



RNCM NEWS

Autumn 2014

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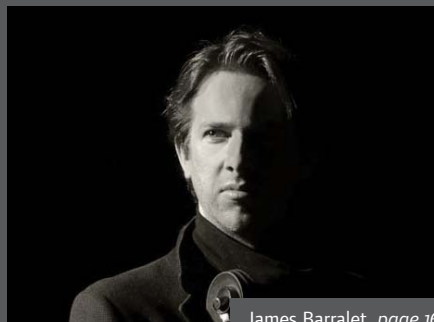
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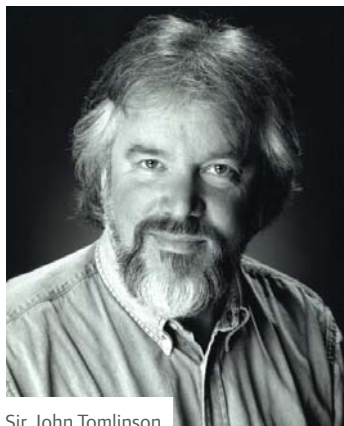
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RNCM, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester. M13 9RD

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Sir John Tomlinson

SIR JOHN TOMLINSON IS INTERNATIONAL CHAIR IN SINGING

The RNCM is delighted to announce the appointment of **Sir John Tomlinson** as International Chair in Singing.

The critically-acclaimed bass has a strong connection to the College after graduating from the Royal Manchester College of Music (RMC) in 1970. Since then he has performed leading roles with companies throughout the world and regularly appears at national and international opera houses.

Talking of his new position Sir John, who started to sing at the age of 21 after qualifying as an engineer, said: *'My four years at the RMC were fantastic; I was not a 'star' but learnt an immense amount. Although history, harmony, language, improvisation, movement and drama, piano, sight-reading,*

and musicianship are all immensely important, it's the development of the voice itself which is the crucial thing.

'Learning to sing for most young singers is a lengthy and difficult process that needs time, patience, and devoted work, which is why I want to contribute to the development of RNCM vocal students. It's a long hard road with lots of wrong turns that can be taken, and I feel duty bound to spend some of my time now, in the latter part of my performing career, helping them on their journey. The old College was of enormous benefit to me – perhaps I can return the favour.'

Lynne Dawson, Head of the School of Vocal Studies, added: *'We are absolutely delighted and honoured that Sir John Tomlinson, one of our most distinguished alumni and an international artist of such talent, experience and reputation, should have agreed to be our International Chair in Singing. His presence here will be a huge inspiration to our students and we are all looking forward enormously to his participation.'*

Knighted in 2005, Sir John was a recipient of a 1993 Grammy Award and was honoured with a Special Award at the 2007 Oliviers. He will visit the RNCM each term, working with students in the School of Vocal Studies and Opera.

STEVEN MEAD AND DR NICHOLAS CHILDS AWARDED RNCM PROFESSORSHIPS



Steven Mead



Dr Nicholas Childs

Two leading figures in the world of brass have been granted the title of Professor by the RNCM.

Steven Mead, a Tutor in Euphonium and Baritone Horn, and **Dr Nicholas Childs**, Principal Conductor and Musical Director of Black Dyke Band, were both awarded the accolade in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the profession and to the work of the College.

Talking of his new title, Steven said: *'This is a great honour from the RNCM. I have made the 100 mile journey to Manchester every week for 24 years and have enjoyed every minute of my time there. I have been privileged to work with some of the finest young talents in the low brass world during this time, and I sincerely hope to continue to do so for many years to come.'* While Nicholas commented: *'To be awarded a professorial title is a great honour and I, along with Black Dyke Band, look forward to contributing to exciting new projects at the RNCM.'*

RNCM WELCOMES PERÉNYI AS HAWORTH INTERNATIONAL CHAIR IN CELLO

Miklós Perényi has been announced as the RNCM's new Haworth International Chair in Cello, made possible by support from The Haworth Trust.

Born in Hungary in 1948, Miklós is recognised worldwide as one of the greatest cellists of his generation. A multi-award winner, he completed his studies at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest where he later became a lecturer and professor. In addition to his numerous educational commitments, he continues to perform internationally as a solo and chamber musician.

Chris Hoyle, fellow cellist and Head of the School of Strings, said of the appointment: *'I am thrilled for our cello students that Miklós is joining us this term in the role of International Chair. It is a real privilege to watch this consummate artist teach and perform for our students. My colleague Petr Prause of the Talich Quartet describes him as a 'living legend' and our International Chair in Viola, Nobuko Imai, as a 'true genius'.'*



Miklós Perényi

RNCM APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Suzie Thompson

Suzie Thompson has been appointed as the RNCM's new Director of Development.

Suzie joins the College from Manchester High School for Girls, where she worked as Development Director and was a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team. In this capacity, she presided over major campaigns to increase public and private sector giving, including a large-scale capital appeal to build a new sixth form centre at the School and innovative strategies for relationship-building, alumni engagement and scholarships/bursaries.

Passionate about music and the arts, and an accomplished and persuasive advocate at national level, Suzie brings to the RNCM wide-ranging experience of development from the education, cultural and commercial sectors.

She said: *'I have been attending concerts at the RNCM for many years and am looking forward to working in such an enriching and dynamic environment. It is an exciting time to be joining and I hope to meet as many Supporters and Friends as possible over the coming months.'*

2014'S GOLDEN QUINTET

The RNCM held its ninth Gold Medal Competition in June featuring 10 of the College's finest performers and four of its aspiring young composers.

This year's winners were postgraduate pianists **Alexander Panfilov**, who studies with Graham Scott and is supported by the Helen Mackaness Award, and **Leanne Cody**, who studies with Peter Lawson; undergraduate percussionist **Delia Stevens**, who studies with Simone Rebello, Liz Gilliver, Ian Wright, Dave Hassell and Paul Patrick; postgraduate soprano **Lauren Fielder**, who studies with Mary Plazas; and postgraduate composer **Sergio Cote**, a pupil of Adam Gorb and Paul Patterson.

For the first time the annual competition offered composers the chance to compete by writing a new work for the **Borealis Saxophone Quartet**. It was adjudicated by **Professor Linda Merrick** (RNCM Principal), **Dr Michelle Castelletti** (RNCM Artistic Director), **Jessica Duchon** (classical music journalist for *The Independent*), **Robert Saxton** (composer), and **Simon Webb** (General Manager of the BBC Philharmonic).

Talking after the Competition, Professor Merrick said: *'The RNCM's much-coveted Gold Medal celebrates exceptional performance and*

composition by students at the College. Each year the competition between students is extremely high and 2014 was no exception. The adjudicating panel was faced with very difficult decisions on the day and while Alexander, Delia, Lauren, Leanne and Sergio were worthy winners, everyone who competed should be extremely proud of all they achieved on their journey to the final.'

The other 2014 competitors were: oboist Helen Clinton, saxophonist Michael Jackson, violist Kimi Makino, violinist Kana Ohashi, pianist Jeremy So, soprano Meinir Wyn Roberts, and composers Nelson Bohorquez, Richard Evans and Aled Smith.



2014 Gold Medal Winners

RNCM'S NEW HEAD OF POPULAR MUSIC

Andy Stott is the College's first Head of Popular Music.

Joining from his position as Head of Higher Education at Access to Music, in which capacity he has been directing the new BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance degree, Andy said that he was *'delighted'* to be the first Head of Popular Music, adding it is as *'an honour to work with the exceptional students we have here and with colleagues who are such eminent professional performers,*

composers, academics and teachers.'

Established in 2013 and delivered by the RNCM and Access to Music Manchester, the degree provides intensive training for instrumentalists and singers with a high level of performing ability who intend to work as freelance musicians in the popular music industry or as a preparation for postgraduate study.



Andy Stott

JOHN LEWIS TRAFFORD SUPPORTS RNCM

The RNCM was recently awarded a grant of £1500 by the John Lewis Partnership's Music Matters programme to support its end of term off-site project *After the Silence: Music in the Shadow of War*.

Celebrating a long tradition of supporting music in the community, the Music Matters programme is designed to help groups which make an outstanding contribution to their local community through donations of £1000 to £5000.

Christine Wardle, RNCM Head of Philanthropy, said: 'We were thrilled to receive the donation from the John Lewis Partnership, which made a significant contribution to the overall success of this event. The Music Matters scheme is a great way to support local music projects such as ours, and we look forward to working with the Partnership again in the future.'

Carole Hartley, community Liaison Coordinator at John Lewis Trafford, added: 'Music can make such a difference to people's lives - it really has the

power to bring people together in our local community. We hope that through Music Matters we can go some way to help people take part in a musical experience that really has an impact.'

'The RNCM is a fantastic organisation with a long track-record of creating inspiring music locally. We were delighted to be able to support them, and can't wait for the next concert!'

After the Silence: Music in the Shadow of War was an exciting three day event at IWM North featuring over 300 students, 80 pieces of music and 25 world premières. The imaginative project, which formed part of IWM's *Reactions 14* season of creative responses to the First World War, was also supported by the BBC Performing Arts Fund, Eric and Margaret Kinder Charitable Trust, and Arts Council England.



CHART-TOPPING CHARITY SINGLE

A charity single released in aid of *Your RNCM* reached the top of the iTunes chart earlier this year.

A new version of the famous *Londonderry Air*, or *Danny Boy* as it's more commonly known, was recorded by RNCM postgraduate conductor **Daniel Parkinson**, pianist and JRNCM alumnus **David Schofield**, and students from the School

of Strings in May and released through all major online stores. The work was arranged for piano and strings by alumnus and world-famous pianist **Stephen Hough** with original orchestration by Ross Clarke.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Mauricio Pauly, an RNCM Tutor in Popular Music, has been awarded a Fellowship to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. With an acceptance rate of only four per cent, this prestigious international fellowship gives Mauricio the opportunity to spend a year at Harvard University focusing on his compositional work.

A4 Brass, comprising first year undergraduates Michael (Jamie) Smith (cornet), Michael Cavanagh (baritone horn), Jonathan Bates (tenor horn), and Christopher Robertson (euphonium), won the Christopher Rowland Chamber Ensemble of the Year Award.

Soprano **Judith Holt** is the new Students' Union President. Judith replaces fellow soprano **Amy Webber**, who held the position for two years.

The RNCM recently announced plans to launch a new **jazz route** in the Bachelor of Music (BMus) course. The initiative will combine the benefits of building a solid instrumental technique and broad understanding of music through classical studies with a rigorous grounding in jazz and a deep exploration of improvised music.

Jet2.com launched its new flight from Manchester to Vienna in April with a concert under Concorde featuring RNCM students. Held at Concorde Hanger, Manchester Airport, the event included the **Deventer Wind** and **Leos String Quartets**, soprano **Sarah Foubert**, baritone **Graham McCusker**, and pianist **James Hendry**.

Dr Paul Goodey, Vice Principal (Performance) gave the world première of two of his new solo works (*Briza Media* and *Blue Moon*) at Montepulciano this summer.

BRANT PRIZES FOR RNCM PIANISTS

The RNCM made a big impression at this year's Brant International Piano Competition with postgraduate **Oliver She** winning First Prize and undergraduate **Dominic Degavino** both Third Prize and the Audience Prize.



Oliver She

Founded in 1979 and held in Birmingham each year, the Brant International Piano Competition is open to all UK-based pianists between the ages of 18 and 28 and is recognised as one of the UK's most prestigious music competitions. It was judged by

Norma Fisher (RNCM Fellow and Professor at the Royal College of Music), Di Xiao (pianist and Tutor at Birmingham Conservatoire), Richard Hawley (Director of Artistic Programming and Projects, Town Hall and Symphony Hall), and pianist John York.

Oliver, a pupil of Graham Scott, performed Debussy's *Les Collines d'Anacapri*, Liszt's *Rhapsodie Espagnole*, and Rachmaninov's Sonata No 2 in B flat minor to secure the £3000 top prize, while Dominic, a first year pianist studying with Helen Krizos, performed Haydn's Sonata in B minor, Berg's Sonata Op 1, and Tippett's Piano Sonata No 2 to win the £1000 Third Prize and the £500 Audience Prize.

Their success follows that of fellow RNCM pianist **Alexander Panfilov** who won First Prize in the 2013 competition.

TRIO OF PROMS SUCCESS FOR JUNIOR RNCM

Three students from Junior RNCM were among the winners of this year's BBC Proms Inspire Young Composers' Competition.

Harry Johnstone, aged 19, was one of three Senior Category winners thanks to his composition *Dis-Pulsed*, while 17-year-old **Harry Castle** and 16-year-old **Robert Durnin** made up two thirds of the successful Junior Category with *La Trahison des Images* and *Study in Anarchy* respectively.

Now in its 16th year, the BBC Proms Inspire scheme is for budding composers aged 12 to 18 who want to write their own

music. It provides them with a friendly environment to share ideas, participate in workshops, meet other young composers and develop their creativity. The Young Composers' Competition offers winners an unrivalled opportunity to have their music played by professional musicians at the BBC Proms and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Each composer also receives a BBC commission.

All three composers had their pieces performed by the Aurora

Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas Collon, at the Proms Plus Inspire concert in August followed by a special programme on Radio 3.



Harry Johnstone

ROSL AWARD FOR ZELKOVA

The **Zelkova Quartet** received the Elias Fawcett Award at the 2014 Royal Over-Seas League ARTS competition after being acknowledged as the most outstanding chamber ensemble.



Zelkova Quartet

Violinists Caroline Pether and Simran Singh, violist Rhiannon James, and cellist Jonathan Pether competed in the Ensemble A Category Final with fellow RNCM students and eventual winners the **Solem Quartet**. Alongside the award, they also

had the opportunity to perform at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, during the ROSL Annual Music Competition finals in May.

Talking on behalf of the Quartet, which is completing an RNCM International Artist Diploma in Chamber Music, Caroline said: *'We were over the moon for our good friends the Solem Quartet when they won the Ensemble Category, but it was nice to know that our performance was recognised too. We were very happy with how we played on the night and were glad to be reassured that those listening enjoyed it as well!'*

The foursome's success was quickly followed by a trip to Russia where they represented the RNCM at the We Gather Friends festival at Moscow Conservatoire.

Founded in 2007, the annual month-long event brings together young musicians from conservatoires and music colleges throughout the world for concerts, masterclasses and lectures.

Whilst there, the Quartet and **Tatyana Yekimova**, the College's Head of International Relations, were interviewed by the country's Cultural TV channel.

CIRTINA WINS INTERNATIONAL TROMBONE COMPETITION

Undergraduate trombonist **Josh Cirtina** became the first UK student to win the George Roberts Bass Trombone Competition, held in Rochester, New York, in June.

The competition was open to trombonists under the age of 18 and formed part of the International Trombone Association Festival (ITA); an annual event comprising solo and ensemble competitions, workshops, masterclasses and concerts.

On securing the award Josh, a former JRNCM student who is currently in his second year and studies with Adrian Morris, said: *'Winning the ITA George Roberts International Bass Trombone*

Competition has been a huge honour for me. The Festival was a fantastic experience which I will never forget, where I made new friends and learned a lot! I am also very grateful to the RNCM for supporting me.'

Josh's win marks the first time in the ITA's 43-year history that a UK student has won the bass competition and only the second time a UK student has won any additional ITA competition categories.



Josh Cirtina

RNCM GALA DINNER



The RNCM hosts its fourth **Gala Dinner** on Friday 12 December on the set of Lehár's operetta, *The Merry Widow*.

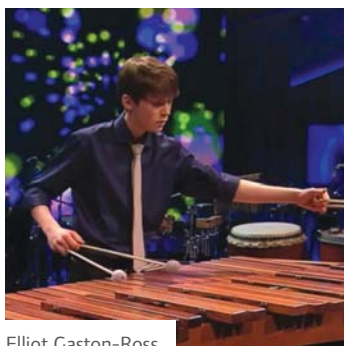
Since 2010 the College has presented Gala Dinners on the stage of its spectacular opera productions, making it one of the North West's most original social experiences. This year guests can enjoy an evening of fine dining and superb entertainment by talented students in the RNCM Theatre amid a set inspired by the famous Paris restaurant, Maxim's.

Sponsored by Waverton Investment Management, the proceeds of the event, which also includes an Auction of luxury items and Prize Draw, go to RNCM Engage, the College's Learning and Participation programme which makes musical performance accessible to people from all walks of life through a range of projects, workshops, and placements involving RNCM students.

Taking place one month after the opening of the new RNCM Concert Hall, the Dinner will also include a drinks reception in the redeveloped venue kindly sponsored by contractors Styles & Wood.

Tables of 10 are available, priced £1200, and individual tickets, subject to availability, can be purchased at £130 per person. To book/reserve or to learn more about the event and additional sponsorship opportunities, contact **Lauren Cox** on **0161 907 5394** or email gala.dinner@nrcm.ac.uk.

TALENTED ELLIOTT IN BBC FINAL



Elliot Gaston-Ross

Junior RNCM percussionist **Elliot Gaston-Ross** was one of three musicians to reach the Final of the 2014 BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

The 15-year-old, who studies with Ian Forgrieve, won the Percussion Category Final and subsequent Semi-Final to secure the sought-after place alongside recorder player Sophie Westbrooke and pianist (and eventual winner) Martin James Bartlett.

Talking after the competition, which took place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Elliott, who performed Dave Heath's *African Sunrise/Manhattan Rave* alongside the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and conductor Kirill Karabits, said: *'I thought the whole BBC Young Musician experience was amazing. I feel extremely privileged to have had the chance to play in such a beautiful hall with such a welcoming audience, and it will certainly be an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.'*

NOTOS QUARTET – NEW WAVERLEY JUNIOR FELLOWS IN CHAMBER MUSIC

The RNCM International Chamber Music Studio is delighted to announce that the **Notos Piano Quartet** has been awarded the position of Waverley Junior Fellows in Chamber Music for the 2014/15 academic year.

Formed in 2007, Notos (comprising violinist Sindri Lederer, violist Malte Koch, cellist Florian Streich, and pianist Antonia Köster) won the 2011 Parkhouse Award, and was a First Prize-winner of previous Charles Hennen-Concours and Premio Vittorio Gui competitions in Holland and Florence respectively. The Quartet has also performed in venues including Wigmore Hall and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw.

Talking on behalf of Notos, Antonia said: *'We are honoured to have been chosen as the Waverley Junior Fellows in Chamber Music and are all looking forward to working together with chamber musicians at the RNCM. Sharing our experiences as well as learning from the students will be an exciting challenge for us and we hope to have lots of memorable moments full of wonderful music over the next 12 months.'*

Jeremy Young, Head of Chamber Music, said: *'The RNCM's International Chamber Music Studio is delighted to welcome the Notos Piano Quartet*

as Junior Fellows for 2014/15. It follows in the footsteps of outstanding groups such as the Navarra and Heath String Quartets and takes over the position from the exceptional Sitkovetsky Trio.

'Notos is an international prize-winning ensemble and impressed at the interview and audition. It's a group with a very promising future and has already achieved considerable international success. The RNCM welcomes them to this important post.'



Notos Piano Quartet

BBC COMMISSION FOR RNCM COMPOSER

RNCM postgraduate composer and Radcliffe Trust Scholar **Tom Harrold** made his mark at the 2014 BBC Proms thanks to a new commission by Radio 4's PM.

The popular current affairs programme approached Tom earlier this year asking him to write a piece that would utilise a selection of everyday sounds recorded and submitted by PM listeners since January.

Tom, a former BBC Proms Inspire Young Composers winner, said: *'I was really excited to have been commissioned to compose a new work which uses sounds of everyday life submitted by*

Radio 4 listeners. It was a challenging project; the issues associated with marrying acoustic and electroacoustic elements into one piece required a lot of thought.'

The work was premiered by the Aurora Orchestra and conductor Nick Collon in August and broadcast live on Radios 3 and 4 simultaneously with a second Radio 3 broadcast to be confirmed at a later date.



Tom Harrold

Tom added: *'It was exciting to work with Nick Collon's fabulous Aurora at the Proms once again – they're a terrific orchestra.'*

RNCM STUDENTS AMONG NEW GENESIS LINE-UP

Four RNCM vocal students have been accepted onto the 2014/15 Genesis Sixteen young artists' scheme.

Mezzo-sopranos **Rachel Maby** and **Lucy Vallis**, tenor **James Black**, and bass-baritone **Peter Edge** will now benefit from a series of week-long and weekend courses held throughout the year led by key figures from the world-famous choral and orchestral ensemble The Sixteen. In addition, they will also receive group tuition, individual mentoring and masterclasses from some of the industry's top vocal experts.

Rachel, a fourth year student on the Joint Course run in conjunction with the University of Manchester, said: *'It's an absolute honour to have been chosen to sing with Genesis Sixteen. It's one of the few free choral professional engagements and music development programmes in the UK for young singers. I'm hoping it will lead to future professional engagements with fellow singers on the programme and music professionals connected with the course.'*



Rachel Maby

Lynne Dawson, Head of the School of Vocal Studies, added: *'Genesis Sixteen is a highly competitive and sought after scheme for aspiring ensemble singers, and I'm thrilled that Rachel, Lucy, James, and Peter have been chosen for the forthcoming year. The skills and experience they will learn from industry experts will prove invaluable to their development as professional singers.'*



Lucy Vallis

Established in 2011, Genesis Sixteen is the UK's first ever fully-funded programme of its kind, offering unique and pioneering training opportunities to 22 young singers aged between 18 and 23. Thanks to a close partnership with the Genesis Foundation participants not only receive free tuition, but also a bursary to cover all additional costs.

SECOND EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RNCM LIBRARY

The **RNCM Library** has secured its second Excellence Award from the International Association of Music Libraries (UK and Ireland).

Presented every two years, the Awards acknowledge music libraries which demonstrate sustained good work and

good practice in addition to recognising outstanding personal achievement by individuals. They also provide an opportunity for music collections – of any size and type – to be nominated.

The 2014 Awards were judged by a panel of experts from both the

music and library industries and were chaired by Professor Jan Smaczny of Queen's University, Belfast. The RNCM was one of 14 institutional libraries and four individuals to receive an Excellence Award during a ceremony held at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

ROD FRANKS 1956 - 2014



Rod Franks

It is with sadness that the RNCM reports the untimely death of trumpeter **Rod Franks** on 20 July, aged 58.

Born in West Yorkshire in 1956, Rod took up the cornet at the age of six, going on to play in the Hammonds, Brighouse and Rastrick and Black Dyke brass bands. After graduating from the RNCM, where he studied as a postgraduate student with Maurice Murphy and Philip Jones, he was appointed Principal trumpet of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, progressing to become Principal trumpet of the London Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for some 20 years.

Alongside his orchestral career, Rod was Principal trumpet with the renowned Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and a key member of the LSO's brass ensemble. He was passionate about education, and the College was proud to welcome him back to work with its current students. As well as giving a recent public masterclass at the RNCM, Rod pioneered a memorable weblink masterclass from St Luke's Church in London with trumpet students at the College.

Rod was renowned for being a natural musician, with a refined sound and consummate musicality. He will be much missed by all those who were privileged to know and work with him.



DAME KATHLEEN OLLERENSHAW: 1912 – 2014

It is with the greatest of sadness that the RNCM reports the death of acclaimed mathematician and politician **Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw** on 10 August 2014 at the age of 101.

Born in Withington, Manchester, Dame Kathleen was a prime mover in the formation of the RNCM after being tasked (as both Lord Mayor of the City and a member of the Joint Committee and Court) with bringing together the Royal Manchester College of Music and Northern School of Music onto a single site.

One of the most illustrious Mancunians of her era, she chaired the Joint Committee and Court from

1972 to 1986 and remained a truly loyal advocate and supporter throughout the years that followed.

In tribute, **Professor Linda Merrick**, RNCM Principal, said: *'Dame Kathleen was a remarkable woman who will forever be remembered as a pivotal figure in the history of the RNCM. Her loyal support to both staff and students remains invaluable, and I know that she will be greatly missed by the many friends she made here over the past 40 years.'*




A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw will be held at Manchester Cathedral on Friday 7 November at 11.30 am. All are welcome.



Dame Kathleen, right, and The Duchess of Kent, 1973



l-r: Sir John Manduell, Dame Kathleen and Michael Kennedy, 1994

A close-up portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy, reddish-blonde hair. She is smiling gently and looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, top with a subtle pattern and a necklace with a purple pendant. The background is dark and out of focus.

“I first met Kathleen Ollerenshaw when she was Chairman of the Joint Committee, formed to smooth the way to the merger of the Royal Manchester College of Music and the Northern School of Music into the not yet Royal Northern College of Music. Smooth, did I say? Never was a word so misused. What ought to have taken a few meetings stretched out over 15 years. I learned from Kathleen’s chairmanship how to deal with plotting, obduracy, sudden forgetfulness and the best use of red herrings. Without her we might still be talking about a new college instead of celebrating its 40th year.”

Michael Kennedy talking in 2012

RNCM CONCERT HALL THE STORY SO FAR

Autumn 2014 is an historic time for the RNCM as it opens the doors to a brand new Concert Hall for the first time in over 40 years.

The redevelopment, contracted by Styles & Wood, has been an incredible 12 month process that has seen 70 workers take out over 515 tons of waste and bring in over 50 tons of steel. The result, which incorporates new flooring and seating, new balconies (including the Oglesby Balcony, supported by the Oglesby Charitable Trust), state-of-the-art technical facilities, and improved backstage areas, will be unveiled to the public for the first time on Thursday 6 November with a special concert by British baritone Sir Thomas Allen.

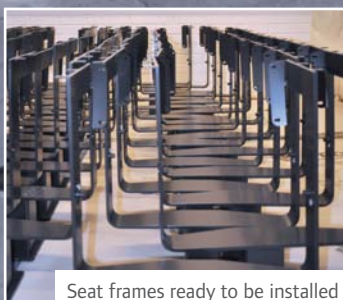
In advance of that date, here is a sneak peek at the journey so far:



View from the balcony



The Oglesby Balcony



Seat frames ready to be installed



Scaffolding supports the new balcony



View of the new balcony

TAKE YOUR SEAT

Naming a seat in a venue you enjoy can be the perfect way to make a personal contribution. You can *Take Your Seat* in our transformed Concert Hall for yourself, as a gift, to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one.

Seats are available at the following prices*:

Front Block £600 (or 12 monthly payments of £50)

Middle Block £450 (or 12 monthly payments of £37.50)

Balcony £300 (or 12 monthly payments of £25)

To Take Your Seat please contact the Development team on **0161 907 5338** or email **development@rncm.ac.uk**. Alternatively, visit **www.rncm.ac.uk/yourrncm/nameaseat** for more information.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Over the past 10 months the College has been overwhelmed by the number of people showing their support for *Your RNCM*. Now, with the opening well in sight, we would love to hear from donors who have made this incredible transformation possible. If you have a story to share about why you decided to name a seat, sponsor a bar of music or make a donation, please contact **Lauren Cox** at **lauren.cox@rncm.ac.uk** or call **0161 907 5394**.

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

POSTGRADUATES AT THE RNCM



Rosamund Cole

Rosamund Cole Library of Congress

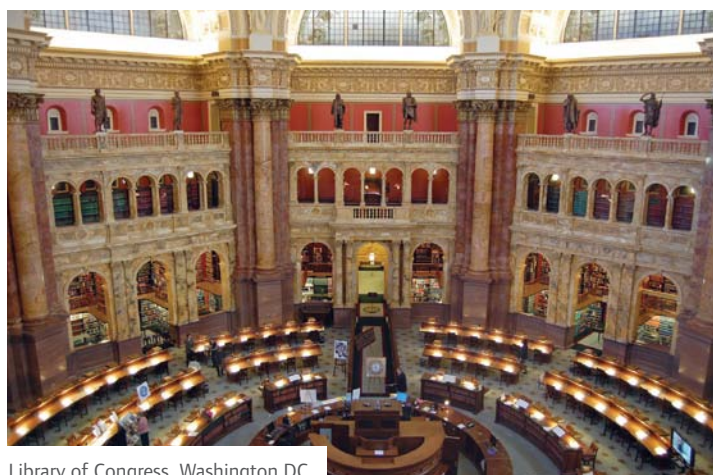
The research of RNCM students on the Postgraduate Research Degrees Programme (MPhil/PhD) covers a wide variety of projects right across the field of music, including composition, performance, historical musicology, music psychology, music and spirituality, and education.

*This variety can be illustrated by some recent and current projects being undertaken by three research students: **Rosamund Cole, Lucy Pankhurst and Suzanne Ross.***

Rosamund Cole has successfully applied for an AHRC International Placement Scheme Award, enabling her to take up a six-month residency at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The AHRC awards just 60 of these research fellowships annually.

Rosamund's PhD researches into the effect of the changes in later 19th century German vocal style and its transformation in the post-Wagner generation. It focuses on the career of the singer Lilli Lehmann, who not only sang for both Wagner and Mahler, but went on to influence performing style well into the 1920s.

The residency will enable Rosamund to consult, transcribe and contextualise Lehmann's own diaries, held at the Library of Congress. The diaries are written in 19 volumes recording Lehmann's professional and personal life, and include the period during which she worked with Mahler and the years in which she made her first recordings. The singer's diaries in question cover the latter period of her life, when her surviving recordings were made, and she was pursuing her career in the USA. Transcriptions from the diaries between 1894 and 1916 will be used as the basis for further contextual research using other sources of the Library's holdings. These include



Library of Congress, Washington DC

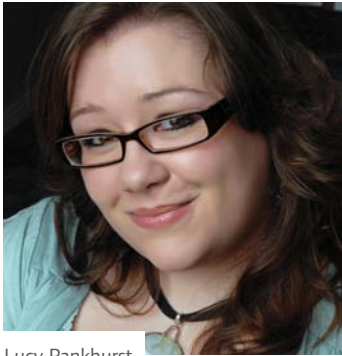
uncatalogued Lehmann letters and memorabilia, the Geraldine Farrar collection, and the Library's unparalleled archive of early sound recordings.

Most of Rosamund's sources are in German, in which she is fluent, having worked from 1996 to 2008 as a full-time professional soloist in German

opera houses, including Köln, Leipzig and Frankfurt. She recently honed her skills through the German Historical Institute in London in reading 19th century German handwriting. She also intends, while in the US, to make contact with various experts in the field and to give presentations of her work at conferences.



Library of Congress, Washington DC



Lucy Pankhurst

Lucy Pankhurst Salisbury International Arts Festival

Lucy Pankhurst is undertaking a PhD in composition entitled *The un-tapped textural potential of the brass band through contemporary music*.

She was approached to produce a new composition for the 2014 Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival that reflected upon the Christmas Truce of 1914, where many downed weapons and even lit small trees on the parapets, as a gesture of peace, humanity and, above all, hope. On the eve of the centenary of the Christmas Truce, there are already many commemorative events and performances set in place around the world. However, it is still a highly sensitive subject, which needed a delicate and thoughtful approach. Even 100 years on, its sentiments are still as relevant and strong as ever.

Lucy set out to write a series of idiomatic songs that reflected the music and issues of the era - giving an authentic and sincere component to the music. However, to present the material in a way relevant to the 21st century, she also employed electro-acoustic and spatialisation elements for the performance. The chorus was physically split into two, and placed on opposite sides of the cloisters in Salisbury Cathedral. The effect of this was several-fold, illustrating the two sides of the conflict (and also their unity in common cause); utilising the space of the cloisters in a unique manner, with antiphonal effect; and allowing the audience to experience the performance from any number of angles.



Musicians at Salisbury Cathedral



Singers at Salisbury Cathedral

Although the two sides of the chorus were still physically separated by the central portion of the cloisters, (representing 'No Man's Land' for them) the audience had no barriers and were not expected to stay seated in the same place. During the première, the audience did indeed take the opportunity to wander around and take it in from different perspectives, treating the experience almost like a sonic time capsule. The pre-recorded 'soundtrack' featured readings from segments of Sir Edward Hulse's letters, which he wrote to his mother from the trenches during Christmas 1914.

During *The Brothers' Carol*, the chorus united to sing in English, French, German, Dutch and Russian, simultaneously. This is directly symbolic of the spontaneous Christmas carolling of 1914, where soldiers sang songs together with common melodies, but in their own languages. This is the only point in the performance where the chorus sing en masse and it is signalled by an aleatory brass fanfare.

Voices From No Man's Land was the opening event of the 2014 Salisbury Festival and was presented as an installation over two hours, with over 1000 visitors through Salisbury Cathedral. There is a video diary of the whole project which you can view at www.vimeo.com/96922087.

Suzanne Ross Musical Impact



A major research project led by **Professor Jane Ginsborg**, Associate Dean of Research and Enterprise, began in September.



Suzanne Ross

Better Practice: Health promotion in music education and the profession is one of the three core strands of Musical Impact, a four-year research collaboration between all nine UK conservatoires (www.musicalimpact.org/research).

Suzanne Ross, a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and Goldsmiths, University of London, has been awarded an AHRC-funded Project Studentship (2014 – 2017) to undertake her PhD research under Jane's supervision and will be developing and evaluating effective interventions to enhance healthy music-making.

LIFE'S A FESTIVAL FOR RNCM CELLIST

Last year, a decade after completing his postgraduate studies, cellist **James Barralet** established the Whittington International Chamber Music Festival.

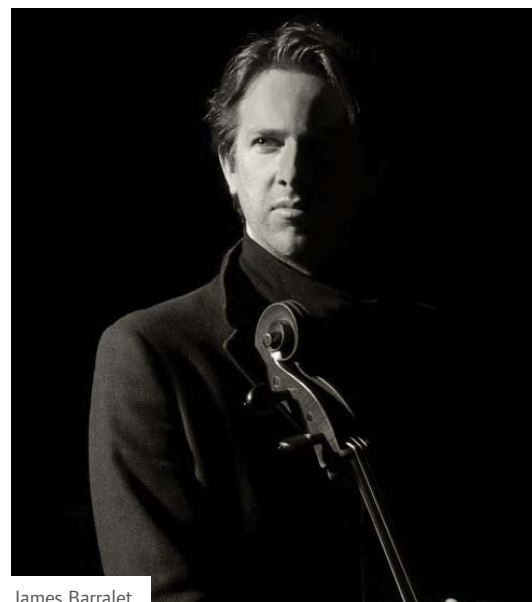
Inspired by the late Christopher Rowland, the RNCM's Director of Chamber Music, the Festival is a 10 day event dedicated to the work of one composer.

'I'd done quite a few chamber music festivals since graduating and I eventually got to the point where I had enough ideas to put one together myself,' said James, who graduated in 2003 and studied with Hannah Roberts. *'The chamber music established at the RNCM made it the best place to study in Europe, and it was Chris Rowland who enhanced this reputation when I was a student. In fact, it was Chris' idea for the RNCM Chamber Music Festival to focus on the work of one composer, which was something I really admired and noticed wasn't done all that much.'*

For the first Festival, in May 2013, James ambitiously chose to focus on Brahms' complete cello works, while this year it was the chamber music of Schubert that took the spotlight.

'Choosing Brahms for the first year was not the most obvious choice,' he explained. *'Classical music is not a big thing in the area so one of the main things was to present it in a way that everyone could relate to. There is enough variety and creativity in Brahms' music that it never really got boring, likewise with Schubert. From a musician's experience, to do nothing but his chamber music for two weeks and to eat and drink together was a phenomenal experience that will stay with me forever. It's great to build strong relationships with composers and to see how they progress as they go along, and it's good to share that with audiences. The numbers for the second Festival had more than doubled. We are really lucky that people have embraced the concept so warmly.'*

In addition to performances by international guest artists and ensembles (the first Festival welcomed the Leondari Ensemble while the second the Werther Ensemble) James, a member



James Barralet

of Wigmore Hall's Ignite Ensemble dedicated to the organisation's outreach projects, was keen to involve the local community.

'Outreach has played an important part in the Festival,' said James. *'We were sponsored by the Cavatina Music Trust which meant that all people aged eight to 25 could attend the concerts free of charge, and we also asked young musicians in the area to put their names forward to work on a piece of music and share the stage with professional musicians during the final concert. We created a bespoke arrangement for them – this year was the Trout Quartet – which enabled beginners and more advanced players to take part.'*

'Ignite was also involved this year, working at Derwen College, a specialist college for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. We presented workshops over three days and at the end of the festival those involved presented a small musical. It was a wonderful experience for them and one that we would very much like to continue if funding allows.'

The 2015 Whittington International Chamber Music Festival takes place between 9 and 15 May and will focus on the music of Mendelssohn.

To learn more visit www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk

RNCM AT THE NATIONAL OPERA STUDIO

Mezzo-sopranos **Hanna-Liisa Kirchin** and **Heather Lowe**, and répétiteur **Eda Seppar** have been offered places to study at the National Opera Studio (NOS).



Hanna-Liisa Kirchin



Heather Lowe



Eda Seppar

Established by the Arts Council as a link between music colleges and the main UK opera companies, the NOS offers professional training of the highest quality to singers and répétiteurs, providing tailor-made performance opportunities and invaluable coaching from some of the industry's leading artists.

'There are very few places available at the NOS and I'm proud and privileged to have been offered one,' said 2013 alumna Hanna-Liisa, who studied with Susan Roper and performed lead roles in RNCM Opera productions, including Handel's *Xerxes* and Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*. *'The NOS is one of those organisations that always seems so far away when you are studying, and to have actually reached it feels wonderful. The audition was a tough and long process but it really is a fantastic step forward and one that I hope will open more doors and possibilities in the future.'*

Fellow mezzo Heather Lowe, who graduated this year with an MMus in Solo Performance and performed the role of Orfeo in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, reiterated: *'I'm very excited to be starting at the NOS after only just completing my Master's at the RNCM. It was a great surprise and one that was so unexpected but incredibly exciting. It's been a pleasure studying with Ann Taylor and I'm looking forward to continuing my studies with her*

during my time at NOS. My late teacher Barbara Robotham was very keen for me to apply to the Studio, and knowing that she would have been so pleased means I hold this opportunity very close to my heart.'

After completing the course both Hanna-Liisa and Heather will join a fantastic list of NOS vocal alumni, including fellow graduates **Barry Banks**, **Alice Coote** and **Joan Rodgers**. Estonian Eda Seppar, currently in her postgraduate year studying with **Kevin Thraves**, Head of Music Staff within the School of Vocal Studies and Opera, will also add her name to an impressive list of alumni, including early music specialist and RNCM Tutor in Historical Performance, **Roger Hamilton**.

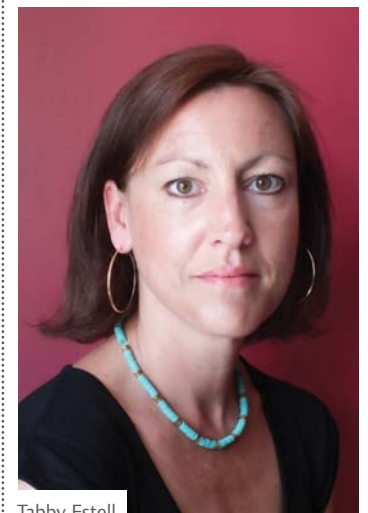
'I'm very honoured and extremely pleased to have been chosen as one of the NOS trainees for the upcoming year,' said Eda. *'Their répétiteur programme had been in my sight for a long time, but I never really dared to believe I could become part of something that exciting and exceptional. It would never have happened without the support I received from the RNCM, the School of Vocal Studies and Opera and, of course, Kevin Thraves. His guidance as a tutor and mentor has been absolutely invaluable and this is as much his achievement as mine. I will be proud to be associated with the RNCM when taking the next big step!'*

TABBY JOINS TRINITY

Alumna **Tabby Estell** has been appointed Head of Junior Trinity.

Tabby, who graduated in 1993, has worked in music education for over 20 years, including managing the pioneering education programme at the London Sinfonietta and as Director of Education and Community at the London Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent years she has enjoyed an active freelance career working as a music education specialist with a range of different music organisations including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House and Southbank Centre.

Talking of her new position, she said: *'I am absolutely delighted to be joining the amazing staff, tutors and young musicians of Junior Trinity, and I am looking forward enormously to working closely with everyone at Trinity Laban.'*



Tabby Estell

ALUMNUS WINS 2014 DUTCH TALENT AWARD



Joris van den Berg

Cellist and alumnus **Joris van den Berg** has won the prestigious Dutch Classical Talent Award.

Held at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw in May, the competition was open to young classical singers and instrumentalists and forms part of Dutch Classical Talent, an intensive programme of masterclasses, coaching and recitals throughout the Netherlands.

Joris, who was accompanied by pianist Martijn Willers, was one of three competitors to reach the final, and performed works by Brahms, Britten and Lutoslawski to secure a first prize of €10,000, a bronze statue designed by Marianne Houtkamp, and a place in the Hall of Fame at the Recital Hall of the Royal Concertgebouw.

Dutch Classical Talent is organised by the Royal Concertgebouw, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Dutch Concert Halls, Radio 4, and the JCP Foundation.

ORLANDO SUCCESS FOR BENYOUNES

RNCM alumni the **Benyounes Quartet** flew the flag for Great Britain in the Netherlands recently, winning Second Prize in the 2014 Orlando Competition.



Benyounes Quartet

Violinists Zara Benyounes and Emily Holland, violist Tetsuomi Nagata, and cellist Kim Vaughan were one of eight quartets – and the only participants from Great Britain – to take part in the annual international competition which forms part of the Orlando Festival.

Following two rounds in Rolduc Abbey, three ensembles made it through to the Final (including eventual winners the Berlin-Tokoyo Quartet and Third Prize-winners the Tercea Quartet) where they performed Beethoven's String Quartet No 11 in F major Op 95 and a post-1940 quartet of choice to a panel of judges including cellist Stefan Metz who founded the Festival over 30 years ago.

Emily said: *'We were absolutely delighted to have won Second Prize at such a prestigious competition. The whole event had a very encouraging and supportive atmosphere. We felt very privileged to be the only British quartet taking part and to have the opportunity to perform in the beautiful concert hall in Heerlen for the Final.'*

In addition to a cash prize of €4000, Benyounes also won performance opportunities within the Festival.

MERCURY NOMINATION FOR GOGO PENGUIN

GoGo Penguin's album *v2.0* has been shortlisted as one of the 2014 Barclaycard Mercury Prize Albums of the Year.

The album, which follows the jazz trio's critically acclaimed debut offering *Fanfares*, is one of 12 to be nominated for the prestigious award, sitting alongside works by Damon Albarn, Bombay Bicycle Club, Anna Calvi, East India Youth, FKA Twigs, Jungle, Nick Mulvey, Polar Bear, Royal Blood, Kate Tempest, and Young Fathers.

Simon Frith, Chair of Judges, said: *'The 2014 Barclaycard Mercury Prize shortlist confirms that these are fascinating times for UK music.'*

'There are seven outstanding debut albums here, and five records by more established artists, all pursuing exciting new directions. What most impressed the judges was the inventive passion with which musicians explore music and emotional possibilities, refusing to be pinned down by rules or genre.'

Comprising alumni **Chris Illingworth** (piano, 2007) and **Rob Turner** (percussion, 2005), and double bassist Nick Blacka, GoGo Penguin is fast becoming one of the UK's leading jazz ensembles, selected in 2013 as The Times' 'New Faces' to look out for in the arts and recently

appearing on *Later...with Jools Holland* on BBC 2.

Talking of the nomination, Chris said: *'It's been a very surreal and incredible experience and has blown us away to be nominated as one of the 12 Mercury Prize albums of the year.'*



GoGo Penguin

WORLD PREMIÈRE OF INTRIGUING OPERA

Madame X, a new opera by alumnus **Tim Benjamin**, received its world première at Todmorden's Hippodrome in August before performances at the New Bradford Playhouse, London's Acrola Theatre, and the RNCM.

Written for a cast of nine, which includes fellow alumni **Tom Morss** (tenor, 2013), **Laura Sheerin** (soprano, 2011), and **Sophie Dicks** (mezzo-soprano, 2014), *Madame X* is a dark, passionate and obsessive tale about Masetto, a brilliant portrait painter, and his lover Zerlina.

Impoverished, cold and starving, Masetto is being ripped off by his unscrupulous agent and exploited by collectors Lady Brannoch and Mr Wilmore. As the story unfolds the couple's plight becomes increasingly perilous, desperate and deadly.

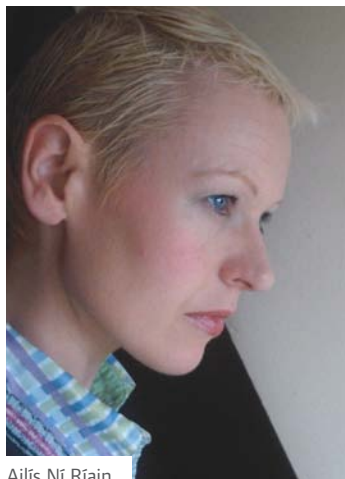
On writing the opera Tim, who graduated in 1998, said: *'Madame X takes its musical inspiration from the Italian operas of Handel, and from the Jacobean 'revenge plays'. The story features all the plotting, ghostliness, madness and catastrophe expected from the Jacobean influence. It is full of both dark and light, tragedy and comedy, with a strong set of intriguing characters. Just as the libretto plays on the history of art and the English language, the music plays on the history and languages of Western classical music. It is a piece with many familiar musical reference points,*



transformed and combined into a brand new, exciting work for the opera stage.'

COMMEMORATIVE COMPOSITION FOR ALUMNA AILÍS

Ailís Ní Ríain (composition, 2002) was commissioned to write an original score for solo cello to illustrate an inspirational new production by Feelgood Theatre.



Ailís Ní Ríain

Written by Stephen MacDonald and directed by **Caroline Clegg** (an RNCM Consultant in Stagecraft and Artistic Director of Feelgood Theatre), *Not About Heroes* tells the story of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, two 20th century poets who met at Craiglockhart War Hospital during the First World War.

Sassoon was a decorated war hero hospitalised after protesting against the continuing conflict and Owen was a victim of

shellshock who was accused of cowardice. Sadly, after returning to the front, both died in action with Owen being awarded the military cross in recognition of his courage and leadership.

Not About Heroes, which tours the UK until early December, weaves together the poetry, letters and autobiographical writings of both men and is accompanied by Ailís' new score, recorded at the RNCM by 2010 alumna **Cecily Smith**.

ALUMNI NEWS IN BRIEF

Antonia Sotgiu (mezzo-soprano, 1997) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the Arts from the University of Bolton for outstanding contribution to Music.

Le Yu (percussion, 2014) has been appointed to the post of Recruitment Officer (China and the UK) at the RNCM. The role was established to assist the College in its collaborations with Chinese institutions as well as to support prospective and current students from China at the RNCM.

John Berry, alumnus and Artistic Director of English National Opera, was awarded a CBE for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Conductor **Alpesh Chauhan**, who graduated this year, has been signed for general management by Hazard Chase.

Adam Smith (tenor, 2011) recently accepted a festival contract from Opera Vlaanderen (formerly Vlaamse Opera) in Belgium.

Caroline MacPhie (soprano, 2007) has released her début album, *Love said to me*, a collection of songs either inspired or written by women with music by Poulenc, Strauss and Wolf.

Correction

In the Spring 2014 edition of RNCM News we incorrectly stated that Sir John Manduell's *Trois Chansons de la Renaissance* was a recording rather than a publication. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

MUSIC'S A FUNNY BUSINESS FOR HAWKEYE AND WINDY

2008 graduates **Salma Alam-Naylor** and **Katherine Freeman**, aka Hawkeye and Windy, reached the Final of the 2014 Funny Women Awards.

The comedy duo, Salma a composer and Katherine a pianist, established their alter-egos in 2013 after recognising that *'they could keep their love of the highly emotive 90s pop ballad hidden no more and began writing comedy songs and releasing low-budget music videos.'*

The result led to an internet frenzy as their hilarious output featured on BBC America and the British Comedy Guide. Since then they have been in demand on the North West's comedy circuit, bringing their unique brand of music and comedy to numerous festivals and venues.

To learn more about the Funny Women Awards visit www.funnywomen.com, and to see the duo in action visit www.youtube.com/hawkeyeandwindy.



Hawkeye and Windy

ALUMNI JOIN KINSHASA'S INSPIRATIONAL ORCHESTRA

RNCM alumni sang with the Kinshasa Symphony Orchestra and Choir during a special tour with the Hallé.

Soprano **Bryony Williams** and mezzo-soprano **Emma Stannard**, who both graduated this year, baritone **Daniel Shelvey**, a 2013 alumnus, and tenor **Matthew Moss**, who graduated in 2010, took to the stage of Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, London's Royal Festival Hall and Colston Hall in Bristol alongside the Hallé to mark the organisation's first visit to the UK.

Founded in 1994 by conductor Armand Diangienda and based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the most violent countries in Africa, the Kinshasa Symphony is a beacon of hope and a testament to the transformational

power of music. Working and rehearsing in almost unbelievable conditions, the group (Central Africa's only symphony orchestra) comprises talented musicians who are mostly self-taught on home-made instruments.

Made possible thanks to an Exceptional Award from the Arts Council England, this unique project enabled the Kinshasa musicians to perform alongside professional performers to further their instrumental and orchestral technique.

Culture Minister, Ed Vaizey said: *'The Kinshasa Orchestra is a truly inspiring story of how music can change lives, and the dedication shown by all the musicians involved is an example of the sheer commitment and enthusiasm they have for their work.'*



Kinshasa Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by 2013 alumnus **Jamie Philips**, the Hallé's Assistant Conductor, and Armand Diangienda, the concert (which also include members of the Hallé Choir and Youth Choir, the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and the Southbank Centre's Resident Orchestras) featured Sibelius's *Finlandia*, movements from Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, and the finale of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, as well as items of orchestral and choral Congolese music.

CRAIG HITS TOP SPOT

RNCM alumnus and Tutor in Guitar, **Craig Ogden**, had reason to celebrate when his fourth album, *Summer Guitar*, soared to the top of the Classic FM charts in July.

Following hot on the heels of his last three recordings for the Classic FM label, *Summer Guitar* features beautiful arrangements of the Beatles' *Here Comes the*

Sun and Sting's *Fields of Gold*, alongside Myers' *Cavatina*, Einaudi's *Due Tramonti*, Bizet's *Habanera* and Gershwin's *Summertime*.

Craig started studying the guitar at the age of seven and percussion from the age of 13. In 2004 he became the youngest instrumentalist to be made a Fellow of the RNCM.



Craig Ogden

KATHRYN CHOSEN FOR HILLSBOROUGH TRIBUTE

Mezzo-soprano **Kathryn Rudge** was chosen to sing the names of the 96 football fans who died at Hillsborough as part of a new symphony commemorating the disaster by composer Michael Nyman.

Symphony No 11: Hillsborough Memorial was performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and local singers at the city's Cathedral during the opening of the Liverpool Biennial in July. It is based on



Kathryn Rudge

a work Nyman - famed for film scores such as *The Piano* and *Gattaca* - wrote in 1985 and subsequently used in *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* starring Helen Mirren, and is something he hopes will make 'a small but significant contribution to the healing process still necessary for the families of lost fans.'

Talking of the tragedy, which took place during Liverpool's FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest in April 1989, Mayor Joe Anderson said: 'We will never forget those who lost their lives at Hillsborough, or the impact it had on their bereaved families. The anger, pain and sorrow they have felt for the past 25 years is

shared by everyone in Liverpool, and by thousands of others across Merseyside, across the country and around the world.

'Memorials are a symbol of our solidarity and support for the families, and Nyman's specially-commissioned piece of music will be a moving and unforgettable tribute.'

Kathryn, who was born in Liverpool and has supported Liverpool FC all her life, graduated from the RNCM in 2011 with an International Artist Diploma. She performed Nyman's work alongside the RLPO, accompanied by the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth and Training Choirs, conducted by Josep Vicent.

NAXOS RECORDING FOR RNCM TENOR

Recent graduate **Kang Wang** spent time in the studio this summer, recording Michael Balfe's *Satanella* with Richard Bonyngé AC CBE for Naxos.

Richard, a world-renowned conductor and pianist, visited the RNCM in June to lead two coaching sessions with tenor Kang (who performed the role of Nemorino in the College's 2013 production of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*), and RNCM répétiteur **Jonathan Santagada**, ahead of the scheduled recording at Cheshire's Victorian Opera studio in July.

Opera critic Robert J Farr was invited to attend the recording and shared the following thoughts: 'I attended last December's RNCM production of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. I was very impressed by the young tenor singing Nemorino, Kang Wang. Later on, I learnt from Raymond Walker, Chairman

of Victorian Opera, that he had been in touch with Lynne Dawson, the RNCM's Head of the School of Vocal Studies, as he was interested in casting Kang in the then forthcoming recording of Balfe's *Satanella* to be conducted by Maestro Richard Bonyngé. After the conductor agreed Kang's involvement he came from his home in Switzerland to prepare him for the demanding lead tenor role.

'I was privileged to attend the recording sessions and was greatly impressed by the young man's deportment and the manner, along with this fully professional colleagues, by how he prepared himself for each session, and responded to the conductor's musical nuances, as well as demands for repeats when the Maestro was not happy with ensemble or whatever. A pleasing start to what I am sure will be a successful career.'

WIGGIN STRIKES ROSL GOLD



Huw Wiggin

Saxophonist **Huw Wiggin** won the Gold Medal in what was an outstanding Royal Over-Seas League ARTS competition for students past and present.

Taking place at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, in May, the grand final featured all winners from the solo Section Finals, including Huw, winner of the Wind and Percussion Section, and undergraduate **Toby Hughes**, who made history as the first double bassist to win the Strings Section in the competition's 62-year history.

Performing to a prestigious panel of judges Huw, accompanied by James Sherlock (winner of the ROSL ARTS Accompanist Prize), played Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Freundschaft*, Marcello's *Adagio* from his Concerto in D minor, and Pedro Iturralde's *Pequena Czarda* to secure the Gold Medal and prize money totalling £15,000.

Huw said: 'I felt very lucky to be part of such a prestigious event playing alongside other incredible musicians. Winning this award feels absolutely amazing!'

RNCM ensembles also featured heavily in this year's competition, with the **Solem Quartet** winning the Ensemble A Section Final, and the **Zelkova Quartet** (see page 7) receiving the Elias Fawcett Award.

JOYCE LINDLEY PARKER: 1927 – 2014

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Joyce Lindley Parker**, a former Chair of the Association of Friends of the RNCM, and an active musician all her life.



Joyce Lindley Parker

Joyce was an alumna of the Northern School of Music where she studied singing, specialising in lieder and working with other musicians in chamber music. She later studied in London with Otakar Kraus where she met fellow student Sir John Tomlinson and sang alongside Sir Willard White in the last concert performance at the Free Trade Hall.

In 1985 she was presented to The Queen in recognition of her fundraising work in music for the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. A national and North West committee member of the

Incorporated Society of Musicians and organiser of the ISM Annual Young Musicians' Platform Prize, Joyce also founded the Manchester Philharmonic Choir (formerly the BBC Philharmonic Friends Choir), and was an honorary member

of the Friends of the BBC Philharmonic, Northern Chamber Orchestra, Chetham's School of Music, William Byrd Singers, a member of the Hallé, and a patron of the Manchester Camerata.

In 2003 Joyce was awarded the Cross of Merit of the Lion of Finland by the President of Finland for her work in music and culture between Finland and the UK.

Having known Ida Carroll personally, Joyce played an active part in the Junior RNCM presenting and donating prizes annually. In 2009, she established the Andrew and Matthew Scrivener Bursary in the names of two RNCM alumni, to offer valuable support to aspiring young violinists and to create a lasting link with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then five RNCM students have benefitted: James Toll, Sarah Thornett, Rosemary Attree, Jessica Hall and Victoria Marsh.

One of the RNCM's most loyal supporters, her last donation was to dedicate a seat in the new Concert Hall with her great friend David Hamer with whom she set up the JRNCM Lindley Parker Hamer Chamber Music Prize last year.

Joyce will be missed by all at the RNCM for her enthusiasm and dedication to supporting young musicians. Her funeral took place in September, with the family requesting donations to the RNCM Student Awards Fund in place of flowers.

“Joyce will be missed by all at the RNCM for her enthusiasm and dedication to supporting young musicians...”



Joyce Lindley Parker



RNCM OPERA: BE PART OF OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

Sponsor a Costume

This autumn, the RNCM's production of Lehár's *The Merry Widow* will feature a glittering set and a cast of over 50, all dressed in stunning costumes. For the first time we are offering you, the audience, a chance to help dress the cast and be part of the production. This is the next best thing to being on the stage yourself!

Sponsoring a costume starts at just £50 and is a great way to support the RNCM and the students who study here. You can sponsor as an individual or through your company, buy as a unique gift or celebrate a special occasion.

The award-winning RNCM Opera productions are a vital part of the training and development of our singers and instrumentalists, offering a professional experience that gives them a head start for their future careers.

To sponsor a costume or to find out more visit rncm.ac.uk/sponsoracostume or contact **Rebecca Morgan** on 0161 907 5270 or development@rncm.ac.uk.

This is how we will thank you:

RNCM Chorus Member: £50

Principal named character and Grisettes: £100

- Acknowledgement in the opera programme
- Access to a behind-the-scenes tour looking at the costume designs with Elaine Needham, Wardrobe Manager
- Regular e-newsletters in the run up to the opera with details and pictures of the costumes and characters

Principal Leading Character: £450

The above plus:

- A signed print of the costume sketches for your chosen character
- Invitation to a rehearsal in costume with the opportunity to meet the cast afterwards
- A dedication of your choice included in the cast member's biography

THE 200 CLUB

The RNCM's 200 Club made a generous contribution to *Your RNCM* recently, donating £4000 to name a seat in the new Concert Hall.

Established over 10 years ago by Graham Merriam (former Trustee and Chairman of the RNCM Friends scheme), the 200 Club is now run by long-time supporters Eric Waite and Bryan Fox and offers an agreeable way to support the RNCM whilst providing members with the opportunity to take part in a monthly prize draw.

'If you're looking for a fun way to support the College then the 200 Club could be ideal,' said Bryan. 'It's great to know that you're able to make a positive impact on projects such as the Concert Hall refurbishment whilst enjoying the excitement of a monthly prize draw at the same time.'

Full membership is priced at £25 per year with half of the annual subscription going directly to the College and the other towards four monthly prizes ranging from £80 to £20. Each December the prizes are increased by 50 per cent. To join or learn more contact Bryan Fox at bryan.fox@rncm.ac.uk.

FORTHCOMING FRIENDS EVENTS

**Masterclass with
The King's Singers
Thursday 20 November
2pm RNCM Concert Hall**

Ahead of their evening performance, The King's Singers will coach two RNCM vocal ensembles in a short masterclass. RNCM Friends are invited to join as they share their experience and expertise with students.

Free admission, by ticket only. RNCM Friends can book tickets for the evening performance from just £15.30

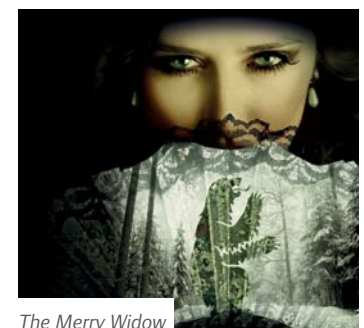
**RNCM Opera Previews
The Merry Widow
Sunday 30 December
Tuesday 2 December
3pm RNCM Theatre**

Join RNCM staff, students and fellow Friends and be one of the first to see our new production of Lehár's operetta *The Merry Widow*. An intoxicating whirl of elegant ladies, eligible bachelors, Maxim's can-can dancers, and ever-flowing champagne, *The Merry Widow* has long delighted audiences with its effervescent tale of suitors seeking the coveted hand of

wealthy widow Anna Glawari in fin-de-siècle Paris. Events unfold against the back story of the small, struggling Balkan state of Pontevedro whose entire GDP has ended up in the young widow's jewellery drawer...

This much-loved operetta has been a huge crowd pleaser since its 1905 première in Vienna and features many well-known arias, including *Vilja*, *You'll Find Me At Maxim's*, and *The Merry Widow Waltz*.

Tickets: £12.50, free to Silver Members and above (restrictions apply)



The Merry Widow

JOIN THE RNCM FRIENDS

Membership to the RNCM Friends starts at just £2.50 a month.

Visit www.rncm.ac.uk/friends or contact the Development team on 0161 907 5338 or email development@rncm.ac.uk.

RNCM

Wednesday 3 – Saturday 13 December

Franz Lehár's

THE MERRY WIDOW

RNCM Opera

Wyn Davies *conductor*

Piero Lombardi Iglesias *assistant conductor*

Stefan Janski *director*

Kate Ford *set and costume designer*

Nick Ware *lighting designer*



Kevin Thraves *chorus master*

Bethan Rhys Wiliam *choreographer*

RNCM Opera Orchestra

RNCM Chorus

Tickets from £21

 /rncmvoice  /rncmlive

Box Office 0161 907 5555

www.rncm.ac.uk/merrywidow

