PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

- Postgraduate Diploma in Solo Performance / Chamber Music / Opera and Vocal Studies (International Artist)
- Postgraduate Diploma in String Leadership

5.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUKAS Codes</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>Duration (months)</th>
<th>Mode of study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>PG Diploma (International Artist)</td>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma in Solo Performance; Chamber Music; Opera and Vocal Studies; Conducting (International Artist)</td>
<td>9 months (1 AY FT) 18 months (2 AY FT) Conducting*</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PG Diploma (String Leadership)</td>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma in String Leadership</td>
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* The Postgraduate Diploma in Conducting requires two-years of full-time study to complete as opposed to one for the other strands due to the breadth and depth of knowledge and skills required at this level. Similar courses internationally are a minimum of two years. Exceptionally (this has only happened once) a student may demonstrate the learning required and complete the programme of assessments in one year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Institution</th>
<th>RNCM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>RNCM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA benchmark(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Writing</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Leader</th>
<th>Vice Principal: Performance: Dr Paul Goodey</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum / Maximum Periods of Registration</td>
<td>9/21 months; Conducting 18/42 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Start Date</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
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5.2 AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

The programme aims to:

1. Provide the most gifted students with advanced musical training to the highest professional level in performance / conducting.
2. Equip the most gifted students with a depth of musical experience and a comprehensive understanding of the techniques applicable to their chosen discipline to enable them to progress to an international career.
3. Equip students with a systematic detailed understanding and critical awareness of the relationship between current knowledge and performance within their chosen discipline.
4. Offer students high profile internal and external public performance opportunities in order to continue to advance their professional development.
5.3 INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Knowledge and Understanding (Intellectual Skills) - on successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Principal Study discipline, to a level of musical insight, interpretative / critical maturity, creative application and technical assurance commensurate with the ability to establish and sustain a successful career as an international performer in their chosen field of specialism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of a chronological and stylistic cross-section of the repertory of the Principal Study discipline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Demonstrate an innate ability to deal with highly complex issues systematically and creatively and to communicate these at an advanced level through performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Demonstrate a high level of self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, as well as a highly professional level of corporate musical responsibility.</td>
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Practical Skills - on successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Synthesise theory and practice for identification, analysis and solution of complex musical and interpretative problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demonstrate highly informed and discriminating attitudes to a wide range of music and its performance related to the Principal Study discipline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plan and undertake exceptional individual / ensemble performance of an international level.</td>
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</table>

Generic and Graduate Skills - on successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Work collaboratively, demonstrating a high level of personal and interpersonal maturity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Work autonomously and with an extremely high degree of self-motivation, employing exceptional self-critical skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communicate with confidence and insight.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Demonstrate imagination and extraordinary creativity in the solution of complex problems.</td>
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5.4 CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Admission to the PG International Artist Diploma programme is by competitive audition (detailed information and guidance on the audition process is available on the RNCM website). Entrants must demonstrate at audition exceptional ability and the potential for an international career. All candidates are required to audition in person at the College.

For applicants whose first language is not English, the normal International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or equivalent standard for entry to the PG Diploma is 5.5. In exceptional circumstances, the normal IELTS level may be reduced from 5.5 to a minimum of 5.0, subject to the approval of the Vice-Principal (Performance).
5.5  STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

a) Areas of study within the programme

i) PG Diploma (International Artist) - Solo Performance, Chamber Music, Opera and Vocal Studies or Conducting

ii) PG Diploma in String Leadership.

b) Content

The PG International Artist Diploma and PG Diploma String leadership focus on the development of the individual with regard to effective preparation for an international career as a soloist / opera soloist / within a chamber ensemble / as an orchestral string player (section leader) or conductor. Individual career development support and guidance will be given by members of the College’s Performance and Programming Team and mentors from the Hallé (string leadership), many of whom hold or have held in the past prominent positions in external arts organisations.

With the exception of the first year of the conducting pathway (which is FHEQ Level 6) all elements of the programme are delivered at FHEQ Level 7 and are compulsory and form a comprehensive framework for the advanced education and training of international performers.

c) Programme levels and qualifications

Provide in tabular format the levels of study within the award and the qualification including exit awards where appropriate. An example is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level / Year of study</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
<th>HE Qualification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 / Year 2 (Conducting)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Conducting Year 1 (no qualification)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
|                       | 7 | Post Graduate Diploma in Solo Performance / Chamber Music / Opera and Vocal Studies / Conducting (International Artist)  
Post Graduate Diploma in String Leadership. |

c) Programme structure, content, credit framework and learning hours

Due to the nature of each programme, they do not have discrete modules, nor are they credit weighted.

Learning hours (solo performance, chamber music & opera and vocal studies)

1200 total learning hours in total comprising:
- 45 hours of one-to-one Principal Study
- 15 hours of one-to-one coaching with staff pianist
- 450 hours of mentored practice
- 5 hours group communication and presentation skills
- 3 hours of one-to-one career development
- 6 hours of masterclasses
- 676 hours independent learning

Learning hours (string leadership)

1200 total learning hours in total comprising:
- 600 hours of orchestral training
- 15 hours of one-to-one Principal Study
- 40 hours of mentoring in leadership skills
- 4 hours of chamber music coaching
- 20 hours of education workshop training & experience
- 5 hours group communication & presentation skills
- 516 hours independent learning
Learning hours (conducting) – delivered over two years
Total: 2400

Year 1
- 30 hours of 1:1 Principal Study
- 120 hours of tuition in two-piano conducting classes and orchestral masterclasses
- 730 hours of mentored practice
- 10 hours of group communication and presentation skills
- 4 hours of 1:1 career development sessions
- 6 hours of masterclasses
- 300 hours of independent learning

Year 2
- 30 hours of 1:1 Principal Study
- 120 hours of tuition in two-piano conducting classes and orchestral masterclasses
- 730 hours of mentored practice
- 10 hours of group communication and presentation skills
- 4 hours of 1:1 career development sessions
- 6 hours of masterclasses
- 300 hours of independent learning

(NB Year 1 of this programme provides preparatory study in full-time mode. Assessments in Year 1 [portfolio of reports] are formative, with two major summative assessments [a conducted orchestral performance and a conducted opera performance] taking place in Year 2).

5.6 TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The focus of the learning and teaching methods is one-to-one tuition and mentored practice. Other methods include masterclasses, solo / chamber ensembles and directed ensemble performance opportunities, and specialist classes and workshops.

5.7 ASSESSMENT

The assessment strategy for PG Diploma (International Artist and String Leadership) focuses exclusively on output in relation to the demonstration of consolidated skills through public performance in a recital and concerto context (Solo Performance strand), operatic context (Opera and Vocal Studies strand), two chamber music recitals (Chamber Music strand), professional orchestral engagements and exit audition (String Leadership strand) or conducted orchestral and opera performances (Conducting strand). This strategy reinforces independent learning, and presents challenges similar to those that will be faced in the external profession.

Due to the exceptionally high level of practical achievement that is required on this course, assessment will be on a Pass-Fail basis only, with both of the two public performances / exit audition and orchestral / leadership and education workshops being assessed.

Assessment components (solo, chamber, opera studio, conducting – year 2 only):
2 public performances

Assessment components (string leadership):
Practical and educational work with the Hallé including leadership, presentation & communication skills
To qualify for the awards of PG International Artist Diploma and PG Diploma in Strings Leadership, students must have undertaken the 1200 required learning hours and passed all performance assessments.

5.8 THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students have access to the full range of the College’s part-time tutors. Unlike other courses, students agree a bespoke package of tuition which may include a range of lessons, including sessions given by tutors in other performance Schools. Students may also negotiate up to one third of their tuition with teachers who do not normally teach at the RNCM.

Students benefit from an outstanding range of performances given both by College ensembles and visiting artists in the Arts Centre. They may also audition to take part in professional schemes as part of The Platform. Recently, IAD students have worked with the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

5.9 STUDENT SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

**Induction**
At the outset of the programme students have a number of meetings, both cohort and individual within their Principal Study school and generic meetings to introduce them to the requirements of the programme and the College environment and facilities. They receive an induction pack, including relevant handbooks, staff contact details, where to find help, and information on student services, IT and the Library.

**Support**
The Programme Handbook and Student Information Handbook are available on the VLE. Students receive academic, pastoral and professional advice and support from their one-to-one tutor and Head of School and can approach the RNCM Students’ Union. The College has language support, learning support and counselling services.

**Development**
Students receive advice and support in preparing for their chosen career through one-to-one lessons, meetings, corporate performances and attachments and experiential options.