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Junior RNCM  
ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

# JUNIOR RNCM

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# COMMUNITY

'Attending Junior RNCM has been a wonderful opportunity for my daughter to share her passion and aspirations with other talented and like-minded people. She has been inspired by new approaches to composition, and through Academic Studies has developed a huge desire to understand how and why music works in the way that it does.'

**Jayne, Junior RNCM parent**

# INTRODUCTION

Junior RNCM is a vibrant community of gifted young musicians aged 8 to 18 who come together to develop their talent within Manchester's inspirational Royal Northern College of Music.

Every Saturday during term time the RNCM is their home; a place to study with exceptional tutors, perform with like-minded people and make long-lasting friendships. It's also a place that looks to the future, teaching transferable skills for life and creating a solid platform for further study at a conservatoire or university.

Being part of Junior RNCM is special. Students often say it's their favourite part of the week and many tutors are proud to be alumni of the school. The varied curriculum ensures that everyone who trains with us receives an outstanding music education within an environment full of opportunity.



'I particularly enjoy creating a range of opportunities, enabling each student to flourish in their music making. Everyone at Junior RNCM is treated as an individual and encouraged to follow their own bespoke path.'

**Karen Humphreys MBE, Head of Junior RNCM**





'Junior RNCM provides first rate instrumental and musical training to talented and gifted youngsters. As a former Junior RNCM student, it gave me the very best foundation to my musical career, and I'm proud to be part of a teaching team dedicated to delivering the best possible foundation in musical development for the aspiring young musician.'

**Jonathan Rimmer, Flute Tutor**

# POTENTIAL

'The tailored individualised curriculum prepared for my daughter has enabled her to develop at the pace which suits her. It has also offered her the opportunity to explore different aspects of musical performance within a supportive environment. Saturday continues to be the highlight of her week!'

**Allan, Junior RNCM parent**



## STUDY WITH US

We want all our students to reach their full potential, which is why we encourage them to approach Junior RNCM with professionalism, commitment and determination.

Our day runs from 9.30am until 4.30pm and includes intensive individual tuition and ensemble coaching from a dedicated team of tutors. Internationally-renowned artists also present masterclasses throughout the year, heightening the breadth of training and different musical perspectives we are proud to offer.

In addition to Principal Study, students receive tuition on a second instrument (usually piano) as we recognise that learning another provides opportunities to enhance musicianship, both individually and with others.



'I enjoy helping students understand a piece of music and learn to bring it to life together. It's exciting watching them silently prepare themselves before a performance and then leave the stage buzzing and chatting, going over their shared experience - it makes the hard work worthwhile! I feel privileged to work with such talented young pianists.'

**Anne-Marie Hastings, Piano Tutor**

Completing the full programme requires exceptional technical ability and physical stamina, which is why we offer a Foundation Section for our youngest students. This shortened curriculum enables them to develop the necessary skills and resilience to join as full Juniors when the time is right, while still receiving an outstanding music education. It includes Principal and Second Study tuition, Eurhythmics Class, Theory and participation in the Foundation Choir.

### Practice

In order to maximise the benefit of the teaching they receive each Saturday, students at all levels are expected to devote time to regular practice during the week. We understand that this can be difficult, but our tutors are skilled in helping students establish a routine that works for them.

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'Junior RNCM is always the highlight of my week and there are many things that I look forward to, but the focus for me is my instrument lessons. Both my teachers are really easy to work with and I'm always learning something new and beneficial. At times, some of the music really challenges you and you have to work extra hard to play it, but when you finally do you are filled with a real buzz.'

**Kwasi, Bassoon**



With the exception of our youngest musicians, all students undertake the full curriculum each week. This includes:

#### Principal and Second Study

|             |             |                        |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Baritone    | Flute       | Saxophone              |
| Bassoon     | French Horn | Tenor Horn             |
| Cello       | Guitar      | Timpani and Percussion |
| Clarinet    | Harp        | Trombone               |
| Composition | Jazz Piano  | Trumpet                |
| Conducting  | Oboe        | Tuba                   |
| Cornet      | Organ       | Viola                  |
| Double Bass | Piano       | Violin                 |
| Euphonium   | Recorder    | Voice                  |

#### Academic Studies

Musicianship/Improvisation  
Theory/Harmony  
Composition/Arranging  
Advanced Aural/Advanced Compositional Analysis

#### Chamber Music Coaching (for example)

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Guitar Duo                  | Recorder Sextet   |
| Jazz Quintet                | Saxophone Quartet |
| Percussion Duo              | String Quartet    |
| Piano Duo, Trio and Quintet | Trombone Quartet  |

#### And at least one of the following (as directed by the Head of Junior RNCM):

Big Band  
Brass Band  
Percussion Ensemble  
Symphony Orchestra  
Vocal Ensemble  
Wind Ensemble



# OPPORTUNITY

'Junior RNCM has stretched my son – to his immense benefit. His teachers have encouraged him to step outside his comfort zone and given him the tools to achieve a string of excellent results. On top of that, the ensembles are phenomenal – each week my daughter comes home buzzing from the opportunity to lead a section in two extraordinarily brilliant bands.'

**Julie, Junior RNCM parent**

# PERFORMANCE

Performance is an essential part of any musical education and one of the most exciting things about Junior RNCM.

From our Foundation Section upwards, all students develop the art of performing while they're with us and have invaluable opportunities to acquire experience on stage.

We present an array of public events throughout the year, both within the College's fantastic facilities and at venues further afield. Instruments and genres are explored through a series of concerts and festivals, and we showcase all large ensembles at our Performance Days, held at the end of each autumn and summer term. Our composers also have an outlet for their work, and some of our more advanced musicians are offered the chance to perform a concerto.



'My technique has improved massively since I've been at Junior RNCM. I've learnt how to play a variety of musical styles and I get lots of opportunities to perform in front of audiences on a high quality piano. In class, it's great to hear others students' compositions each week and these help me to improve my own writing as well.'

**Jacob, Piano**



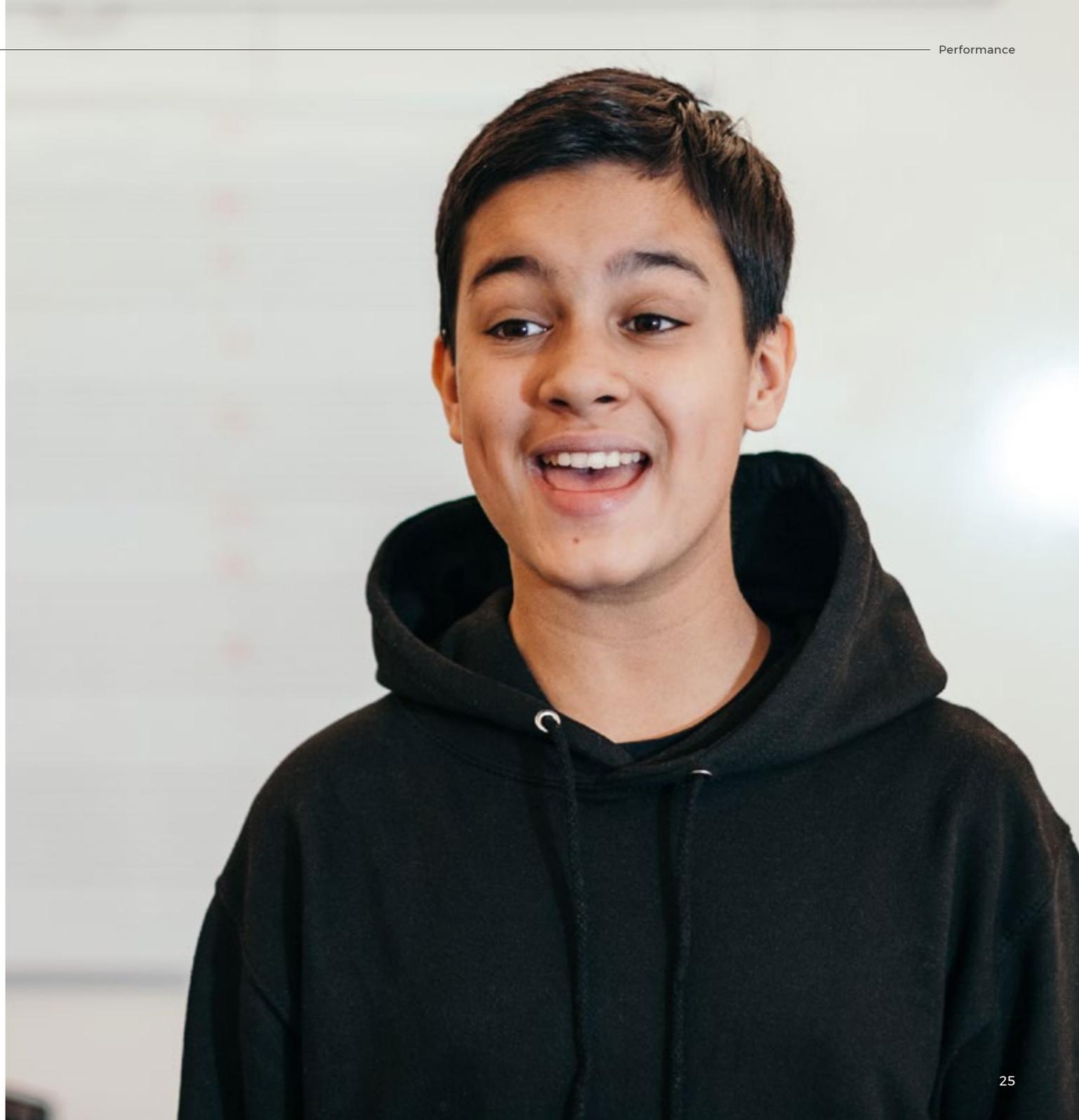


‘One highlight was having my composition workshopped and performed by the Junior RNCM New Music Ensemble. Being able to talk about my piece with the performers massively benefitted my understanding of instrumentation. Another highlight was performing Sibelius’ Second Symphony in the RNCM Concert Hall - this was an amazing experience.’

**Hannah, Composition**

‘What I love most about Junior RNCM is the positive energy you’re surrounded with – it just feels like a fun day out! I really look forward to catching up with my friends each week and I’ve had amazing opportunities that I never expected. Musical events such as the regular Formal and Informal concerts are always incredibly inspiring, whether you’re on stage or in the audience.’

**Joseph, Voice**



# EXCELLENCE

'I continue to be impressed by the talented young musicians who join us here at the College each Saturday. The commitment, energy and enthusiasm the students display is truly remarkable. We are exceptionally proud of Junior RNCM, and of each individual student's successes and achievements.'

**Professor Linda Merrick, RNCM Principal**

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Being part of our family is extremely special and we recognise that success for each young musician is different.

Whether it's a competition win on an international level, joining one of the UK's leading youth orchestras, passing an ABRSM exam with an outstanding mark, or securing a place at a conservatoire or university, we're continually proud of the amazing things our students accomplish and are always excited to follow their journey as alumni.



'I look forward to Junior RNCM every week without fail. It's a wonderful atmosphere to be in and everybody is so friendly and helpful. I feel like I've grown musically since I started and I've made so many friends; it's great to be able to chat with like-minded people who share the same passion as me!'

**Matilda, Harp**





'Saturday is the one day of the week that I don't mind getting up for as it's Junior RNCM day! Junior RNCM has certainly improved my confidence and performance ability with guidance from great teachers. There have been many highlights, but the most important aspect has been just playing music with like-minded people who have become great friends.'

**Toby, French Horn**



# GUIDANCE

'Junior RNCM has become woven into the fabric of our family life with all four children attending for a span of 12 years. It has offered guidance and expert advice, found funding streams to help financially, supported us emotionally with the big decisions and provided opportunities and encouragement too numerous to list. We will be eternally grateful for this special and personalised care which has provided the perfect springboard for their musical adventure.'

**Kath, Junior RNCM parent**



## SUPPORT AND WELFARE

Student welfare is a priority and we're dedicated to ensuring that Junior RNCM is a safe and comfortable environment for everyone within our community.

There's a comprehensive Child Protection Policy in place and all tutors undergo DBS checks before they join us. There are also trained counsellors and first-aiders onsite, and the Head of Junior RNCM is always available to offer advice when needed.

Parents and carers are fully supported too. We provide updates on student development throughout the year and send invitations to join specified lessons to discuss progress with tutors. We also produce a detailed written report at the end of every summer term and host forums to discuss issues and share ideas.



'The best thing about Junior RNCM is being around talented and passionate musicians who have become great friends. I look forward to my lessons every week because they are so inspiring and motivate me to be the best I can be. The supportive environment created by teachers, staff, students and even other parents makes you feel like you're part of a special family.'

**Emily, Flute**



# DISCOVERY

'Junior RNCM is a close-knit family within one of Europe's best conservatoires. It provides a complete and rounded musical foundation, wholly equipping young musicians for tertiary study. Working with young, talented students at such a formative time in their musical development is an enormous privilege.'

**Lucy Nolan, Viola Tutor**

# JOIN US

## Open Day

The best way to see if Junior RNCM is right for you or your child is to come to our Open Day. This takes place every February and provides a great opportunity to meet with instrumental and academic staff, chat with current students and attend a performance showcase.

## Entry Requirements

The specialised musical training we offer means that entry is highly competitive. We receive a large number of applications from exceptionally talented young musicians and those accepted usually study with us for a minimum of two years.

To give a brief idea of what's needed, successful candidates possess a combination of musicality, commitment and the potential to pursue music at conservatoire level. We know that the musical achievements of each applicant will vary depending on age, but we expect our younger candidates to have ABRSM Grade 5 distinction on their Principal Study instrument.

Junior RNCM students are selected following an audition process which takes place every March and April for September entry. The closing date for applications is 1 March each year.

## Fees and Financial Support

Fees are payable in advance annually, termly or by standing order over 10 months, and we require one term's notice if a student wishes to withdraw.

We have a limited number of scholarships and bursaries available for cases of financial hardship. Applications for these take place once the audition process is over and offers have been made.





Full information about Junior RNCM, including example timetables, performance opportunities, Open Days, the application process and our current fees, is available at [rncm.ac.uk/juniorrncm](https://www.rncm.ac.uk/juniorrncm).



### Supporters

Junior RNCM is generously supported by The Eric and Margaret Kinder Charitable Trust, The Helen Rachael Mackaness Charitable Trust, The Joan Twining Award, The Leverhulme Trust, The Stoller Charitable Trust, The William and Frances Dobie Charitable Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, The ABRSM, Awards for Young Musicians, The Stephen Bell Charitable Trust, The Ida Carroll Trust, The Sir John Fisher Foundation, The Graucob Music Awards, The Junior RNCM Endowment Trust, The RNCM Access Fund, RNCM Pathfinder, The Sylvia Swiffin Trust and the Department for Education - Music and Dance Scheme.

