

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC



GUIDE 2027/28



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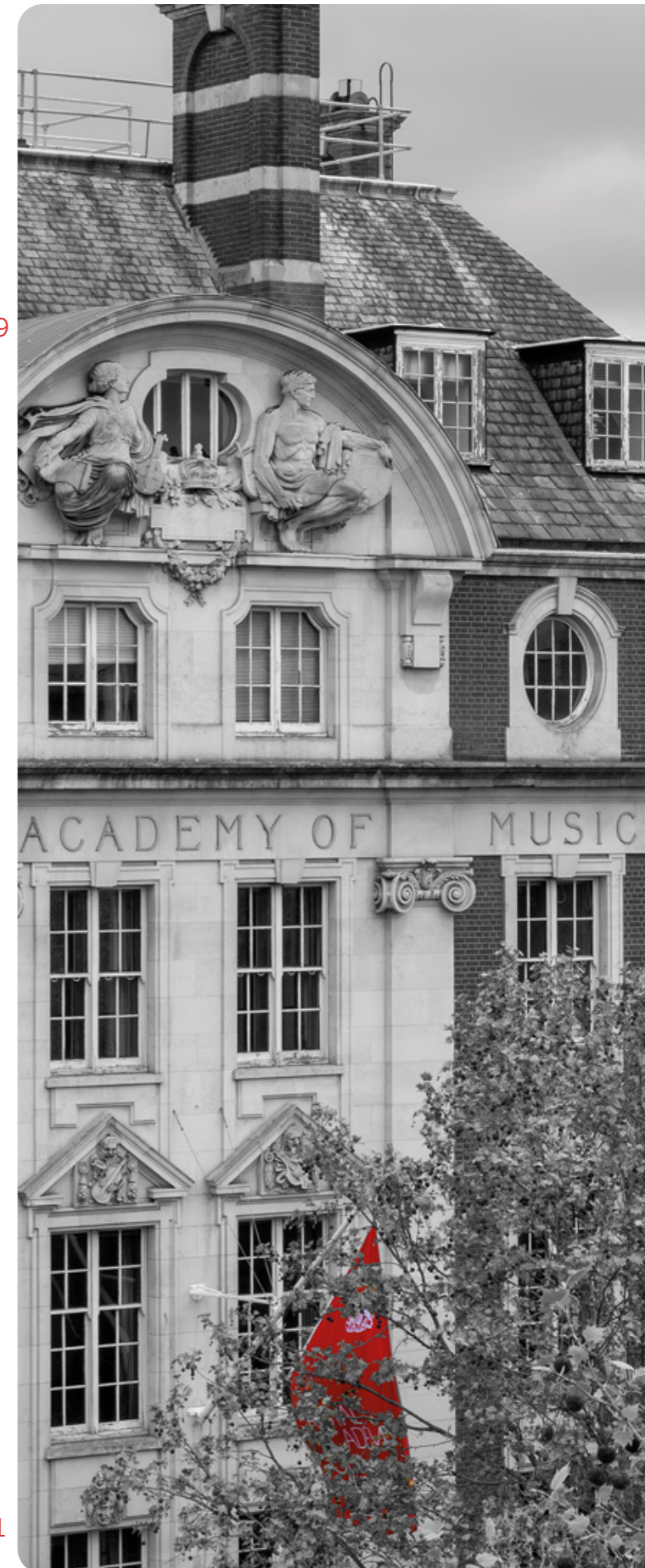
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TODAY'S ASPIRATION, TOMORROW'S ARTIST

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

From Junior Academy to PhD, we help young artists 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.

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

'The Royal Academy of Music is a place of possibility.'

Barbara Hannigan





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 cultural leaders.

Today, we are more confident than ever in our ability to shape the future of music. As Britain's oldest conservatoire, the Academy is steeped in tradition, but it is also one of the most progressive musical institutions in the world. You are encouraged to develop your own voice and trust your instincts, while building the skills necessary to perform at the highest level. In whichever discipline you choose – from classical performance to jazz, musical theatre or many types of composition – you will 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 – an unrivalled roster – in performances and masterclasses that you will remember for the rest of your life.

What sets the Academy apart, I think, are the connections made here. Connections with other students who

will be collaborators and friends for life; with alumni and visiting artists who provide vital links into the music industry; and to international opportunities, such as concerts at the Lincoln Center and the BBC Proms with The Juilliard School (most recently in summer 2026), Carnegie Hall, the Paris Conservatoire and many other venues as part of our Sir Elton John Global Exchange Programme.

Recent capital projects have seen a significant transformation of the Academy's facilities and performance venues, alongside our new teaching and rehearsal spaces on London City Island (pictured mid-construction on the front cover of this guide and on page 19). Together, these developments provide our students with an environment in which they can hone their craft and thrive as musicians, and with some major technological advances.

I hope this guide will help you to decide whether the Academy is the right next step for you. We have a rich archive of recordings on our YouTube channel for you to explore, and I invite you to attend a Discovery Event or one of our many public performances – we'd welcome you warmly.

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE
Principal

ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



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

The Sunday Times

DEVELOPING FUTURE ARTISTS

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

Our artistic work placements give students 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 students to develop their professional networks and make significant contributions towards their long-term employability.

In addition to SIDE-BY-SIDE projects, the Academy's dedicated Artist Development team collaborates with influential arts partners including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Southbank Centre and the Courtauld Institute, providing opportunities for students to make meaningful industry connections and gain real-world experience.

'One word for the Academy would be "Discovery", because every day you discover something new: a new person, new things you can do musically and new places.'

Stefano Bellacci, student

SIDE-BY-SIDE partners include:

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

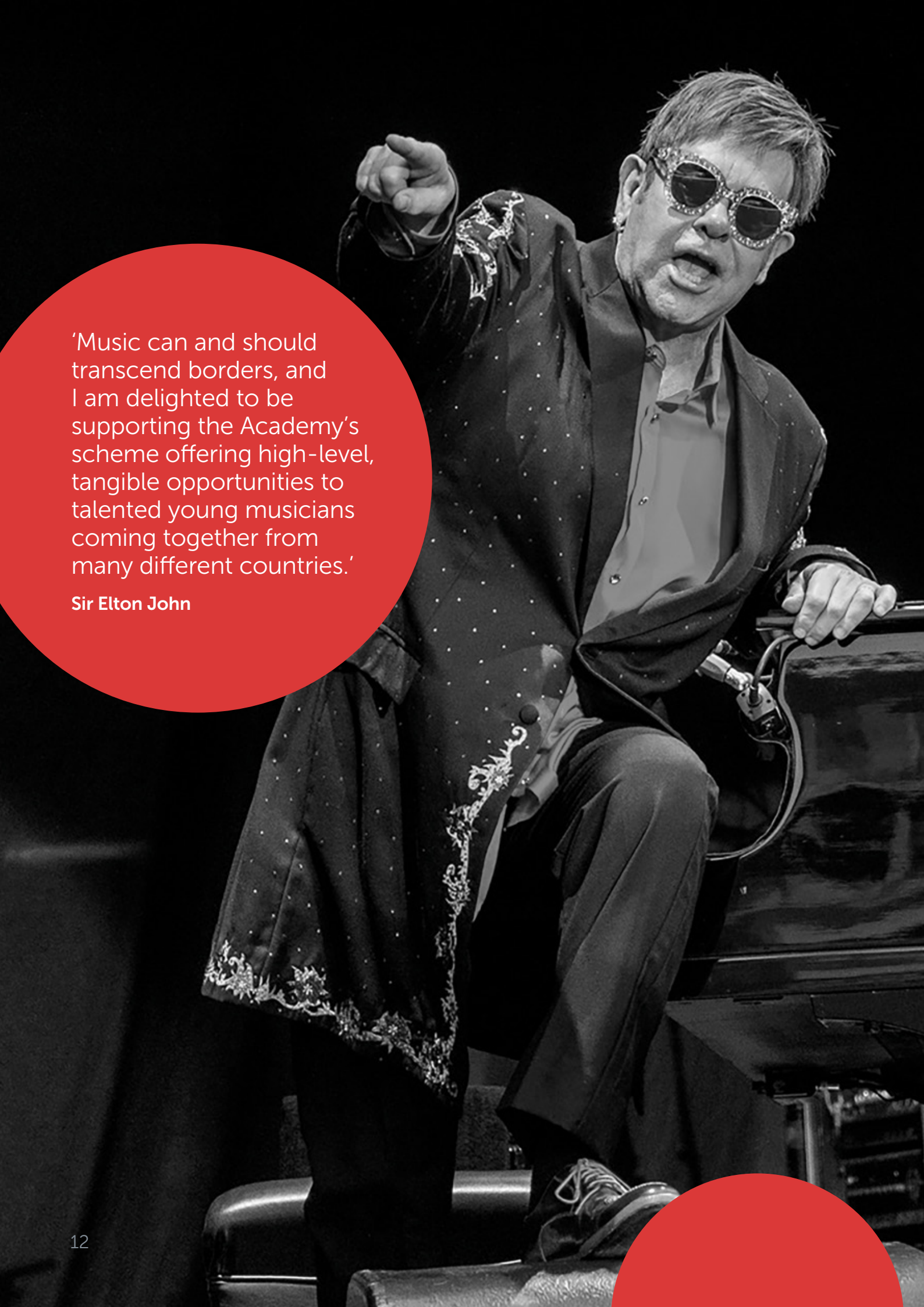


CREATIVE PARTNERS

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
- **Bjarte Eike** Visiting Professor of Historical Performance
- **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 Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring
- **Trevor Pinnock CBE** Principal Conductor, Academy Chamber Orchestra
- **Rachel Podger** Micaela Comberti Chair of Baroque Violin
- **Hannah Roberts** Jacqueline du Pré Professor of Cello
- **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





'Music can and should transcend borders, and I am delighted to be supporting the Academy's scheme offering 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
- The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- University of Music and Theatre, Munich
- Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts, Helsinki
- Tokyo University of the Arts
- University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
- Reina Sofía School of Music, Madrid
- Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris

We also have exchange arrangements with:

- Lübeck Academy of Music
- University of Mannheim
- Frost School of Music, University of Miami (Jazz)
- Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon

'Performing at Carnegie Hall is the dream of so many musicians, and I still can't believe that for several days, this magnificent venue was our musical home.'

Julius Maknickas, Academy cellist who performed at Carnegie Hall with the Czech Philharmonic, sharing the stage with Yo-Yo Ma



SHAPING THE INDUSTRY

Preparing students for the professional world and establishing clear pathways into the music industry is at the heart of what the Academy does. Recent graduates are already shaping musical culture in countless ways.

Elizabeth Bass
Principal Harp, BBC
Symphony Orchestra

Alim Beisembayev
Warner Classics
recording artist

Vitor Bispo
Ensemble member, Bavarian
State Opera, Munich

Tom Blomfield
Joint Principal Oboe,
Philharmonia Orchestra;
Academy professor

Matthew Brett
Percussion Section Leader,
Royal Liverpool
Philharmonic Orchestra

Desmonda Cathabel
Mary Magdalene in *Jesus
Christ Superstar* at London
Palladium in 2026

Junyan Chen
Second Prize at Leeds
International Piano
Competition 2024

Freddie De Tommaso
Chart-topping tenor and
Decca Classics artist

Cian Ducrot
Grammy award-winning
singer-songwriter

Annemarie Federle
Principal Horn, London
Philharmonic Orchestra

Plínio Fernandes
Guitarist signed to
Decca Gold

Tom Fetherstonhaugh
Founder and Artistic Director
of Fantasia Orchestra

Thomas Fountain
Principal Trumpet, BBC
Philharmonic Orchestra

Ben Glassberg
Principal Guest Conductor,
Vienna Volksoper

Ashley Henry
Jazz pianist and composer
signed to Sony Music UK

Adam Hickox
Chief Conductor, Trondheim
Symphony Orchestra

Ben Hulme
Joint Principal Horn, Royal
Philharmonic Orchestra

Ossian Huskinson
Royal Opera House Jette
Parker Artist for 2024/25

Braimah Kanneh-Mason
Classic FM Rising Star 2026

Kyeong jin Lee
Principal Cello,
Korean National
Symphony Orchestra

Matilda Lloyd
Winner of the RPS Young
Artist Award 2026

Helena Mackie
Principal Oboe, Royal
Liverpool Philharmonic
Orchestra

Fergus McCready
Principal Oboe, Orchestra of
the Royal Opera House

Enyi Okpara
Fellow Conductor,
London Philharmonic
Orchestra 2026/27

Sam Oladeinde
Javert in the 40th
anniversary West End
cast of *Les Misérables*

Michal Oren
Calleva Assistant Conductor,
Bournemouth Symphony
Orchestra

Hilary Punnett
Assistant Director of Music,
St Paul's Cathedral

Emma Rawicz
Jazz FM's 'UK Jazz Act of
the Year' 2026

Alexandra Whittingham
Decca Classics artist
reaching No 2 in the
UK Classical Charts

Binny-Supin Yang
Renée Fleming Artist Fellow,
Aspen Music Festival 2026

Amy Yule
Principal Flute, London
Symphony Orchestra



Jebesen House

OUR SPACES AND STAGES

Our Marylebone Road building, next to Regent's Park, has been our home since 1911. Here, many of the world's great musicians have studied, taught, recorded, composed and performed.

We have recently upgraded many spaces across the Academy and have invested in new large-scale rehearsal studios on London City Island, which will be completed in summer 2027. Here's a snapshot of where you will train and perform:

Over the coming two years, work will be carried out on Jebesen House to enhance its practice rooms and studios along with the Academy's museum and collections, which play a significant part in students' learning.

JEBSEN HOUSE AND RECITAL HALL

In 2025 we received a £30 million pledge from philanthropist Aud Jebesen to reimagine the studios and museum in our Regency-period York Gate wing and its adjoining Recital Hall. These are now named Jebesen House and the Aud and Kristian Gerhard Jebesen Recital Hall.

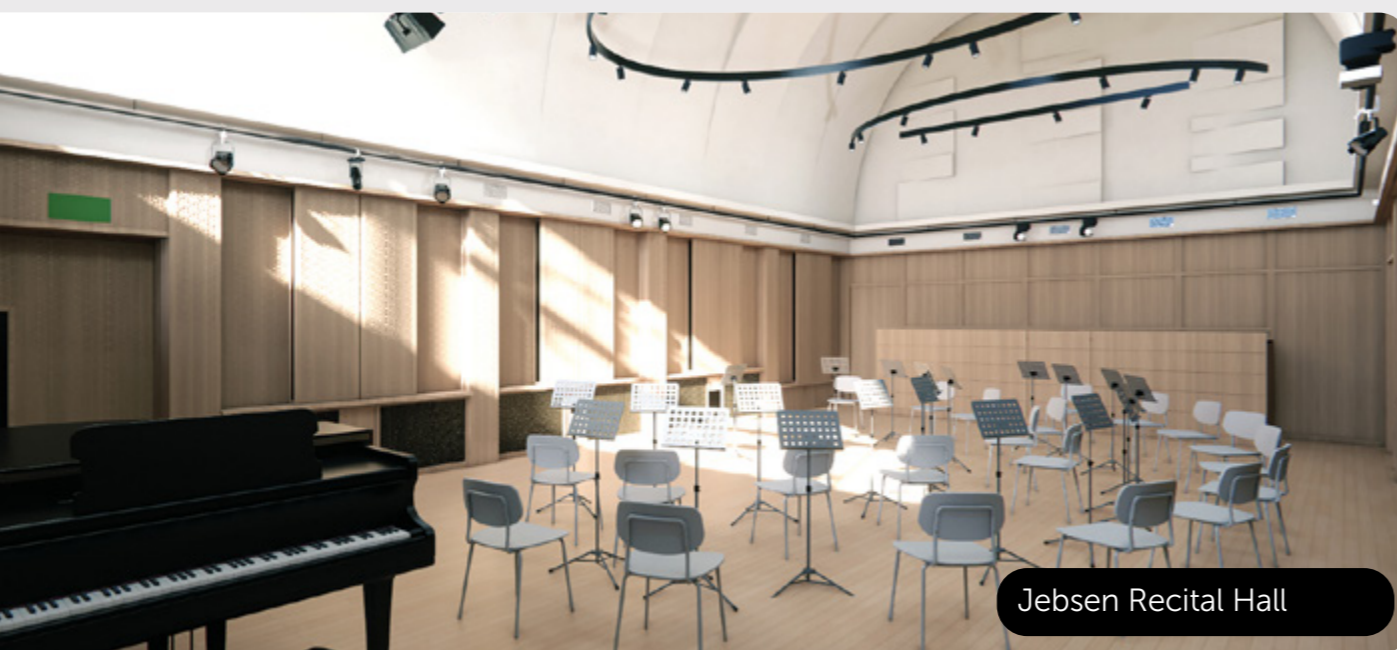
The first part of this work has transformed our 80-seat Recital Hall into a world-class venue under an iconic zinc arch. Reversible oak and fabric panels create acoustic variability, so the Hall is pitch-perfect for soloists and ensembles alike. As with all our performance spaces, audio-visual recording technology is integrated.

SUSIE SAINSBURY THEATRE AND ANGELA BURGESS RECITAL HALL

At the heart of our building is the beautiful 309-seat Susie Sainsbury Theatre – regularly used for fully staged opera and musical theatre productions, as well as for orchestral recordings. Above it, the ABRH is a striking 94-seat venue, featuring astounding acoustics used for both recording and performing.

DUKE'S HALL

Our flagship 319-seat concert venue has hosted countless Academy Symphony Orchestra, chamber and choral concerts (regularly directed by world-leading conductors and artistic collaborators), as well as music festivals and competitions.



Jebesen Recital Hall



Susie Sainsbury Theatre



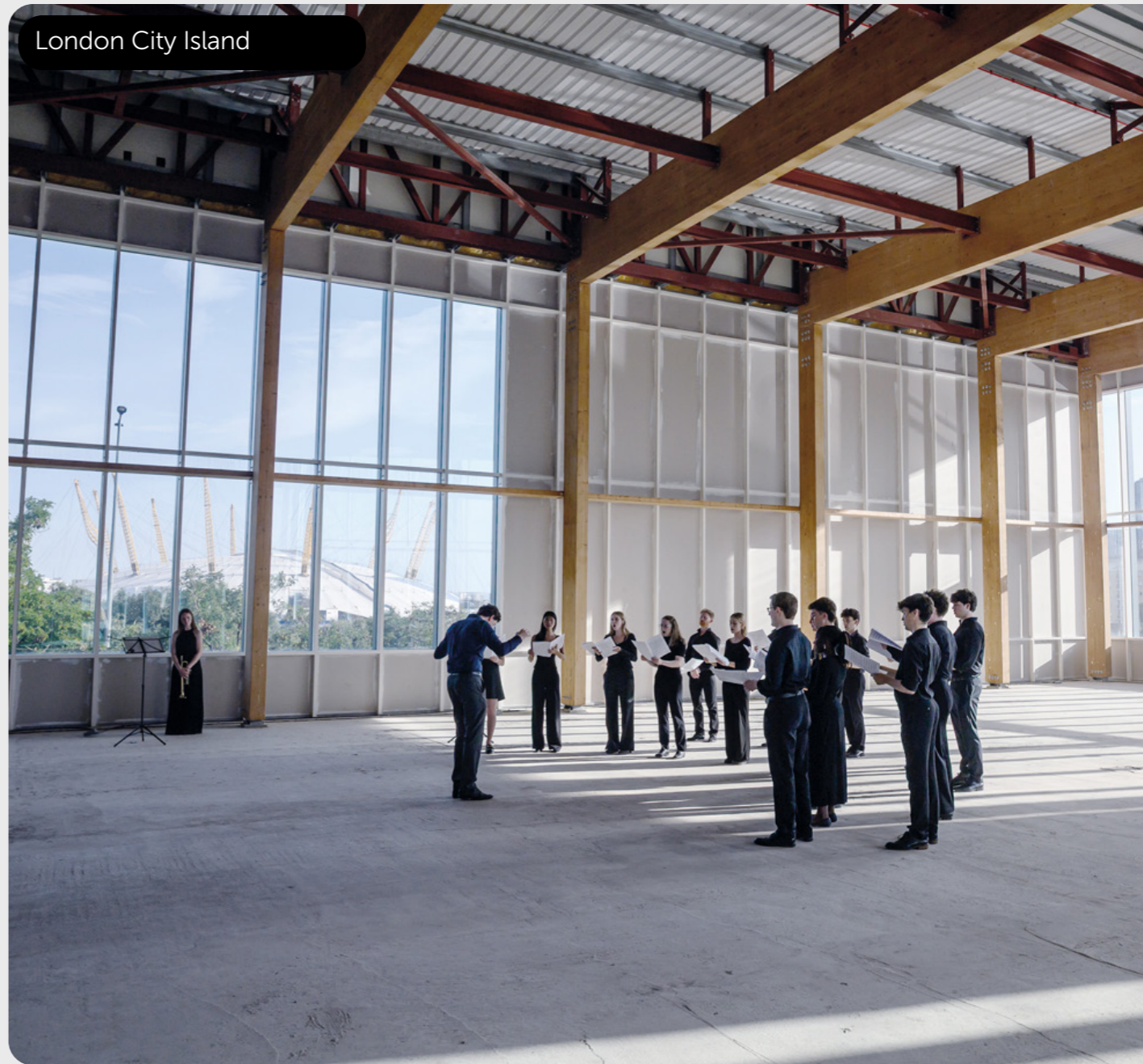
Angela Burgess Recital Hall



Duke's Hall



Composition Suites



London City Island

DIGITAL COMPOSITION SUITES

Recording technologies are wired into most of our spaces. Students benefit from our enhanced digital composition and recording studios, as well as our Concert Room, which received a million-pound investment to create a black box studio with a hybrid virtual acoustic system.

LONDON CITY ISLAND

Take the Jubilee Line 22 minutes east and you'll find our newest facilities: four large acoustically separated studios, each up to 160m². Opening in summer 2027, they will transform possibilities for students in every department and especially for opera and musical theatre. This brand-new centre for music, opposite English National Ballet's headquarters, will also include 10 teaching and practice rooms, each with a grand piano and built-in recording facilities.



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 will 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.

The Academy currently holds a 'Gold' rating from the Office for Students as part of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which recognises 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 Ryan Bancroft, Semyon Bychkov, Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Barbara Hannigan, Jonathon Heyward, Susanna Mälkki, Rachel Podger, Sir Simon Rattle, Ryan Wigglesworth and John Wilson, as part of a programme of hundreds of public events each year.

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

Students perform in the Academy Symphony Orchestra, in small ensembles and in fully staged musicals and operas, both in our own venues and at Wigmore Hall, Snape Maltings and Southbank Centre, partnering with the likes of the London Sinfonietta and the Knussen Chamber Orchestra. They have also appeared with The Juilliard School at the BBC Proms on four occasions since 2005.

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 showcased.

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

Desmonda Cathabel



RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES

We have a professional recording culture at the Academy, ensuring students have access to industry-standard tools and practices.

A LEGACY OF COLLABORATION CREATE, CAPTURE, REFINE

For nearly 30 years, recording has been an intrinsic part of Academy life. Since 2012, we have partnered with world-renowned independent label Linn Records to produce exceptional recordings. Recent albums include an all-Nielsen recording conducted by Ryan Wigglesworth, and Stravinsky chamber works performed by the Academy-Juilliard Orchestra and conducted by Barbara Hannigan.

Other recent collaboration highlights include a groundbreaking project with Miami's Frost School of Jazz to record the lost scores of Kenny Wheeler at the iconic Abbey Road Studios. The release was hailed by The Times as 'one of the best jazz albums of 2025' and nominated for a Grammy Award in 2026.

Our in-house Recording Department supports students in the creation of high-quality recordings for portfolio development, grant applications, scholarships and coursework. Our system enables unattended, professional-standard recording. In our five fully equipped venues, students log in, press record and save high-quality footage to their account, with editing tools for refinement.

YOUNG ARTISTS RECORDING SCHEME

Established in 2024, this scheme empowers ambitious young musicians to underscore their artistic values with high-quality recorded materials. Students selected for the scheme are given the opportunity to independently curate a performance and professional video recording at the prestigious Voces8 Centre.

'Recording is a distinctive and fulfilling creative process alongside concert life. Here, you learn how it can contribute to your musical journey.'

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood
Principal and producer

Click here to explore our performances and recordings





CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

ACCORDION

Since becoming the first British conservatoire to introduce teaching for the classical accordion 40 years ago, the department has produced 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 learn in a creative environment where professors and visiting artists help musicians develop their artistry and prepare for the profession. As part of your course you will perform solo repertoire, hone technical skills, form chamber music ensembles and connect with 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
Friedrich Lips
Martynas Levickis
Ksenija Sidorova



BRASS

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ◀

The Brass Department offers individual lessons with a team of distinguished professors and visiting professors who are active at the highest professional level. Alongside this, you will have access to an unparalleled range of masterclasses with internationally renowned artists 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
Kira Doherty

VISITING PROFESSORS
HORN Mark Almond, Radovan Vlatković, Katy Woolley
TRUMPET Éric Aubier, Jeroen Berwaerts (Artist in Residence), Mark David, Laura Vukobratović
TROMBONE Ian Bousfield, Jörgen van Rijen
LOWER BRASS Rex Martin





CHORAL CONDUCTING

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT 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 technique, 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 & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT 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 AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
Professor Philip Cashian

VISITING PROFESSORS
Hans Abrahamsen *Oliver Knussen*
Chair of Composition
Eleanor Alberga OBE
Gareth Coker
Brett Dean
James Newton Howard
Helena Tulve
Ryan Wigglesworth *Richard Rodney Bennett*
Professor of Music



CONDUCTING

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT 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.

We offer a two-year course of principal study conducting at postgraduate level, leading to an MA or MMus. 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.

The Academy is also home to the Glover-Edwards Programme, which aims to bridge the gap between undergraduate and postgraduate study for musicians currently under-represented in the art of conducting.

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 11.

'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

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT 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 develop collaborative skills, artistic expression and professional versatility, including coaching, continuo training, orchestral piano performance, language skills, chamber music, working with conductors and opera repertoire.

Performance lies at the heart of the programme, with regular recitals, masterclasses and ensemble performances providing invaluable stage experience. Students collaborate with a wide range of singers, instrumentalists and chamber ensembles, broadening their musical perspectives and deepening their artistic 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
Malcolm Martineau
Mark Padmore (Lieder)
Sini Simonen (Chamber Music)
Graham Johnson OBE

'Graduates emerge as versatile and skilled ensemble pianists who are equipped to thrive in diverse professional settings.'

James Baillieu



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

GUITAR

The Guitar Department's curriculum, unique musicological resources and outstanding instruments help students reach the highest standards as soloists, ensemble players and teachers. Past and present students regularly win awards in international competitions and secure recording contracts with major labels.

You will study every aspect of the guitar's repertoire with professors knowledgeable about its historical evolution and distinctive national traditions, central to which is the Academy's special link to Julian Bream and the range of music he inspired.

Each year includes masterclasses, talks and concerts by visiting artists, luthiers and composers, with regular performance opportunities at both the Academy and beyond. Promoting new guitar music is integral to our work, as are termly collaborations with vocal, instrumental and composition departments on innovative projects. At all stages, you'll be supported in using the latest technology to develop skills, reach wider audiences and pursue your professional career.

HEAD OF GUITAR
Michael Lewin
VISITING PROFESSORS
David Russell
Fábio Zanon
Xuefei Yang



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

HARP

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 prestigious international competitions such as the USA International Harp Competition and the International Harp Competition in Bloomington. Many alumni hold prominent orchestral positions in ensembles such as the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic, as well as teaching roles at leading conservatoires worldwide.

HEAD OF HARP
TBC
VISITING PROFESSORS
Anne-Sophie Bertrand
Anneleen Lenaerts
Gwyneth Wentink
Sylvain Blassel
Alexander Boldachev
JAZZ HARP Park Stickney



HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

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*
Laurence Cummings OBE
William Crotch Chair of Keyboards and Coaching
John Butt OBE
Bjarte Eike



JAZZ

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

The 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
Miguel Zenón





MUSICAL THEATRE

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

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 training for music directors and coaches, are delivered by working artists and practitioners, offering direct industry links. We've created an environment in which individuality is nurtured and diversity embraced. Performance opportunities are a priority, enabling students to learn through doing.

Recent graduates have performed in *American Psycho*, *Oh, Mary!*, *Into the Woods*, *Cabaret*, *Hamilton*, *Hadestown*, *Les Misérables*, *The Lion King*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Neighbour Totoro*. Alumni have also appeared at the National Theatre, Almeida, Donmar Warehouse and on tours around the world.

GATSBY CHAIR OF MUSICAL THEATRE
Professor Daniel Bowling

VISITING PROFESSOR
Claude-Michel Schönberg

SONDHEIM PROFESSOR OF MUSICAL THEATRE VOCAL STUDIES
Mary Hammond



OPERA

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

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 40)

HEAD OF OPERA
Dr Christopher White

VISITING PROFESSORS
John Mark Ainsley OBE
Sir Thomas Allen
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 Kirchschlager
Anthony Legge *Sir Arthur Sullivan Visiting Professor of Opera*
Ann Murray DBE
Dennis O'Neill CBE
Nicky Spence OBE
Edith Wiens

ORGAN

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

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
Bine Bryndorf
Franz Danksagmüller
Jean-Baptiste Robin

'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

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

The Academy's dynamic Piano Department is headed by the internationally acclaimed 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 their 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
Megumi Masaki
Steven Osborne CBE
Pascal Rogé
Yevgeny Sudbin



STRINGS

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT MORE ▶

The Strings Department offers a focused and highly ambitious programme of study at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, designed to prepare musicians for a dynamic and evolving profession.

You will work intensively across solo performance, chamber music and orchestral playing, building both technical mastery and a distinctive artistic identity. Teaching is delivered by internationally recognised performers and respected teachers, whose experience offers direct insight into the highest levels of the profession.

Alongside this, you will have access to exceptional resources, including the Academy Museum's instrument collection, which ranges from outstanding modern instruments to rare Stradivari examples from the maker's most celebrated period. A team of professional luthiers is permanently on site to maintain the instruments.

Our aim is to support the development of thoughtful, adaptable musicians who are ready to step into the professional world and shape it on their own terms.

HEAD OF STRINGS

Graham Mitchell

VISITING PROFESSORS

Lorenza Borrani

*Visiting Professor of
Chamber Orchestras*

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, Timothy Ridout
*Visiting Professor of Performance
Mentoring, Hartmut Rohde,
Su Zhen*

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

DOUBLE BASS Matthew
McDonald, Božo Paradžik,
Joel Quarrington

TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT MORE ▶

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 experiences 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 AND PERCUSSION

Neil Percy

VISITING PROFESSORS

DRUM SET Peter Erskine

VIBRAPHONE Joe Locke





CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

VOCAL STUDIES

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 careers.

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
Susan Bullock CBE *Marjorie Thomas Visiting Professor*
Lucy Crowe *Giulia Grisi Professor of Performance Mentoring*
Christian Gerhaher
Sir Simon Keenlyside
Angelika Kirchschrager
Anthony Legge *Sir Arthur Sullivan Visiting Professor of Opera*
Nicky Spence OBE

'The Academy really is the best environment to prepare the musicians of tomorrow.'

Lucy Crowe

WOODWIND



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ▶

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 sessions 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 Yehuda Gilad, Patrick Messina, Andrew Marriner
BASSOON Julie Price





CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT MORE ▶

OPEN ACADEMY

Open Academy, our community and participation department, works with more than 4,000 people beyond our enrolled students and staff each year.

The role of music in participation, community and health continues to grow both in the UK and internationally. It is crucial that our students have the opportunity to obtain skills and experience in this exciting area of work. Open Academy offers seminars and workshops alongside hands-on experience in the field through electives that are available to all students. We also offer fellowships to graduating students who will be the future leaders in 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

OPEN ACADEMY LECTURER

Jackie Walduck

VISITING LECTURERS AND PROJECT LEADERS

Rosie Bergonzi

Sam Glazer

Hazel Gould

Jessie Maryon Davies

Yshani Perinpanayagam

Electra Perivolaris

Tony Robb

John Webb

Caroline Welsh

Suzi Zumpe

'Open Academy didn't just sharpen my skills. It transformed how I see the power of participatory work when it's well-facilitated.'

Kimberly Lo

Undergraduate student



JUNIOR ACADEMY

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT MORE ▶

Junior Academy is a vibrant and welcoming community, bringing together students from across the country in an environment where wellbeing and excellence go hand in hand.

We pride ourselves on creating a happy and supportive atmosphere where every student feels valued. Confidence grows naturally, friendships flourish and students are encouraged to enjoy performing and to develop their skills. Many of these friendships last a lifetime, and over 70% of our leavers continue to study music.

Our teachers are inspiring musicians and dedicated educators who balance active performing careers with a genuine passion for nurturing young talent. They guide and support each student, helping them to discover their strengths and fulfil their potential.

At Junior Academy, students are gently challenged and supported to achieve their very best, growing not only as performers and composers, but also as confident, creative individuals.

HEAD OF JUNIOR ACADEMY

John Hutchins



'My daughter never has to be reminded to get up early on a Saturday – it's the best day of the week. She loves it at Junior Academy.'

Parent of Junior Academy student

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

The Academy is the first UK conservatoire to offer a fully funded Foundation Year course.

This new programme provides a targeted pathway to conservatoire training for talented young musicians who have previously faced significant obstacles to advanced musical education.

The intensive year consists of one-to-one tuition, ensemble training, mentoring and academic support. The course provides structured preparation for undergraduate applications and auditions, with the core focus being to prepare students for progression to undergraduate conservatoire or university study.

The Foundation Year is intended for musicians aged 18 to 20 who have experienced financial barriers to musical opportunities. Students receive a bursary to cover living costs, and free accommodation is available in University of London halls of residence. Financial assistance is also offered to those who need to buy musical instruments.

The Foundation Year is part of the Academy's Widening Participation programme, which identifies, supports and mentors young people from groups currently under-represented at UK conservatoires. We work with under-18s across London, creating pathways and supporting progression into advanced musical training.

We partner with charities, schools, teachers, music hubs, parents, carers and colleagues across the conservatoire sector to ensure that aspiring young musicians, regardless of background, can access the training and support to progress.



RESEARCH PAST & FUTURE

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

The Academy is a community of collaborators. We encourage creative interaction between students and staff, and between the Academy and the wider world.

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.

We support projects that strike new ground in musical practices, engage with new audiences, re-evaluate and build on musical traditions and have an impact in the wider world. The outcomes of our research take many different forms, including compositions, performance materials, public performances, new instrumental technologies, recordings, broadcasts, websites, books and scholarly articles.

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 their MPhil and exit at this stage.

Henry Purcell's original manuscript of *The Fairy Queen*



COURSE INFORMATION

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

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.

UNDERGRADUATE

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

RESEARCH

MPhil/PhD



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Arts (MA)
Master of Music (MMus)
Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
Professional Diploma (ProfDip)
Advanced Professional Diploma (APD)
Advanced Artist Diploma (AAD)
Advanced Opera Diploma (AOD)
Continuing Professional Development Diploma (CPD)
Study Abroad/Exchange

For more information, go to the **Course Finder** on our website. Here, you can search the courses available for your chosen Principal Study, and find out more about tuition fees, financial support and loans.



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

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: admissions@ram.ac.uk / +44 (0)20 7873 7393
- **CHECK** which course is right for you by visiting our website
- **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 **7 to 18 December 2026**, except for Repetiteur, Musical Theatre Performance/ Musical Direction and Coaching, Conducting, Choral Conducting, the CPD Diploma and Research degrees. Auditions for some Principal Studies are held in international centres. Up-to-date information on auditions can be found on **our website**.

'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 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
Ivor Novello Award-winning composer

'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 Academy experience was incredible. 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 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

'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 performing on leading international opera stages

'For me it's home, and truly at the core and the essence of who I will always be as a musician.'

Miloš Karadaglić
Classical guitarist and Sony Classical recording artist

'The Royal Academy of Music has been my musical home and where I've learnt everything since I came here when I was nine years old.'

Sheku Kanneh-Mason
International cello soloist and Decca Classics recording artist

'The Academy to me means possibilities, opportunities, resilience, independence and exploration.'

Dame Evelyn Glennie
Grammy Award-winning percussionist

WHAT THE ACADEMY MEANS TO ME

THE ACADEMY AT A GLANCE

730 STUDENTS
from 54 countries*

83% RECEIVE
BURSARIES

BMus
92%
graduated with first or upper second degrees

MA/MMus
89%
graduated with distinction or merit

65 students received a DipRAM for an outstanding final recital

INVESTMENT
£5.8m
in scholarships and financial support for talented musicians

100s
CONCERTS
AND EVENTS

MOST ARE FREE
TO ATTEND

*data is from 2025/26 academic year
All other data is from 2024/25 academic year

Q&A WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

CLICK HERE
TO FIND
OUT MORE

Gabriel Alves Candido da Silva
SU president

Why did you apply to study here?

I was looking for a place where I could experience high-level training and, at the same time, a challenging environment with great performance opportunities. The Academy proved to be the best place to combine all these requisites.

Tell us about student life at the Academy.

The Academy has an exciting student life. As well as Freshers' Week, the Students' Union organises many social events to help new students integrate and get to know one another, such as a Boat Party on the Thames and Lunar New Year celebrations. We also have access to many wellbeing activities, such as Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais Method sessions.

What's been a highlight of your time here?

Without doubt, being able to perform in concerts in the Duke's Hall. The opportunities to play in such a great hall with renowned guest conductors, such as Bjarte Eike and John Butt, were definitely highlights of my training at the Academy. I was able to meet some of my idols, and making music with them was invaluable.

What role does the Students' Union play in the Academy community?

The Students' Union plays a fundamental role in Academy life, from the first week through to graduation. We are here to promote an exciting social life and to ensure the Academy's activities are supportive and inclusive for everyone. At the same time, as SU President I have attended major Academy boards and committees to make sure all student concerns and needs are addressed at the highest level.

How does the Academy support Wellbeing and Belonging?

One of the SU's main focuses is to support the wellbeing of our students, and to foster an environment of mutual support and understanding within the Academy. Throughout the year we run meditative relaxation sessions and regular therapy dog visits. We also have a Disability Focus Group that helps us to provide feedback to the support services offered by the Academy, specialist English Language Support tutors to help international students, counsellors in our Psychological Support Services who are available to talk to and a Report + Support portal to access help and advice.



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

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

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

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

2009 The 10-year Bach Cantata Series is launched (J)

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!*

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, Dave Holland, Steven Isserlis, Claude-Michel Schönberg and Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider

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

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

2019 Hans Abrahamsen becomes the first Oliver Knussen Chair of Composition

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

Lin-Manuel Miranda and Semyon Bychkov receive Honorary Doctorates (M)

2022-23 The Academy's Bicentenary is marked with celebratory concerts, 200 new commissions and a fundraising campaign

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

2020-24 Visiting professors appointed include Lorenza Borrani, Nicky Spence, Colin Currie, Brett Dean and Hilary Hahn (N)

2024 Dame Evelyn Glennie receives an Honorary Doctorate (O)

HM King Charles III becomes the Academy's Patron (P)

2025 The Academy receives a record £30m donation from philanthropist Mrs Aud Jebsen to transform facilities

2026 The Academy launches the UK's first fully funded Foundation Year course

A joint Academy-Juilliard orchestra returns to the BBC Proms to perform with Esa-Pekka Salonen

Sir Trevor Nunn receives Honorary Doctorate (Q)



OUR PAST INSPIRES OUR FUTURE



INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

Click here to sign up to our  Prospective Students newsletter for audition tips, student life insights and more information about the Academy.

PATRON

HM The King

PRESIDENT

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester KG GCVO

PRINCIPAL

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE



CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE



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