting from our collaboration, and each year brings something new

Alex Thomas
Percussion Orchestra
co-ordinator, City Lit

“Thank you for an outstanding project – it was such a valuable experience for the boys. They have been involved in many artistic outreach projects; this was up there with the best. The joy in the room during the recording was palpable – everybody felt good. What more could we ask for? The boys have all continued with individual lessons, and their ability to create music is improving **“**

Stu Frobisher
Music teacher, Robson House
Primary Pupil Referral Unit

PATRON

HM The Queen


PRESIDENT

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester GCVO

PRINCIPAL

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE

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