

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC



2025 / 26

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“The Royal
Academy of
Music is a place
of possibility”

Barbara Hannigan

TODAY'S ASPIRATION, TOMORROW'S ARTIST

We look for musical potential, then encourage our students to find their own voices and develop individual excellence.

From undergraduate to doctorate level, we help students turn aspiration into achievement.

We embed artistic risk-taking and professional reality into everything we do. Our graduates leave ready for a life in music.

Continually embracing new ideas, we are adapting our vision to the musical world of the future.





MOVING
MUSIC
FORWARD



WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The Royal Academy of Music is an extraordinary place with extraordinary people – for over 200 years, we have been training and inspiring successive generations of music-makers and leaders. Now in our third century, we are more confident than ever in our ability to shape the future of music by discovering and supporting talent wherever it exists, and by attracting the exceptional teachers and mentors who spark this talent.

As Britain's oldest conservatoire, the Academy is steeped in tradition but is also one of the most progressive musical institutions in the world. You are encouraged to find your own voice and to follow your instincts around the skills required to work at the highest level. We have access to cutting-edge technology in our renowned performance spaces, our programming is groundbreaking, and in all our disciplines – from classical performance to musical theatre and jazz to composition – we encourage you to explore your horizons to the limit.

One of the biggest influences on your development as a musician will be your teacher, and at the Academy you will find the very best. You will also work regularly with renowned visiting professors and guests, distinguished figures who are part

of the Academy family, in performances and masterclasses that you will remember for the rest of your life. Indeed, the breadth and quality of collaborative opportunities here will lay the groundwork for a fulfilling musical life.

There will, of course, be challenges ahead, but our undergraduate and postgraduate courses have been meticulously designed and developed to support and equip our students with the tools they will need to succeed in a fast-changing world. Musicians need imagination, versatility and resilience as never before, and at the Academy, your individual talent will be matched to the opportunities and needs of the present day and beyond.

I hope this guide will help you decide if the Academy could be the right next step for you. We have a wealth of recordings going back many years on our YouTube channel for you to dip into, and do consider coming to some of our performances so you can experience our friendly atmosphere in person – we would love to welcome you.

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE



1800s

1822 The Royal Academy of Music, Britain's first conservatoire, is founded on Tenterden Street, Hanover Square (A)

1826 Carl Maria von Weber conducts our first orchestral concert

1830 King George IV grants a Royal Charter

1856 Arthur Sullivan enters the Academy (B)

1886 Franz Liszt visits the Academy (C)



1900s

1903 Aged 13, Myra Hess wins a scholarship to study piano at the Academy (D)

1911 The Academy moves to custom-built premises on Marylebone Road

1923 Sir Henry Wood, a former student, joins as a professor (E)



1935 Junior Academy is founded

1936 Richard Strauss visits the Academy

1953 Queen Elizabeth II becomes the Academy's Patron

1957 Harrison Birtwistle becomes a student (F)

1961 Former student Sir John Barbirolli becomes conductor of the first orchestra (G)

1968 HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opens our library

1969 Felicity Lott becomes a student

1971 Simon Rattle becomes a student (H)

1976 The Sir Jack Lyons Theatre is opened

1982 Evelyn Glennie becomes a student at the Academy

1991 The Academy introduces the first Bachelor's degree in performance in the UK

The Sinfonia travels overseas for the first time, to the Republic of Korea

1992 The refurbished Duke's Hall reopens

1994 Ligeti attends the 10-year anniversary of the International Composer Festival, which has previously celebrated Messiaen, Berio, Henze and Tippett

1997 The Academy is the first conservatoire to found its own recording label

1998 HRH The Duchess of Gloucester becomes the Academy's President

1999 The Academy becomes the first conservatoire to be admitted as a full member of the University of London

OUR PAST
INSPIRES
OUR FUTURE

2000s

2001 The two-year postgraduate Royal Academy Opera course is introduced

2002 A Royal Opera House performance with Sir Elton John raises nearly £1m for scholarships (I)

2005-19 Academy-Juilliard orchestras perform at the BBC Proms under Sir Colin Davis, John Adams and Edward Gardner (J)

2009 The Bach Cantata Series, which will run over a 10-year period, is launched (K)

2010 Stephen Sondheim, Pierre Boulez and Daniel Barenboim receive Honorary Doctorates

2011 Royal Academy Opera presents the world premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' *Kommilitonen!* (L)

2012 The Privy Council grants degree-awarding powers to the Academy

2012-18 Visiting professors appointed include John Adams, Semyon Bychkov, James Ehnes, Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Richard Goode, Dave Holland, Steven Isserlis, Oliver Knussen, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider and Christian Thielemann

2013 The Sir Elton John/Ray Cooper organ is installed in Duke's Hall (M)

2017 The Academy is rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework

2018 Student cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason performs at the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's wedding (N)

Susie Sainsbury Theatre and Angela Burgess Recital Hall open (O)

2019 Hans Abrahamsen becomes the first Oliver Knussen Chair of Composition

2020 Student performances shared on social media as part of our #RAMplaysON campaign reach five million people

2022 Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme is launched in collaboration with 12 world-leading partner conservatoires

The Academy becomes the first UK conservatoire to create endowed Chairs

Lin-Manuel Miranda and Semyon Bychkov are given Honorary Doctorates (P)

2022-23 The Academy's Bicentenary is marked with celebratory concerts, 200 new commissions and the £60m Future of Music fundraising campaign

2023 Academy staff and alumni perform at the coronation of HM King Charles III

2024 Dame Evelyn Glennie receives an Honorary Doctorate (Q)

Alfred Brendel becomes Honorary Vice-President

HM King Charles III becomes the Academy's Patron



"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



A GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The Academy leads an extraordinary programme with the world's great conservatoires. Together, we offer unique exchange opportunities for talented young musicians to collaborate and learn.

The Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme offers Academy students opportunities to study and experience life at top conservatoires, including

- The Juilliard School, New York
- Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto
- Hanns Eisler Academy, Berlin
- University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
- Reina Sofía School of Music, Madrid
- Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse de Paris
- Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts, Helsinki

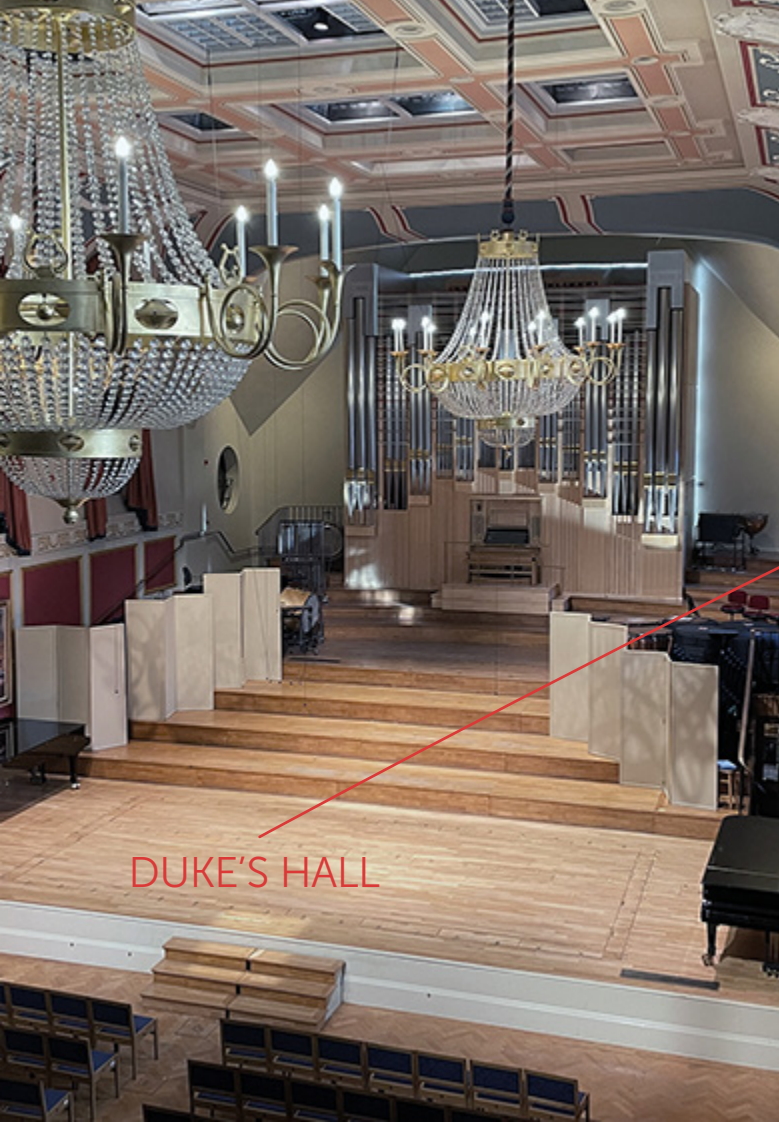
Outside of the Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme, we have exchange arrangements with

- Lübeck Academy of Music
- University of Mannheim
- University of Miami (for Jazz students)
- Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Academy
- Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse de Lyon

"It is so striking how we can connect through music even if we do not speak the same language. We have both returned to London filled with new ideas about how to approach life and music"

Gina Gallacher and
Megan Humphries

Harp students who travelled to Reina Sofía School of Music, Madrid



DUKE'S HALL



ANGELA BURGESS
RECITAL HALL



DAVID JOSEFOWITZ
RECITAL HALL



SUSIE SAINSBURY THEATRE



WHERE YOU CREATE PLAY GROW

Our spaces have inspired generations of world-class musicians

Most of your studies will take place in our historic main building, backing onto London's Regent's Park.

Our major performance spaces include Duke's Hall, a flagship concert venue seating 350 people, the Susie Sainsbury Theatre and Angela Burgess Recital Hall (which have won three Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) awards, London Building of the Year and a World Architecture Award) and the David Josefowitz Recital Hall.

SPACES FOR STUDENTS

- Teaching and practice studios
- Rehearsal and lecture rooms
- Exclusive use of nearby St Mark's Church and further dedicated practice rooms at nearby Cross Keys
- Dedicated professional recording services
- A well-equipped library
- The Academy Museum, which hosts regular research events and includes onsite instrument workshops
- A canteen offering healthy options at affordable prices
- Spaces for social activity between students, such as our convivial bar

TEACHING

Your professor will be one of the most significant musical influences in your life

We know how vital it is to find someone who brings out the best in you. Learning is student-centred at the Academy, and you will be supported by outstanding teachers who challenge you to find your own voice. Your teachers will share not only their artistic and technical expertise, but also practical advice on how to prepare for a career in music.

You'll find plenty of inspiration beyond your one-to-one classes. Our academic staff provide the intellectual background to your studies, fuelling your curiosity and offering a firm foundation for your musical development.

Students benefit from bespoke masterclasses to train specific elements of musicality, performance technique and historical knowledge, as well as public masterclasses with the greatest industry names.

In 2023 the Academy was awarded 'Gold' by the Office for Students as part of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) scheme, which assesses and rates universities and colleges for excellence in teaching, learning outcomes and the student experience.





PERFORMANCE

Academy students work with luminaries in the musical world

Our orchestras are regularly conducted by renowned figures including **Semyon Bychkov**, **John Wilson**, **Sir Simon Rattle**, **Barbara Hannigan**, **Jonathon Heyward**, **Masaaki Suzuki**, **Sir Mark Elder** and **Edward Gardner** as part of 500 public events each year.

From chamber performances to piano festivals to new music programmes and late night jazz, our lively calendar of events is the richest showcase of the next generation of musical talent.

Students perform in the Academy Symphony Orchestra, small ensembles and in fully staged musicals and operas, both in our own venues and at Wigmore Hall, Snape Maltings, Southbank Centre and London's other major concert houses, partnering with the likes of the London Sinfonietta and the Knussen Chamber Orchestra.

The annual *Students Create* festival is an essential part of Academy life, and sees our performance venues taken over for three days of student-led creativity. It is an opportunity for students' imaginations and voices to be platformed.

"I never imagined I would meet my heroes, let alone work with them"

Desmonda Cathabel

SIDE BY SIDE

For over 20 years, our professional collaboration projects have played a unique and indispensable role in high-level musical training at the Academy

Our SIDE-BY-SIDE projects, effectively artistic work placements, give you the experience of world-class collaborative music-making.

At the heart of the SIDE-BY-SIDE experience is the mentorship provided by professional partners.

The projects enable you to develop your professional networks, and therefore make a significant contribution towards your long-term employability.

SIDE-BY-SIDE partners include:

LONDON PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA
CZECH PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA
LONDON SINFONIETTA
ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC
KNUSSEN CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA
RIOT ENSEMBLE
CHROMA
NASH ENSEMBLE
SEPTURA

“The Academy really is the best environment to prepare the musicians of tomorrow”

Lucy Crowe



RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES

Record now, listen for decades to come. Equipped with studio skills, your music will endure


Twenty-five years ago we made a conscious decision to equip young musicians with the particular skills required for professional recording.

Many graduates are now equipped to curate their own recordings and form alliances with major record labels.

Since 2012, we have partnered with world-renowned, independent label Linn Records to produce exceptional recordings of some of the world's most talented young performers.

Recent albums include *Bach Partitas re-imagined for small orchestra* conducted by Trevor Pinnock, and an all-Stravinsky recording with Barbara Hannigan.

Recording experiences encourage our students to think independently, and appreciate how their unique role can refresh the art form and communicate it widely. Recording is now an intrinsic part of Academy life.



"Thinking about recording early in your life brings untold benefits in expanding and deepening your capacity to make a mark, to understand that a great piece of music can withstand many views, visions and interpretations"

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood, Principal

CREATIVE PARTNERS

A world of music comes to us, and we send music back out into the world. Our creative partners include

- **Hans Abrahamsen** Oliver Knussen Chair of Composition
- **Lorenza Borrani** Visiting Professor of Chamber Orchestras
- **Semyon Bychkov** Klemperer Chair of Conducting
- **Colin Currie** Visiting Professor of Modern Ensembles
 - **Sir Mark Elder CH** Sir John Barbirolli Chair of Conducting
 - **Edward Gardner OBE** Sir Charles Mackerras Chair of Conducting
 - **Barbara Hannigan** Reinbert de Leeuw Professor of Music
 - **Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE** Menuhin Professor of Performance Mentoring
 - **Trevor Pinnock CBE** Principal Conductor, Academy Chamber Orchestra
 - **Rachel Podger** Micaela Comberti Chair of Baroque Violin
 - **Ryan Wigglesworth** Richard Rodney Bennett Professor of Music
 - **John Wilson** Henry Wood Chair of Conducting
 - **Anthony Marwood MBE** and **Lawrence Power** William Lawes Chairs of Chamber Music

Academy and Juilliard Prom with Edward Gardner, 2019

ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



"The Royal Academy of
Music is the UK's finest
classical conservatoire"

The Sunday Times

ACCORDION



FIND
OUT
MORE

In 1986, the Royal Academy of Music became the first British conservatoire to introduce teaching for the classical accordion. The department has been a pioneering force ever since, developing new repertoire and producing some of the world's most successful accordion players. Head of Accordion, Owen Murray, is a celebrated performer, recording artist and international soloist with experience in all aspects of accordion performance.

Students and professors work together in a lively and creative environment. As part of your course you will perform solo repertoire, hone technical skills, form chamber music ensembles and connect to the wider musical world.

The accordion is thoroughly integrated into the life and work of the Academy. Our undergraduate and postgraduate students enjoy numerous collaborations with Academy composers and performers of other instruments.

HEAD OF ACCORDION

Owen Murray

VISITING PROFESSORS

ACCORDION

Friedrich Lips, Martynas Levickis,
Ksenija Sidorova

BANDONEON

Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi



BRASS



FIND
OUT
MORE

The Academy's Brass Department is widely considered to be one of the leading conservatoire departments in the world. We offer individual lessons with our team of distinguished professors and visiting professors who are active at the highest professional level, an unparalleled range of masterclasses with the many internationally renowned artists who visit regularly and a rich orchestral and chamber music programme.

As well as receiving the essential musical and technical grounding in the core repertoire, our undergraduate and postgraduate students take advantage of a wide range of performance opportunities. Collaborations with prestigious venues across London, partnerships with orchestras and competitions – both internal and external – will help you make the most of your time at the Academy and prepare you for a fulfilling career in music.

HEAD OF BRASS

Professor Mark David

VISITING PROFESSORS

HORN Mark Almond, Radovan Vlatković, Katy Woolley

TRUMPET Éric Aubier, Jeroen Berwaerts (Artist in Residence)

TROMBONE Ian Bousfield, Jörgen van Rijen

LOWER BRASS Rex Martin



CHORAL CONDUCTING

FIND
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MORE

Our distinctive postgraduate degree is the UK's longest-established specialist course in conducting for choirs. It covers a wide range of sacred music for both concert and liturgical events, as well as selected secular repertoire. With expertise in conducting, rehearsal and baton techniques, choral repertoire, vocal technique and aural skills, our professors will ensure that you graduate with the tools you need for an active and diverse career.

The Academy's location in the centre of London, at the heart of the British choral tradition, provides an enviable learning environment and enables us to collaborate closely with leading professional, amateur, youth and collegiate choirs.

We offer choral conducting as a principal study at postgraduate level only. At undergraduate level, it is offered as an optional choir-training class.

FERNSIDE CHAIR OF CHORAL CONDUCTING

Nicholas Chalmers

VISITING PROFESSORS

Roland Börger

David Hill MBE

James O'Donnell LVO

"With 2.8 million people in the UK engaging with choral music each week, choral conductors are much sought-after. My role is to prepare students for the delights and challenges they will face in their careers"

Nicholas Chalmers

COMPOSITION AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

FIND
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MORE

Our collaborative degree courses offer opportunities for performance and recording in a wide range of contexts.

Our undergraduate course is shaped to give you a strong foundation in compositional techniques, whether your interests lie in writing for concert, media and film, staged productions or electronic music.

At postgraduate level, our demanding courses comprise a full schedule of project work, including workshops, performances, recordings and filming of student compositions. Over the past year, the Composition Department has staged at least 20 concerts of new works, both inside and outside the Academy.

Courses are taught by dedicated teachers and active composers who are engaged in a broad range of compositional activities.

**HEAD OF COMPOSITION &
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC**
Professor Philip Cashian

VISITING PROFESSORS
Hans Abrahamsen *Oliver Knussen Chair of Composition*
John Adams
Eleanor Alberga OBE
Gareth Coker
Tod Machover
James Newton Howard
Andrew Norman
Helena Tulve
Ryan Wigglesworth *Richard Rodney Bennett Professor of Music*



CONDUCTING



FIND
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MORE

The Academy's postgraduate conducting degree is one of the most respected in the world. By focusing on a small, high-quality intake, we are able to offer students many opportunities to rehearse and perform in different settings, from two-piano workshops and intimate chamber ensembles to full symphony orchestra.

The course begins with technical and rehearsal skills, followed by opportunities to integrate students' work into other departments, including Historical Performance, Opera and Composition and Contemporary Music.

We offer a two-year course of principal study conducting at postgraduate level, leading to an MA or MMus. We have also launched a one-year Continuing Professional Development Diploma aimed at professional musicians who want to move from their own specialism into conducting. At undergraduate level, students can learn conducting as a second subject, starting with introductory classes, which can be continued as an intermediate or advanced elective.

HEAD OF CONDUCTING Professor Sian Edwards

Our students work closely with some of the finest conductors in the world. See our creative partners on page 18.

"It was without doubt thanks to the top-of-the-line education I received at the Academy that I was able to dip straight into intense professional work as Assistant Conductor of the Hallé"

Jonathon Heyward



ENSEMBLE PIANO

FIND
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MORE

We offer an immersive and enriching experience designed to cultivate the next generation of ensemble pianists. Students are mentored by world-renowned artists and receive personalised instruction tailored to their career aspirations.

Our programme provides a comprehensive curriculum to hone students' collaborative abilities, artistic expression and professional skills, including coaching, continuo training, orchestral piano performance, chamber music, historical performance practice, working with conductors and opera repertoire.

Performance lies at the heart of our programme, with regular recitals, masterclasses and ensemble performances providing invaluable stage experience. Students collaborate with a huge array of vocalists, instrumentalists and chamber ensembles, enriching their musical exploration and overall development.

The versatility of our alumni, many of whom are pursuing exceptionally accomplished careers, reflects our emphasis on flexibility.

SENIOR PROFESSOR OF ENSEMBLE PIANO

James Baillieu

VISITING PROFESSORS

Helmut Deutsch

Hartmut Höll

Susan Manoff

Graham Johnson OBE

“Graduates emerge
as versatile and skilled
Ensemble Pianists
who are equipped
to thrive in diverse
professional settings”

Senior Professor James Baillieu

GUITAR

FIND
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MORE

The Academy is recognised worldwide as a leading centre for the study of classical guitar at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels.

Our comprehensive curriculum and unique musicological resources help students to reach the highest standards as soloists, ensemble players and teachers. Professorial expertise covers every aspect of guitar performance, from the concert platform to the theatre, ballet, opera house and recording studio, as well as specialisms in the main historical periods.

Each year you will experience masterclasses, lectures and concerts by distinguished visiting artists, luthiers and composers, and have regular opportunities to perform. The promotion of new music for the guitar also forms an integral part of our department's work, as do our collaborations with the vocal and other instrumental departments on innovative projects. At all stages you will be supported in using the latest technology to develop your musical skills and reach a wider audience.

HEAD OF GUITAR

Michael Lewin

VISITING PROFESSORS

David Russell

Fabio Zanon



HARP



FIND
OUT
MORE

The Harp Department's undergraduate and postgraduate courses cover solo, concerto and chamber repertoire and all aspects of orchestral playing. From Baroque to jazz, our harpists are trained to take on anything the music profession requires.

The harp is thoroughly integrated into the life and work of the Academy, with students collaborating regularly with composers and other instrumentalists. Our professors include celebrated performers and recording artists. You will have the opportunity to work with specialists in orchestral and contemporary repertoire, early harp, jazz and opera as well as with distinguished visiting professors.

Academy harpists have won prizes in international competitions and many alumni hold orchestral and teaching positions worldwide.

HEAD OF HARP

Catrin Finch

VISITING PROFESSORS

Anne-Sophie Bertrand

Anneleen Lenaerts

Gwyneth Wentink

Sylvain Blassel

Alexander Boldachev

Remy van Kesteren

JAZZ HARP Park Stickney





HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

FIND
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Many of the outstanding specialist Historical Performance artists from all over the world are graduates of our department.

As a student, you will learn how to develop your musicianship skills and forge your career in this exciting part of the professional music world.

Our department has a lively atmosphere and collaborative approach. All students work alongside world-class professors and performers on repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present day. They participate in dance, continuo, vocal and education workshops alongside seminars on performance practice, and have access to the Academy's outstanding collection of instruments.

The department has a high profile across the Academy, with performance opportunities including opera, orchestral projects, chamber music, consort playing and collaborations with some of the best known professional ensembles.

BECKET CHAIR OF HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Professor Margaret Faultless

VISITING PROFESSORS

Rachel Podger *Micaela Comberti*
Chair of Baroque Violin

KEYBOARDS, COACHING

Laurence Cummings
William Crotch Chair

John Butt OBE

Philippe Herreweghe

“The most delightful musical experience of my life was a trip I made to the Royal Academy of Music in London to listen to Baroque instruments”

Courtney Love

JAZZ

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Our Jazz Department has produced an outstanding array of versatile, creative and highly employable jazz musicians since its foundation in 1987.

We support students as they find their unique creative voices, which will speak equally across performance, improvisation and composition. We do this through full and varied undergraduate and postgraduate courses that cover many aspects and forms of jazz and its meeting points with other genres.

We foster an encouraging environment in which to learn and experiment with this extremely broad art form, equipping you with all the skills you'll need as a working musician. Thanks to the scale, focus and personal approach of our training, students get frequent performance opportunities. Our regular ensemble projects, wide-ranging Jazz Orchestra programme and annual Jazz Festival offer students the chance to work intensively with some of the world's finest players and composers.

HEAD OF JAZZ PROGRAMMES

Professor Nick Smart

JAZZ ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Dave Holland

VISITING PROFESSOR OF JAZZ

Ingrid Jensen



Dave Holland



FIND
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MUSICAL THEATRE

The Musical Theatre Department functions as a theatre company. Rigorous training gives both our Performance and Musical Direction and Coaching students an embodied understanding of the profession, equipping them with the skills needed to succeed.

Our daily acting, voice, speech, movement and dance tuition for performers, and conducting, orchestration, arrangement and accompaniment for music directors and coaches, are delivered by working artists and practitioners, offering a direct link to the industry.

We have created an environment in which individuality is nurtured and diversity embraced. Opportunities for performance throughout the year are a priority, enabling students to learn through doing.

Recent Musical Theatre graduate credits include *Hamilton*, *Les Misérables*, *Cabaret*, *Wicked*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Tina* in the West End and *The Crucible* and *Hex* at the National Theatre.

**GATSBY CHAIR OF
MUSICAL THEATRE**
Professor Daniel Bowling

VISITING PROFESSOR
Claude-Michel Schönberg

**SONDHEIM PROFESSOR
OF MUSICAL THEATRE
VOCAL STUDIES**
Mary Hammond



OPERA

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Royal Academy Opera (RAO) functions as a small opera company and a bridge to the profession. The two-year, highly selective postgraduate Advanced Diploma*, which includes invaluable performance experience, is for exceptionally talented singers with the potential and aspiration to succeed as principals at the highest level. Generous bursaries are available for RAO students.

Our focused study environment includes one-to-one tuition, group classes and opera scenes, as well as three fully staged productions per year, which are regularly attended by representatives from opera companies, artist agencies and the national press.

You will work closely with distinguished in-house professors and international visiting artists, and will also benefit from acting and movement classes, language coaching and classes in many other areas of professional development.

*For undergraduate training, see Vocal Studies (page 36)

HEAD OF OPERA

Dr Christopher White

VISITING PROFESSORS

John Mark Ainsley OBE

Sir Thomas Allen

Barbara Bonney

Susan Bullock CBE *Marjorie*

Thomas Visiting Professor

Lucy Crowe *Giulia Grisi Professor of Performance Mentoring*

Christian Gerhaher

Brenda Hurley *Martin Isepp*

Professor of Opera Mentoring

Sir Simon Keenlyside

Angelika Kirchschrager

Anthony Legge *Sir Arthur Sullivan Visiting Professor*

Dame Felicity Lott

Ann Murray DBE

Nicky Spence OBE

Dennis O'Neill CBE

Edith Wiens

ORGAN



FIND
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As an undergraduate or postgraduate student, you will learn the crucial aspects of playing, from solo repertoire in a wide variety of styles to improvisation, harmonium and organology.

Frequent performance opportunities are supplemented by study trips abroad to play important historic instruments. Many of our organ students hold cathedral or church positions that complement their studies with real-world experience.

The Academy has mechanical-action practice organs built by Flentrop Orgelbouw and Peter Collins, and daily access to our main teaching instrument, the four-manual classical organ by Rieger in St Marylebone Parish Church.

In 2013, a three-manual symphonic organ built by Orgelbau Kuhn was installed in the Duke's Hall, with generous support from Sir Elton John and Ray Cooper. We also own a rare 1763 Neapolitan organ by Michelangelo and Carlo Sanarica, which is housed in nearby St Mark's Church.

HEAD OF ORGAN

Professor David Titterington

VISITING PROFESSORS

Franz Danksagmüller

Susan Landale *E Power Biggs*

Professor Emerita

James O'Donnell LVO

"The undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of study are truly comprehensive and inspirational, led by equally inspiring and supportive professors. I can't recommend them highly enough"

Peter Holder

Organist at Christ Church, Oxford

PIANO

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The Academy's dynamic Piano Department is headed by the internationally renowned concert pianist and curator Joanna MacGregor.

Our students are given plenty of opportunities to perform publicly – including in our Wigmore Hall Piano Series – and to compete in international competitions. We encourage pianists in improvisation, composition, conducting and leadership. Eminent visiting professors give one-to-one lessons and masterclasses each term, alongside renowned Academy professors.

We offer year-round careers sessions, and Piano Lab develops students' experiences of contemporary music. Students have opportunities to promote their work in the media as well as to create debut recordings. In addition to solo, concerto and chamber repertoire, we encourage students to curate exciting performances, develop identities as musicians and collaborate across diverse artistic boundaries – an approach that lies at the heart of our annual Autumn and Summer Piano Festivals.

DAME MYRA HESS
CHAIR OF PIANO
Professor Joanna MacGregor CBE

VISITING PROFESSORS

Leif Ove Andsnes
Adrian Brendel
Dame Imogen Cooper CBE
Pascal Devoyon
Richard Goode
Sir Stephen Hough
Steven Osborne CBE
Pascal Rogé
Yevgeny Sudbin



Leif Ove Andsnes

STRINGS



FIND
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The Strings Department provides a structured framework for undergraduate and postgraduate study. During your time with us you will receive intensive training in the crucial disciplines of solo performance, chamber music and orchestral playing. We will nurture your talent and help you to become a versatile, creative and practical musician.

Our highly distinguished professors and visiting professors range in age from their 20s to their 80s, encompassing an incredible breadth of knowledge and boasting an extraordinary musical lineage.

You will have access to instruments from the Academy Museum's extensive collection, from newly minted modern instruments to 'golden period' Stradivari violins. The Academy is unique in also having a professional team of luthiers permanently on site.

Our approach is to create rounded musicians whose progression into the music profession is natural, informed and positive.

HEAD OF STRINGS

Graham Mitchell

VISITING PROFESSORS

Lorenza Borrani

*Visiting Professor of
Chamber Orchestras*

Timothy Ridout

*Visiting Professor of Music
Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider Viotti
Visiting Professor of Music*

VIOLIN James Ehnes,
Giovanni Guzzo, Hilary Hahn,
Chloë Hanslip, Daniel Hope,
Tasmin Little OBE

VIOLA Juan-Miguel Hernandez,
Garth Knox, Hartmut Rohde,
Su Zhen

CELLO Mario Brunello,
Colin Carr, Steven Doane,
Steven Isserlis CBE *Marquis de
Corberon Professor*, Li Jiwu,
Guy Johnston, Sheku Kanneh-
Mason MBE *Menuhin Professor
of Performance Mentoring*,
Sung-Won Yang

DOUBLE BASS Matthew
McDonald, Božo Paradžik,
Joel Quarrington

TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

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The Academy's Timpani and Percussion Department has an international reputation for outstanding training. Our teachers include soloists, principal players and leading session musicians, all of whom understand the priorities and challenges of an ever-changing profession.

Your employability is central to our mission – whether you come to us as an undergraduate or a postgraduate, you will develop all the skills you need for your lifelong musical and professional development through a course that offers a variety of experience across related instruments.

By focusing on a small number of talented students, we are able to provide ample resources and dedicated practice spaces, as well as a wide range of performance opportunities and projects, which are some of the reasons our graduates go on to have rewarding and diverse careers.

HEAD OF TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

Neil Percy

VISITING PROFESSORS

DRUM SET Peter Erskine

TIMPANI Marinus Komst

VIBRAPHONE Joe Locke



VOCAL STUDIES

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We recruit young artists with something interesting to say – we look for potential, whatever your background and experience.

Prepare for a career in music. Collaborate with dynamic, highly skilled teachers, whose valuable insights into the challenges and rewards of an evolving industry will help you learn. Thrive in our diverse environment.

Vocal Studies students are dedicated and versatile, with a reputation for quality and originality. Our training incorporates vocal and performance techniques, acting and movement, repertoire and languages, historical performance, new music and audition preparation. Academy vocal students benefit from exceptional opportunities and one-to-one lesson time. We prime students for the next steps in their career.

Our graduates succeed as international opera singers, choral singers, teachers, presenters and artistic originators.

HEAD OF VOCAL STUDIES

Professor Kate Paterson

VISITING PROFESSORS

John Mark Ainsley OBE

Sir Thomas Allen

Nicky Spence

Susan Bullock CBE *Marjorie*

Thomas Visiting Professor

Lucy Crowe *Giulia Grisi Professor*

of Performance Mentoring

Christian Gerhaher

Sir Simon Keenlyside

Angelika Kirchschlager

Anthony Legge *Sir Arthur Sullivan*

Visiting Professor

Dame Felicity Lott

Ann Murray DBE

Dennis O'Neill CBE

“My teachers and coaches are inspiring, and I know I am in the best place to learn and grow as an artist”

Emilia

Master's student

WOODWIND

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Our professors have decades of experience as internationally renowned soloists, established chamber musicians and principal players in London's top orchestras, and have trained many of the finest woodwind players in the UK and around the world.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students benefit from the widest variety of opportunities and professional training schemes. We make ensemble experience a priority, in contemporary music groups and as part of a full symphony orchestra.

In a stimulating learning environment, students perform regularly and work with a range of specialists in performance classes, chamber coaching and instrument-specific classes covering aspects of performance practice, technique and repertoire. These core activities equip students with the skills they need to enter the music profession at the highest level.

HEAD OF WOODWIND

Fraser Gordon

VISITING PROFESSORS

FLUTE Emily Beynon, Denis Bouriakov, Silvia Careddu

OBOE Jonathan Kelly

CLARINET Patrick Messina, Andrew Marriner

BASSOON Julie Price





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OPEN ACADEMY

Open Academy, our community and participation department, works with more than 6,000 people beyond our enrolled students and staff each year.

As the importance of participatory and community music programmes continues to grow nationally 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 both undergraduate and postgraduate level are available to all students, offering seminars and workshops alongside hands-on experience in the field. We also offer 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. Through Open Academy you will develop your musicianship, skills and confidence and make connections with people from all walks of life.

HEAD OF OPEN ACADEMY

Julian West

VISITING LECTURERS AND PROJECT LEADERS

Isabelle Adams

Rosie Bergonzi

Sam Glazer

Hazel Gould

Jessie Maryon Davies

Electra Perivolaris

Tony Robb

Jackie Walduck

John Webb

Caroline Welsh

Tim Yealland

Suzi Zumpe

“This project reminded me why I enjoyed playing music as a child: because I was able to express myself without having to use words”

Anna Phillips

Postgraduate harp student



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JUNIOR ACADEMY

Saturdays are dedicated to Junior Academy and all the programmes under its umbrella. Excellence is developed in a nurturing environment which looks after the wellbeing of young musicians.

Whatever your background, if you love music and are committed to your individual musical journey, Junior Academy might be the perfect place for you.

Young musicians travel from all over the UK to take part. Strong bonds and lifelong friendships are formed along the way, and nearly 70% of our leavers go on to study music.

Our teachers are successful performing musicians and educators who combine active careers with the reward of helping young performers and composers fulfil their potential.

We offer a unique opportunity for talented young musicians of all backgrounds to be inspired and challenged in their music-making. You will find yourself among others who share your love for music.

HEAD OF JUNIOR ACADEMY
John Hutchins



“My daughter is blossoming – she relishes every Saturday”

Parent



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

COURSE

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INFORMATION

The Royal Academy of Music is a member institution of the University of London. This means that students studying for our BMus, PGCert, MA, MMus, MPhil and PhD courses will receive degrees/awards from UoL when graduating

The University of London is one of the oldest and largest universities in the UK, so you can be sure that your qualification will be recognised around the globe.

COURSES OFFERED 2025/26

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor of Music (BMus)
Gap Year
Organ Foundation
Study Abroad/Exchange

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Arts (MA)
Master of Music (MMus)
Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
Professional Diploma (ProfDip)
Advanced Diploma (AdvDip)
Continuing Professional Development
Diploma (CPD)
Study Abroad/Exchange

RESEARCH

MPhil/PhD

For more information, please scan the QR code or go to ram.ac.uk/courses. You can find the courses available for your chosen Principal Study in the relevant area of ram.ac.uk/departments. These details relate to 2025/26. Tuition fees are listed at ram.ac.uk/fees

For information on financial support and loans, visit ram.ac.uk/financial-support

RESEARCH PAST & FUTURE

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Pursue your creative and intellectual passions with our MPhil/PhD research degrees

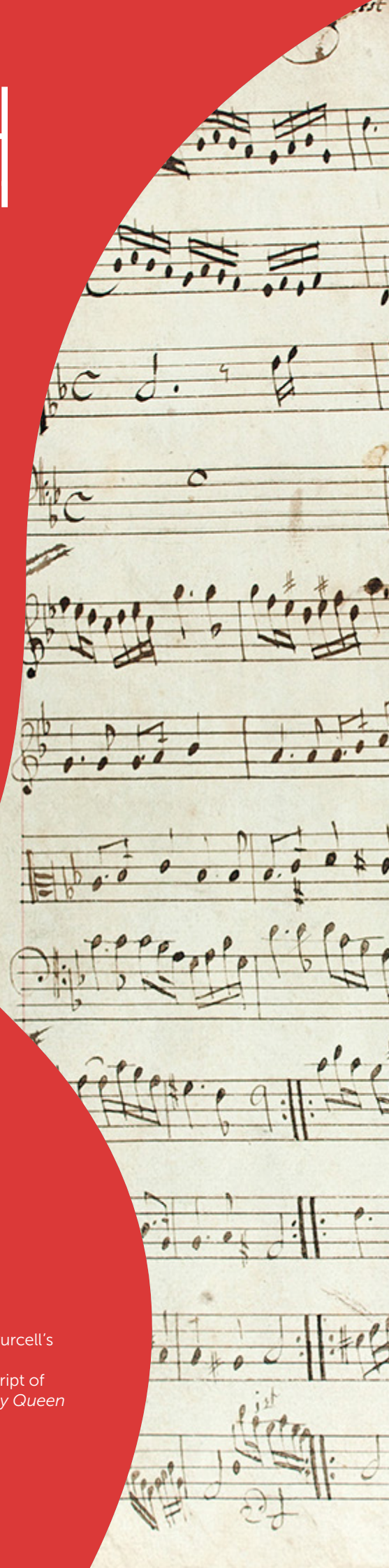
Our research degrees are aimed at performers and composers with highly developed skills and focused career aspirations. You will work with a supervisor and a team of creative staff on a substantial research project. This will normally be driven by your activities as a performer or composer, but will also require critical context and reflection.

The Academy offers an integrated MPhil/PhD degree over four years. Transfer to PhD status usually takes place at the end of the second year, and students are eligible to submit for MPhil and exit at that stage.

“I had space to experiment in a community of thoughtful and creative musicians”

Freya Waley-Cohen

Henry Purcell's
original
manuscript of
The Fairy Queen



"I'm very proud of and greatly treasure my connection with the Academy. I have been so fortunate, post-study, to receive support from the Academy through performances of my work, as well as through the sharing of advice and resources. This is a very special place to be in – I wish I could be a student here all over again"

Roxanna Panufnik
British composer

"The Academy means an awful lot to me. It was the beginning of my musical journey. Once I came to the Academy it became clear to me that singing was my path"

Freddie De Tommaso
Chart-topping tenor

WHAT THE ACADEMY MEANS TO ME



"When I first came to the UK I fell in love with the culture of the country and the Academy – it's unlike anything in the United States. What I think makes the Academy special is that you can really find your voice, with the right guidance in the right atmosphere, and I was very lucky in being able to do that"

Jonathon Heyward
Music Director,
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

"My experience of the Academy was incredible. I had no idea how much I didn't know until I started. The focus is always on making you aware that you are a hair's breadth away from the professional world. When you leave, you quickly realise that the Academy's network is really strong – to me the Academy offers a real sense of community and shared experience"

Stephenson Ardern-Sodje
Musical Theatre graduate and
leading stage actor

"It's not an exaggeration to say that Sian Edwards was the most formative teacher I've ever had"

Bertie Baigent
In-demand conductor working with
the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and
at Glyndebourne

"Arriving at the Academy, I was suddenly surrounded by highly skilled and passionate musicians who loved what I loved"

Alice Gribbin
Former Junior Academy student and
member of the BBC Singers

"I'm thankful for the experience I was afforded during such formative years at the Academy – the rigour of training, the guidance of distinguished mentors embedded in the profession, and the musicianship and history its walls are steeped in"

Peter Holder
Organist and Tutor in Music at
Christ Church, Oxford



ALL TOGETHER NOW

Student wellbeing is critical. We want you to make the most of your time here and develop your ability to sustain your physical and mental health throughout your career

The Academy fosters an environment of mutual support and understanding – qualities at the heart of the collaborative nature of great music-making.

Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais skills will train your physical awareness, and wellbeing and performance technique sessions will develop your understanding of your psychological needs as a musician.

If things get tough, it's important to know where to turn. This may be to your teacher or Head of Year, or to one of our accredited Counsellors in our Psychological Support Services, to whom you can talk about any aspect of your life. Our experienced and dedicated team will be there to help.

Students with specific learning needs can get practical support (including assistance with funding applications, where relevant) from our Disability Advisor. We also have an Additional Support Tutor who can arrange specialist tuition and work with you to develop strategies that will help your musical learning.

Our specialist English Language Support tutors can help international students improve their communication skills.

SAFEGUARDING

We recognise that things can sometimes go wrong, and we were the first conservatoire to institute a Report + Support procedure.

BELONGING

We want our students, staff and visitors to value not only what we have in common, but also what makes us different. We want this to be a place where everyone feels that they belong.

An inclusive Academy is a place where creativity and innovation can flourish. That's why we're working hard to increase the diversity of our student body, curricula, repertoire and the musicians who regularly teach for us.

NOTE FROM THE STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT

I was honoured to be voted President of the Students' Union for a second year, and I look forward to continuing to make wellbeing a top priority so that all students feel safe and supported.

There is so much joy that comes from making music, as well as from attending a smaller university with lots going on. For example, the Union organises a range of social events, including a boat party on the River Thames, a Christmas Party and a Summer Ball, regular jazz jams, film nights and pub quizzes. However, studying music at the highest level has unique challenges. The environment is competitive, intense and fast-paced, with regular performances and academic exams. Our mission is to help students build confidence and strike the right balance between work, rest and time with friends.

In 2023/24 we launched a new initiative where students can book a same day or next day counselling appointment ('drop-in' sessions). We also collaborated with James Fullegar, the Academy's additional support tutor, to organise Time Management,

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Tiffany Qiu, SU president

Organisation and Planning (TOP) workshops. Ahead of the two workshops we've had so far, students Sophie Patterson and Guillem León Vivas took over our Royal Academy of Music Students' Union (RAMSU) Instagram to talk about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and being blind respectively, as well as sharing what kind of support is available at the Academy.

In March the Union teamed up with the Counselling and Wellbeing Teams to curate a series of events for University Mental Health Day. These included a mindful walk to Primrose Hill, a gratitude tree where students could write what they were grateful for on a 'leaf', anxiety workshops, seed planting, free herbal teas and more. I hope to meet some of you in the new year, and hear your thoughts on how the Students' Union can support you!



MEET THE NEW GENERATION

Recent graduates are already shaping musical culture in countless ways

Elizabeth Bass

Joint Principal Harp, BBC Symphony Orchestra

Alim Beisembayev

Leeds International Piano Competition winner; Warner Classics recording artist

Tom Blomfield

Joint Principal Oboe, Philharmonia Orchestra; Academy professor

Liam Bonthron

Winner of 2022 Clonter Opera Prize; member of Bavarian State Opera Studio

Matthew Brett

Percussion section leader of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Henry Clay

Principal Cor Anglais, Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Jacob Collier

Six-time Grammy-winning jazz and pop multi-instrumentalist

Tabea Debus

Virtuoso recorder player; YCAT artist since 2018

Freddie De Tommaso

Chart-topping tenor and Decca Classics artist

Plínio Fernandes

Guitarist signed to Decca Gold

Nicolò Foron

Winner of the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition 2023; Assistant Conductor of London Symphony Orchestra

Ben Glassberg

Principal Guest Conductor of Volksoper Wien

Christopher Hart

Principal Trumpet, Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Ashley Henry

Jazz pianist and composer signed with Sony Music UK

Jonathon Heyward

Music Director, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Ben Hulme

Principal Horn, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Ossian Huskinson

Royal Opera House Jette Parker Artist for 2024/25

Claudia Lucia Lamanna

Solo harpist; winner of the prestigious 21st International Harp Contest in Israel

Kyeong jin Lee

Principal Cello, Korean National Symphony Orchestra

Matilda Lloyd

Trumpet soloist; HarrisonParrott artist; Classic FM Rising Star

Helena Mackie

Principal Oboist, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Rafael Marino Arcaro

LSO Panufnik Composers Scheme Artist 2022/23

Isata Kanneh-Mason

Award-winning solo pianist

Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE

Multi-award-winning cellist and recording artist with two chart-topping albums

Enyi Okpara

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) Calleva Assistant Conductor

Sam Oladeinde

Aaron Burr in the West End production of *Hamilton*

Alexandra Oomens

Joining Deutsche Oper Berlin in 2024/25

Emma Rawicz

Saxophonist described as an 'astonishing new talent' by BBC Radio 2

Timothy Ridout

Solo viola player; BBC New Generation Artist 2019-22, Gramophone Award Winner 2023

Chloe Rooke

Assistant Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra for the 2022/23 season

Harry Rylance

Winner of the Accompanist's Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards 2023

Keval Shah

Pianist; Lecturer of Lied, Sibelius Academy, Helsinki

Angharad Thomas

Co-principal bassoon, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra

Freya Waley-Cohen

Composer in residence with the London Chamber Orchestra 2021/22

Amy Yule

Principal Flute, Hallé

HOW TO APPLY

Every great musical journey starts with a single step. If you're interested in joining us, here's what to do next

- **Find out** more about the Academy at one of our many free concerts, or at a Discovery Event
- **Ask** the relevant department or our Admissions Team if you have any questions – email admissions@ram.ac.uk or call +44 (0)20 7873 7393
- **Check** which course is right for you by visiting ram.ac.uk/courses
- **Apply** for Academy courses through UCAS Conservatoires. Our ID is R53. Make sure you meet the application deadline. Visit ucas.com/conservatoires

AUDITIONS - WHERE AND WHEN

The main audition session is between **2 and 13 December 2024** except for Musical Theatre Performance/Musical Direction and Coaching, Conducting, Choral Conducting, the CPD Diploma and Research degrees. Auditions for some Principal Studies are held in North America. Details are updated on our website ram.ac.uk/apply and ram.ac.uk/audition

You can see further details about your Principal Study on our website at ram.ac.uk/departments

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THE ACADEMY AT A GLANCE

500* — 75%
EVENTS FREE TO ATTEND

BMus
91%
graduated with first or upper second degrees

INVESTMENT
£6.1m
in scholarships and financial
support for talented musicians

795 STUDENTS
from 54 countries**

MA/MMus
91%
graduated with distinction
or merit

} 61
students
received
a DipRAM
for an
outstanding
final recital

* includes concerts as well as
informal events such as recitals
**data is from 2023/24
academic year
All other data is from 2022/23
academic year



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

Sir Simon Rattle



PATRON
HM The King

PRESIDENT
HRH The Duchess of Gloucester KG GCVO

PRINCIPAL
Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE



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