



# Annual Impact Report

2022/23

[rncm.ac.uk](https://www.rncm.ac.uk)

**RNCM**  
ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE of MUSIC



# THANK YOU



Our 2022-23 academic year was one of our most memorable yet. We celebrated the RNCM's 50th anniversary with a special series of innovative performances, new initiatives, and community projects, cementing our position as one of the world's leading and most progressive conservatoires.

Impacting the industry on a global scale, today's RNCM is driven to define the future of music, continuing to fuel the aspirations of young musicians, composers, conductors, educators, and entrepreneurs from all over the world.

It is thanks to the support we receive that we are able to offer the very best opportunities for young musicians from the earliest stages right through to postgraduate study and beyond.

I would like to offer a special thank you to all of those who continue to shape the RNCM through their long-term support, those who we warmly welcomed into our community for the first time this year, and all those who marked our landmark anniversary with exceptional gifts. We are enormously grateful.

**PROFESSOR LINDA MERRICK CBE**  
*Principal*



THANKS TO YOU, WE...

Raised  
**£2.65 million**  
with a further £1.95 million committed  
to future support

Offered  
**397**  
scholarships and bursaries  
to students across our Junior School,  
undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

- **276** student awards (undergraduates and postgraduates)
- **110** student awards (Junior RNCM)
- **7** Junior Fellowships
- **4** International Artist Diplomas

Gave  
**1 in 3**  
of our students  
financial support to help them through the year

Engaged  
**over 6,000**  
children and young people  
in music-making opportunities

# RNCM50 FUND

## IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT MUSIC...

Established as part of our anniversary celebrations, the RNCM50 Fund was launched to ensure we can fuel the aspirations of young musicians and secure the future of music. Aligned with our strategic ambitions, the fund has enabled us to support young musicians from the earliest moment, break down barriers to music education, and ensure RNCM musicians enrich communities.

### Thank you to everyone who got behind us.

Support raised during 2022/23 has significantly boosted investment towards three vital RNCM projects:

**1. RNCM Engage:** Our innovative engagement programme nurturing musical talent in over 6,000 children and young people this year.

**2. Student Support:** Removing barriers to pursuing higher education in music, creating an equitable and diverse student body, and protecting 'endangered' instruments.

**3. RNCM Music for Health:** Training RNCM musicians to take music into special educational needs schools and children's hospitals. Using music to enhance health, wellbeing and communication for hundreds of children and young people in the North West.

**£543,000 was raised for the RNCM50 Fund in our 50th Anniversary Year**





RNCM50 Birthday Gala

## RNCM50 SPECIAL SUPPORT

We were thrilled to receive some extraordinary gifts from long-term supporters and new friends to forge ahead with exciting new initiatives in our 50th year:

### RNCM BRASS RECHARGE

Exceptional generosity supported a suite of activity to support brass music, with significant scholarships for key instruments, enabling us to take our expertise out to brass bands and communities through Engage Brass, and supporting the Tuba Focus Day and RNCM Brass Band Festival.

### MUSIC FOR HEALTH

Seed funding launched a new training scheme to equip RNCM musicians to use music therapeutically with children with special educational needs and disabilities. Eight students went on a residential training course and have worked on projects with four North West SEND schools.

### UNLOCKING OUR ARCHIVES

**£206,000** was awarded for a new archive project to conserve and digitise thousands of RNCM recordings, making them publicly available online and via a new interactive heritage booth, alongside an 18-month community engagement programme.

### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Six wonderful corporate sponsors and many loyal individuals got behind our RNCM50 Birthday Gala, raising **£65,000** to support three years of the RNCM Music for Health project, whilst enjoying a spectacular evening of music, food and dancing.

### ROOF GARDEN

A generous donation enabled us to start to breathe new life into our much-loved roof garden, a secluded green space for the wellbeing of our students and staff.

### RNCM50 PARTNERS

In this pivotal year, we were thrilled to welcome new corporate partners on board to support this significant milestone, and we eagerly anticipate the joint journeys ahead of us.



RNCM Engage Showcase



# STUDENT SUPPORT

## EMPOWERING SUCCESS

### STUDENT AWARDS

Student Awards have an unparalleled impact, championing talent and helping young musicians to overcome barriers to study and success. Amidst the ongoing challenges of meeting costs of living and study, your support has made a huge difference to the lives of our students, helping to unlock potential and transform futures.

*'I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and belief in my potential. Your support has allowed me to pursue my passion for music and explore new horizons.'*

**JOANA MOURA** *double bass*

*'This support really has made such a huge difference to my life, by advancing my career to the next level and providing the best possible grounding for me to leave college and enter the profession.'*

**CAMERON CHIN-SEE** *trumpet*

*'Living abroad is not easy and my family would not have been able to help me pay my tuition fees. I literally would not have been able to join my chosen family here in Manchester again, had it not been for your support.'*

**LAURA KJAERGAARD** *saxophone*

*'Thank you again for believing in the power that music has in bringing people together, and most importantly thank you for believing in the work of music students like me.'*

**ALEJANDRO URBINA DIAZ** *bass guitar*

### RNCM UKRAINIAN MUSICIANS FUND

The RNCM Ukrainian Musicians fund supported seven talented Ukrainian students this year, enabling them to pursue their musical journeys at the RNCM.

*'I want to express my immense gratitude for giving me the opportunity to study at the RNCM. I really like studying here, and the teaching helps to reveal many different talents. I am very glad that now, in such difficult times for Ukrainians, I still have the opportunity to create music and continue my professional work.'*

**TAISIIA HOLOVKO** *saxophone*



# ARTISTIC ENRICHMENT

## BROADENING HORIZONS

### CONDUCTING FOR DANCE WITH NORTHERN BALLET

Thanks to grant support, students engaged in workshops with pianists and dancers from Northern Ballet and the Northern Ballet Sinfonia, with two RNCM conducting students working as cover conductors for Northern Ballet's 2022 touring productions.

*'I feel much more comfortable in finding or creating future opportunities to do more ballet conducting and I am very grateful to Northern Ballet for being so welcoming in their approach to bringing young conductors through their doors.'*

**ANNA BERESFORD** *conductor*

### STRING QUARTET STUDIO

Thanks to philanthropic support, we ran the RNCM String Quartet Studio – a year of full immersion string quartet training with emerging Manchester-based ensemble the Treske Quartet.



# PRIZES

## ENHANCING THE CONSERVATOIRE EXPERIENCE

Thanks to funds raised, we are proud to be able to offer our students opportunities to explore new and exciting pathways, broadening their learning experience and inspiring creative ambition.

### WILLIAMS-HOWARD PRIZE

The second Williams-Howard Prize took place to celebrate and encourage the study and performance of art songs of composers of African heritage. **Six students** won monetary prizes, and the first prize winners additionally received mentoring and coaching, plus opportunities to perform at the RNCM and Buxton International Festival, championing underrepresented works and sharing them with new audiences.

### RNCM CREATIVE INNOVATORS AWARD

The RNCM Creative Innovators Award celebrates and supports students who demonstrate creative entrepreneurship and ambition. Finalists pitched their business ideas and artistic ventures to a panel of industry experts, with **five winners** receiving financial support and mentoring to help them develop their innovative projects.

# PRINCIPAL'S CIRCLE

## A CLOSE FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS

Our Principal's Circle are a community of loyal supporters who are passionate about championing the RNCM's exceptional young musicians. Their collective generosity has a profound influence at the RNCM, enabling a distinctive range of opportunities that enhance our students' learning experience.

This year

**44** Principal Circle members supported  
with **£54,078**

Their contributions helped make the following projects a reality:

- **Eight saxophone students travelled to Denmark** to perform a series of concerts at the Nordic Saxophone Festival.
- **Performance coaching with Olympian Claire Bennett**, helping students build their confidence, resilience, and wellbeing.
- A **student-curated music festival in Manchester Children's Hospital** in partnership with Songbirds UK.
- A **professional development project with Northern Ballet** for conducting students, following a successful pilot last year.
- String quartet Vulva Voce, previous winners of an RNCM Creative Innovators Award, **touring sustainably across Europe**.
- Classes and activities during the **RNCM Students' Union Wellbeing Week**.
- **Performances by RNCM students in the Isle of Man** to aid recruitment of potential future students.
- Seed funding to secure a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to **conserve and digitise thousands of archive recordings**.
- **British Sign Language workshops for students** addressing how they might make their own work more inclusive.



Saxophone students at the Nordic Saxophone Festival, Denmark

Anna Meredith: FJBS  
with the RNCM Festival Orchestra  
at Mayfield Depot



Opera Gala  
with the Orchestra  
of Opera North



RNCM50 Birthday Celebration



Explore@RNCM



Leonard Bernstein's Mass at The Bridgewater Hall  
(Manchester premiere)



RNCM Session Orchestra:  
50th Anniversary Edition



RNCM Opera: Die Fledermaus

# RNCM ENGAGE: MUSIC EDUCATION

## SUPPORTING YOUNG MUSICIANS AT THE EARLIEST STAGES

In the face of growing challenges in music education, RNCM Engage offers a wide range of initiatives to kickstart musical engagement for under-18's, to help young musicians to overcome barriers, and foster talent. These initiatives are made possible thanks to vital support through donations, grants, and appeals, and are critical in providing inspirational pathways and securing the future of music.

This year, you helped to shape the lives of aspiring musicians through:

### RNCM PATHFINDER

Designed to increase opportunities for children and young people aged 8-18 who are curious, full of potential and love playing music, but face financial, social, or cultural barriers to musical progression. Your generosity has helped us to reach **104** Pathfinders this year, offering free bespoke instrumental training, mentorship, and pastoral support to realise their full musical potential.

### RNCM YOUNG PROJECTS

Through bespoke, instrument-specific workshops, RNCM Young Projects provide expert-led opportunities for young musicians aged 5-18, whether a beginner or more experienced, to develop their creative, musical, and technical skills, and meet other young people who play their instrument.

### RNCM YOUNG ARTISTS

This new, award-winning project provides 11-18-year-olds with training and support in popular music. Supported by professional tutors and student mentors, Young Artists work in bands to create, record, and produce original music, sharing their music in friendly gigs and showcases. Generous support means that **83%** of Young Artists received full-fee bursaries.

### JUNIOR RNCM

JRNCM offers world-class training to over **200** talented young musicians aged 8-18, through instrumental tuition, ensemble coaching, academic studies and much more, providing a solid platform for Higher Education level study at the RNCM or conservatoires and universities elsewhere.

We were honoured to have received several extraordinary gifts for RNCM Engage to mark our 50th anniversary:

### ENGAGE APPEAL 2022

You donated an incredible **£61,000** to our annual appeal, providing vital core support for our Engage programmes and offering enriching opportunities for under-18s.

### RNCM ENGAGE WEST CUMBRIA

A transformational **£1.3m** gift has enabled us to launch a new five-year project in partnership with the Cumbria Music Education Hub, providing access to world-class tuition and tailored support for thousands of children and young people, and support for Cumbrian teachers. With RNCM students playing key roles as mentors, tutors and role models, we'll encourage them to feed back into the professional music education landscape.



# RNCM ENGAGE: COMMUNITY

## A CHANCE TO SHINE

### RNCM CHILDREN'S OPERA

A charitable grant enabled us to work with **130** children from Manchester primary schools from areas of social deprivation and low arts engagement. They devised and performed two performances of *The Snow Maiden* – a brand-new opera co-created by the children through in-school workshops – performing alongside **100** RNCM students, who gained valuable training and skills.

*'I have infinite faith in children's imaginations. There's no limit to what they can do.'*

**KATE PEARSON** *composer, facilitator and deviser*

### RNCM50 ENGAGE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Thanks to an extraordinary RNCM50 grant, we offered an annual programme of activity with our local community, engaging with more local people than ever to create a shared and lasting connection that establishes the RNCM at the heart of their schools and communities.

Pilot activities were also offered to provide tailored coaching for young people whose musical development was impacted by the pandemic, to catalyse their development and offer them a second chance to progress into Higher Education and access their dream of a career in music, through a new **'Transitions'** project.

### SOUNDCHECK

This year, generous support enabled us to launch RNCM SOUNDCHECK, a membership scheme designed to give those aged 14–18 free access to new musical experiences at the RNCM. This scheme will offer **1,000** free tickets a year, removing barriers to a new audience.

### EXPLORE@RNCM

We threw open our doors to hundreds of members of our local community for a packed day of free creative workshops and live music for all ages and tastes. The day concluded with a performance from our brand-new Community Chorus who performed Sondheim's much-loved *Into the Woods* alongside RNCM singers.

### FIFTY IN 50

To engage schools with our celebrations, RNCM students performed for free in **50** local schools during the summer term – taking a plethora of styles into classrooms, offering Q&A sessions, and giving pupils the chance to learn more about life at one of the world's top conservatoires.

*'Thank you for a fantastic concert! The performers who came were brilliant and so talented, the children were smiling the whole way through. They spoke so confidently and professionally to the whole school, and we were so impressed with how skilled they were.'*

**SCHOOL TEACHER** at a *Fifty in 50* School



# REGULAR GIVING

## VITAL LONG-TERM SUPPORT

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We want to thank everyone who supports the RNCM through our Membership scheme, Name a Seat, regular donations, or ticket top-ups.

**This unrestricted support enables our students to have the best possible opportunities at the RNCM.**

**£18,270**

**donated via direct debit by**

**95**

**generous supporters**

**£5,696**

**raised through Box Office donations  
when booking to see performances at the RNCM**

**5**

**seats named**

**across our Concert Hall and Opera Theatre**

*'Our mother studied piano at the Northern School of Music, receiving a roaring ovation in her final student performance, and our father was a piano tutor at the NSM. We were so grateful that the Name a Seat campaign enabled us to commemorate them both, now 'sitting' side by side in the RNCM's wonderful Concert Hall.'*

**KATHERINE SHAW**



## GIFTS IN WILLS

### LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

**£594,000** gifted

A gift to the RNCM in your will has the power to change a student's future. Each year, we are humbled by our legacy supporters who have kept us in their thoughts, and those who honour the memory of a loved one through their gift, by investing in the future of music.

*'This financial support not only helps me pursue a career in this incredible industry, but also helps provide a platform for young artists such as myself to have a fighting chance of keeping the industry going, and for that, I am so grateful.'*

**CONRAD CHATTERTON** *baritone*



## IN MEMORY GIVING

### HONOURING LOVED ONES

#### **NAMED AWARDS**

Alongside our incredible **276** renewed and continuing Named Awards for our undergraduate and postgraduate students, this year we received two substantial gifts, establishing **two** new endowed named awards in memory of loved ones, which will continue to provide vital support to students for countless generations to come.



*'When my father died, I wanted to establish a living memorial in perpetuity. Given his lifelong passion for piano music, establishing the Eric Horner Award for young pianists was the perfect way to do so. Each year, I am able to get to know, and, of course, hear the chosen student. Knowing the award is helping them achieve their ambitions is a wonderful tribute to my father and one of which I know he would have not only approved but thoroughly enjoyed.'*

**ALISON COPLEY**

#### **ORGAN RESTORATION**

A significant donation and generous pledge will enable the future restoration and renovation of our Concert Hall's unique and Grade II listed 4-manual organ over the coming years. As well as being used as a concert instrument, the prestigious 6,000 pipe organ is much loved by students, especially those from our Junior RNCM who use it every Saturday. We are thrilled that this beautiful instrument, which has been at the heart of the RNCM since the building opened its doors in 1973, will be given a new life.

# THANK YOU

## NAMED AWARDS AND PRIZES

Alice Orrell and A&N Kendall Award  
Anderson Powell Prize  
Ann Gerrard Bursaries  
Annie Fletcher Award  
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music  
The Barney Miller International Travel Award  
Charles Greenhough Awards  
Dolly Knowles Scholarships  
The Doreen Johnson Bursary  
The Dorothy Smith Scholarship  
The Dorothy Stone Award  
The Edward Milner Award  
The Emmanuel Bursary  
The Eric Horner Award  
Francis Higgins Bursary  
Frederick Lunt Award  
FW Wright Piano Scholarship  
Garner Howard Award  
Geoffrey Woodward Award  
The George Henry Peters Scholarship  
Giles Thomas Lyth Scholarships  
Gough Kelly Award  
The GREAT Scholarships  
Gwilym Gwalchmai Jones Award  
The Hargreaves and Ball Scholarship  
Hilda Collens Memorial Award  
The Hipgnosis Songs Fund Award  
Ian Scott Award  
Ian Spencer Fox Guitar Bursary  
Jacob Marsland Award  
The James and Mary Glass Scholarship  
Jellis Bequest  
John Fewkes (Leicestershire) Instrumentalist Scholarships  
John Halsall Scholarship  
Sir John Manduell Prize  
John Wilson Junior Fellowship in Piano Accompaniment

The José and Rafton Smallwood Award  
The Kenneth Hedley Bequest  
Liam Ferguson Award  
The Manchester Welsh Society Prize  
The Margaret Allen Piano and Cello Awards  
Marjorie and John Brooks Award  
Marie Thecla Kieran Award  
Martyn Edwards Jazz Bursary  
Maurice and Jean Buckley Award  
Millar Award  
Milton Waring Award  
Muriel Berry Scholarship  
Noleen Ingham Brass Scholarship  
The NW Award  
Ogus Travel Bursary  
Pat Barney Award  
Peter Heath Award  
The Pidem Fund Award  
Reggie and Ann Dennis Scholarship  
The Richard Newitt Awards  
The Riga Heesom Award  
The Rollo Davidson Scholarship  
Rowland Hardy Awards for Clarinet and Cello  
Sylvia Wyndham Award  
Thomas Edward Wilson Bursary  
Thomas W Swift Award  
Waverley Fund Scholarships  
Williams-Howard Prize  
The Yamaha Pop Award  
Yvonne and Peter Wilson Award

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

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The William and Frances Dobie Charitable Foundation  
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The Zochonis Charitable Trust

## GIFTS IN WILLS

Paul Berry  
Isobel Flinn  
Patricia Geake  
Dorothy Elaine Hugh-Jones  
Margaret Hunter  
David Lawson  
Joyce White  
Sylvia Wyndham

## RNCM50 PARTNERS

The Drapers' Company  
The Haworth Trust  
Hyatt Hotels Manchester LCM Family Limited  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
The Oglesby Charitable Trust  
PF Charitable Trust  
Slater Heelis  
William and Frances Dobie Charitable Foundation

# THANK YOU

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

*We are incredibly grateful to all of the individuals who have made donations this year. We cannot list everyone who supported us so generously, but we do want to express special thanks to those who made substantial contributions:*

John Allen  
Mark Armour  
Philippa Banks  
John Batley  
Mark Blundell  
Colette Bowe  
Patricia Brien  
Tony Brindle  
Tim Burrage  
Roger Carrington  
Janina Cebertowicz  
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## PRINCIPAL'S CIRCLE

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David and Ann Woolf  
*and a number of anonymous  
Principal's Circle Donors*

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Sir Howard Bernstein  
Tim Burrage  
Anthony Diver  
Catherine Kay

## FUNDERS

Office for Students  
Research England  
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

## NAME A SEAT

Gloria Bakhshayesh  
Bryan Fox  
Katherine Shaw and  
Sebastian Bettley

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**Special thanks to all our generous donors who prefer to remain anonymous.**

## THE FUTURE OF MUSIC OUR NEXT 50 YEARS AND BEYOND

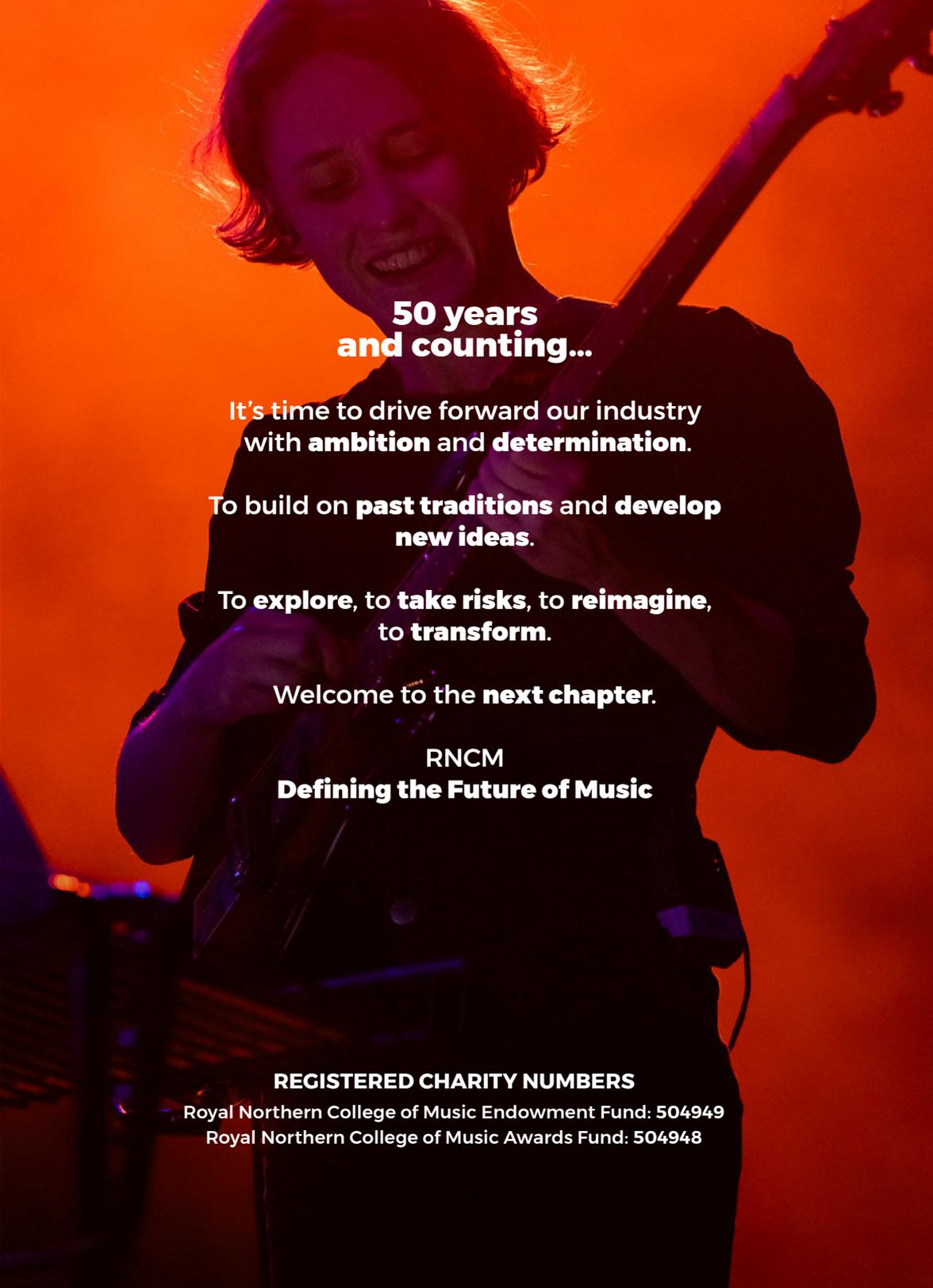
In our pledge to secure the future of music, we are committed to supporting young musicians from the earliest moment, breaking down barriers to music education, and equipping our students to enrich society.

It is thanks to the generosity of our community, who share our belief in the importance of music, that we are able to fuel the ambitions of our current students and invest in future generations of musical talent.

If you are interested in investing in new areas of our work, or enjoying a deeper relationship with the RNCM, please contact the RNCM Development Team at:

**RNCM Development Team**  
[development@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:development@rncm.ac.uk)  
124 Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RD  
**0161 907 5480**



A musician with long hair is playing a violin. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The musician is wearing a dark shirt and is captured in a moment of intense performance, with their eyes closed and a focused expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the musician's hair and the instrument.

**50 years  
and counting...**

It's time to drive forward our industry  
with **ambition** and **determination**.

To build on **past traditions** and **develop  
new ideas**.

To **explore**, to **take risks**, to **reimagine**,  
to **transform**.

Welcome to the **next chapter**.

RNCM  
**Defining the Future of Music**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBERS**

Royal Northern College of Music Endowment Fund: 504949

Royal Northern College of Music Awards Fund: 504948