

WHERE  
WILL YOUR  
LOVE OF  
MUSIC  
TAKE YOU?

Discover the endless possibilities...

RNCM  
ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE of MUSIC

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# A Passion for Music

ART  
WE  
AZZ  
PO

## The RNCM succeeds because of our vibrant and creative community.

Everyone within our family plays an essential part in maintaining our status as one of the most exciting and forward-thinking conservatoires, ensuring we're a destination of choice for talented young musicians from all over the world. Our academic and professional services staff work tirelessly to create a world-class teaching and learning environment, and our students and alumni never fail to impress with the incredible things they achieve both on and off stage.

We're also the recipient of three Times Higher Education Awards (for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts, Outstanding Student Strategy and Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year), a Global Teaching Excellence Spotlight Award and two Greater China Awards, all of which highlight our commitment to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to create an incredible future, inspired by music.





**‘We’re in a multicultural environment where everyone’s really open minded. There’s a lot of satisfaction in knowing you’re contributing to something great.’**

—  
**ELLIE YAN**

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER





**‘I remember attending a student performance one evening and spotting two performers both smiling at each other after getting through a tough section of music. Feeling that sense of camaraderie and team spirit is one of the many reasons why I love working at the RNCM.’**

**PAUL MASSEY**  
**PROGRAMMING ADMINISTRATOR**

‘Even though I’m the only person here who does my job, everyone values the work I do, and I really appreciate that.’

**HEATHER ROBERTS**

ARCHIVIST



**‘The exceptional tuition and diverse professional opportunities we offer are just two of the reasons why so many talented young musicians from all over the world choose to study with us, and I am proud of the incredible things they achieve every day.’**

**— PROFESSOR LINDA MERRICK**  
PRINCIPAL





**'I'm also a musician, so the RNCM's  
the best place for me to work.'**

**DALE MANDERSON**

**PORTER**

**‘The students are the best part of the job! Being part of their journey as they each develop their own creative careers and artistic ambitions is exciting and inspiring.’**

**HANNAH MCCABE**

**FELLOW OF CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**





‘Being part of the RNCM family is a very special honour. The building buzzes with excitement and ideas every day of the week.’

**DR MICHELLE PHILLIPS**  
DEPUTY HEAD OF UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAMMES



# LIVING HERE

## Over 100,000 students call Manchester their home, and it's not hard to see why.

Our vibrant city has it all: a rich and varied music scene, a proud heritage of science and industry, nightlife, culture and politics, and an incredible sporting legacy.

Known the world over for talent and innovation, Manchester seeps with music of all genres and we're proud to be part of it. With venues ranging from the impressive Manchester Arena to the stunning Bridgewater Hall, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy classical and contemporary performers, alongside international artists, every day of the week. And the RNCM, from our base on Oxford Road, is perfectly placed to enjoy it all. Excellent transport links for international and UK travel make coming in and out of the city easy and the centre of town is just a 20-minute walk away.

Whether you're joining us from around the corner or thousands of miles away, our strong support network will make each step of the journey as easy as possible.

Our Registry and Student Recruitment teams can guide on everything from finance to accommodation, and we have a brilliant Students' Union offering help, advice and a friendly face whenever you need it. We also have dedicated staff to provide visa and immigration support and English Language Courses (both Pre- and In-Sessional) for students whose first language isn't English.

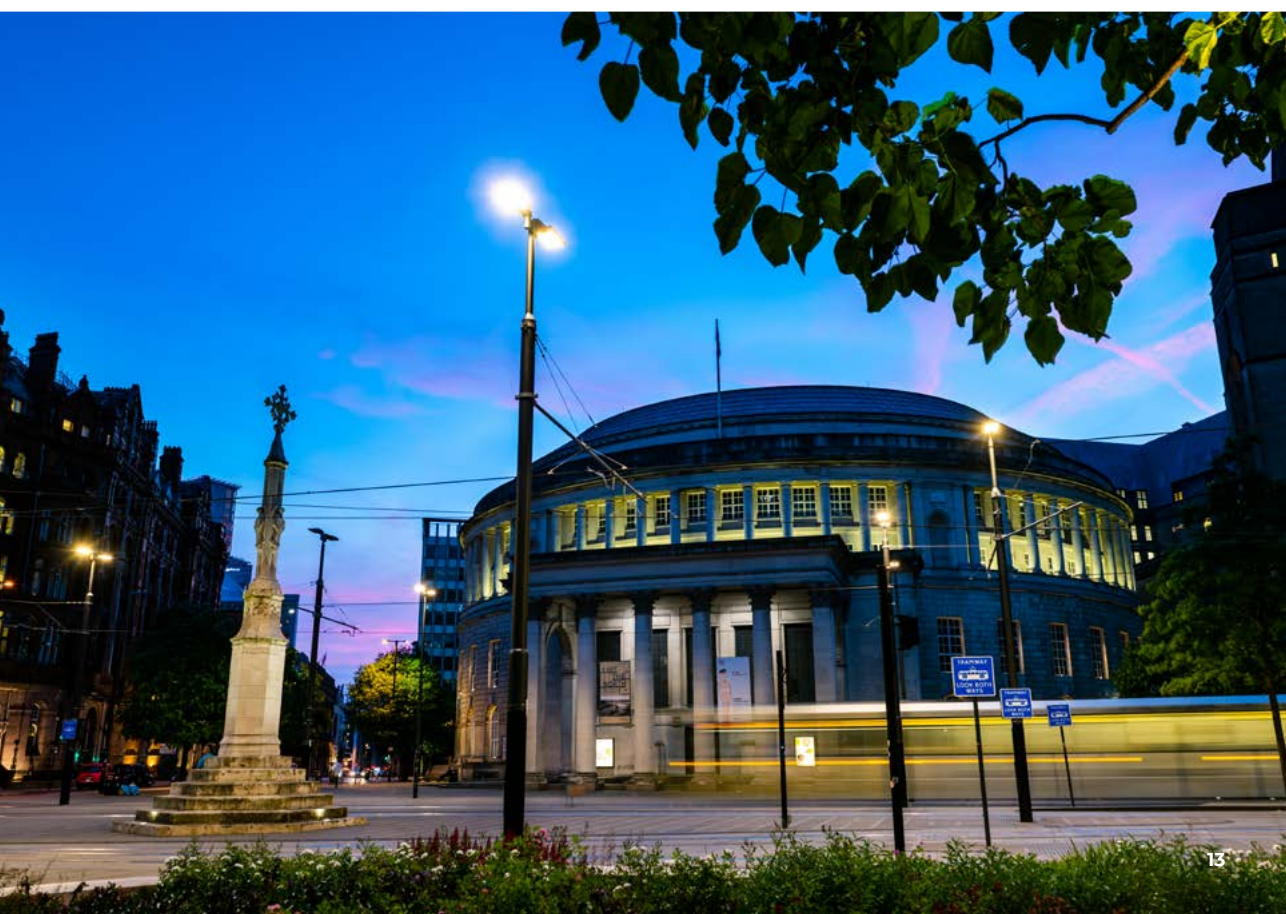
New students can choose to live in Sir Charles Groves Hall of Residence, right next door to the College. Our students occupy a large number of its 612 rooms, the majority of which are en-suite and grouped in four, with a shared fully-equipped kitchen/lounge. Residents can practise in their room between 9am and 9pm, and pianists can request a loan piano if required. There are also two senior residents and a dedicated team of staff on hand to provide support and assistance if needed.

Alternatively, you may wish to rent a flat or share a house privately. Manchester has a huge selection of affordable accommodation within easy distance of the RNCM. Many of these are available via Manchester Student Homes, an agency owned and managed by the city's universities.

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





# WELLBEING

## Student wellbeing has never been more important to us.

Year on year we strive to create an environment where you can learn not only how to make music with excellence, but how to live a fulfilled life as a musician and human being.

With the appointment of a Lecturer in Musicians' Health and Wellbeing in 2019, we're fast developing our health and wellbeing provision across the College, ensuring it's holistic, tailored to musicians' needs, research-based and embedded in the curriculum. We have a fantastic team of wellbeing staff onsite, including counsellors and mental health first aiders, and we're proud to be part of the Greater Manchester Universities Student Mental Health Service, the country's first dedicated centre for students with severe mental health problems.

Aiming to do more than just increase awareness or tackle problems as they arise, we're set on developing mental and social skills for wellbeing, making sure that physical health and psychological flourishing are at the core of your student experience.

***'We want to maximise our efforts to make sure you experience what being well as a musician means during your time at the RNCM.'***

**SARA ASCENSO**  
LECTURER IN MUSICIANS' HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING

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





# Schools of Study

PORTLAND



# SCHOOL OF COMPOSITION

**‘COMPOSERS WRITE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE CREATED, AND IN THE SCHOOL OF COMPOSITION WE MAKE THE ASPIRATIONS OF SELF-EXPRESSION BECOME A REALITY.’**

**PROFESSOR ADAM GORB**  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Immersed in the legacy of Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Alexander Goehr, Sally Beamish and Emily Howard, our School of Composition remains a laboratory of invention. A place where new things happen; where you develop your craft with inspirational tutors and hear your creations come alive on stage.

With a clear focus on helping you develop your own personal style and professional skills, our programmes offer intensive one-to-one training, classes in compositional

techniques and electro-acoustic composition, masterclasses with eminent composers, and departmental seminars. You'll also have the chance to try out your works in progress via our Composer Labs, and enjoy live performances of your pieces by our Brand New Orchestra and New Ensembles.

Festivals focussing on the work of living composers and new music provide additional opportunities for student composers to showcase their work, and our relationship with professional industry partners (such as the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Singers, Psappha, the Northern Ballet School, and the Filmmaking and Creative Writing courses at Manchester Metropolitan University) bring real-world experiences and interdisciplinary collaborations.

- [rncm.ac.uk/composition](https://rncm.ac.uk/composition)





# SCHOOL OF KEYBOARD STUDIES

**‘IT’S WONDERFUL TO  
SUPPORT STUDENTS  
AS INDIVIDUALS,  
FIND OUT WHAT  
THEIR INTERESTS ARE  
AND WATCH THEM  
GROW, IMPROVE AND  
FLOURISH.’**

**GRAHAM SCOTT**  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Our School of Keyboard Studies has a fantastic reputation for successfully developing the individual talents of young pianists. Whether you’re interested in recitals, concertos, chamber music, collaboration, teaching or becoming a répétiteur, the well-rounded training you’ll receive will prepare you for a rewarding portfolio career.

Principal Study tuition is available in piano, harpsichord and, for postgraduates only, accompaniment. We arguably house the best fleet of pianos in the UK, including 49 Steinways and 75 Yamahas, and harpsichordists have access to a variety of period instruments. You’ll also benefit from inspiring masterclasses and clinics with

artists including our International Chairs in Piano, Stephen Hough and Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. And we regularly welcome non-musicians, such as sports psychologists, to give motivational talks to enhance your professional skills.

Performance opportunities include a weekly performance class, internal competitions covering various repertoire, professional engagements throughout the country, and public concerts at the RNCM. Harpsichordists also have the chance to perform with both modern- and period-instrument chamber groups, as well as in opera and orchestral concerts.

**[rncm.ac.uk/keyboardsudies](https://rncm.ac.uk/keyboardsudies)**



# SCHOOL OF STRINGS

**‘IT’S SO REWARDING TO HEAR A STUDENT’S MUSICAL VOICE DEVELOP IN CONFIDENCE, STATURE AND AUTHENTICITY, AND TO SEE THEIR FACES FULL OF PRIDE AND ELATION WHEN THEY COME OFF STAGE.’**

**CHRIS HOYLE | HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Life within our School of Strings is about unlocking potential. From intensive one-to-one training and a vast array of performance opportunities, to mental focus sessions with sports psychologists and motivational talks with the military elite, we strive to provide the right stimulus to ensure you flourish.

Our dedicated team of tutors are musicians of the highest calibre, and we welcome further world-class artists throughout the year to present masterclasses, lectures and seminars tailored to meet the demands

of the profession. Regular specialist performance classes will enrich your learning as a solo and ensemble player, and our open class policy means you’re encouraged to attend lessons within other Schools, developing your creative, technical and personal skills with an array of RNCM staff.

The partnerships we’ve developed with leading orchestras across the UK, including the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Manchester Camerata, provide invaluable opportunities to gain professional experience, and we host compulsory screened ‘blind’ auditions for our own orchestras and ensembles twice a year. Additionally, regular concerts and recitals within RNCM venues offer the chance for all players (including double bass, harp, guitar and period instruments) to perform to public audiences, and our Symphony Orchestra often brings the year to a close with a rousing concert at Manchester’s Bridgewater Hall.

- [rncm.ac.uk/strings](https://rncm.ac.uk/strings)

# SCHOOL OF VOCAL STUDIES AND OPERA



**‘IT IS AN ABSOLUTE DELIGHT TO SEE OUR STUDENTS FLOURISH THROUGH THE TRAINING WE PROVIDE; REFINING THEIR CRAFT AND MAKING THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD AS INSPIRED AND ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG ARTISTS.’**

**PROFESSOR LYNNE DAWSON**  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

The inspirational training provided by our School of Vocal Studies and Opera is renowned the world over.

Drawing on the expertise of our dedicated tutors, behind the scenes staff and professional partners, our unique and carefully curated programmes provide young singers with the necessary skills and real-world experience to develop long and successful careers.

Intensive one-to-one tuition and ensemble coaching is complemented by masterclasses and an array of specialist classes designed to enhance your dramatic, language, stagecraft and musicianship skills. You'll also have opportunities to take to the stage through recitals, concerts and biannual Opera Scenes, ensembles such as the RNCM Chamber Choir and RNCM Songsters, a host of internal competitions and external engagements, and our fully-staged opera productions. Open to vocalists in all years, these take place in our purpose-built Theatre twice a year and are produced by a guest creative team, ensuring you receive first-hand industry knowledge as you study.

Our exclusive partnerships with Opera North, Buxton International Festival and Edvard Grieg Kor in Norway provide enviable opportunities for further professional development, and we're fortunate to be the home of postgraduate Répétiteur Studies, providing intensive training for pianists wishing to enhance their skills in this area.

- [rncm.ac.uk/vocalstudiesandopera](https://rncm.ac.uk/vocalstudiesandopera)



# SCHOOL OF WIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION

**‘WE WANT EVERY STUDENT’S GOALS TO BE LIMITED ONLY BY THEIR ABILITY TO CREATE THEM. ONCE THEY’RE SET, WE ENCOURAGE THEM NEVER TO GIVE UP AND TO PURSUE THEM WITH ALL THEIR PASSION AS LONG AS THEY HOLD THEM DEAR.’**

**NICHOLAS THOMPSON**  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Building on a foundation of creativity, dedication and determination, our School of Wind, Brass and Percussion provides an immersive and collaborative environment for young musicians.

Intensive individual training, masterclasses with international artists and specialist group tuition are complemented by a range of performance and audition activities, both at the College and

through worldwide partnerships such as the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Netherlands Wind Ensemble. Combined, these enable you to develop your musicianship and personal skills, and gain an understanding of the professional protocol in other countries and cultures. Students within the School can also undertake additional lessons on an appropriate doubling, associated or jazz instrument, further enhancing your progression as a versatile and industry-ready musician.

Repertoire covered includes the established traditions of European wind, brass and percussion playing, and we place a strong emphasis on new music, including that written by our student composers. You’ll also benefit from School-specific performance opportunities and enjoy cross-School collaborations through our numerous orchestras and ensembles.

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





# POPULAR MUSIC

**‘POPULAR MUSIC AT THE RNCM IS UNIQUE AND OUR AIM IS SIMPLE: TO EDUCATE, TRAIN, AND DEVELOP YOUR CREATIVE, PRACTICAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS FOR SUCCESSFUL, SUSTAINABLE CAREERS THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MUSIC.’**

**ANDY STOTT | HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Home to the UK's only four-year conservatoire-based undergraduate degree and exceptional postgraduate programmes, the RNCM is the premier training ground for students aspiring to be original artists, freelance musicians, and music industry professionals.

Empowering you to be ambitious and imaginative with no boundaries to your creativity, our courses focus on artist development and teach the essential skills of the 21st-century 3D musician: performance, composition and production.

Through a combination of intensive individual and group study and real-world experience, you'll develop your creative, technical and entrepreneurial skills, regularly showcasing your music for and receiving guidance from international guest artists and music industry experts. You'll also gain unrivalled opportunities to learn and make music with students from all Schools of Study, perform within our flagship Session Orchestra and Big Band, and work as a signed artist with our independent label, Northern Quarter Records.

Professional development is central to our curriculum, and our strong partnerships with pioneering organisations across the UK and enviable global network of educators, practitioners and students at conservatoires worldwide open doors to outstanding industry experience and inside knowledge.

- [rncm.ac.uk/popularmusic](https://rncm.ac.uk/popularmusic)



# CONDUCTING

**‘IT REMAINS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO GUIDE THE INCREDIBLY TALENTED YOUNG CONDUCTORS AT THE RNCM AND TO WATCH THEM CONSTANTLY GROW THROUGH THE MANY AND VARIED CONDUCTING EXPERIENCES WE GIVE THEM.’**

**MARK HERON**  
**HEAD OF CONDUCTING**

Our conducting programmes are underpinned by the belief that you can only learn your craft by conducting other musicians in live rehearsal and performance.

Whether you're studying as a postgraduate, a Junior Fellow, or on one of our short courses, the enviable podium experience and intensive training you'll receive ensures you develop the necessary skills to advance with confidence in the profession.

In addition to conducting student instrumental and vocal performances, the most valuable gift you can receive is the opportunity to lead exceptionally experienced players within professional orchestras. This is why our partnerships with the BBC Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestras, Northern Ballet and Psappha are an integral part of our offer.

Postgraduates and Junior Fellows work as assistant conductors with these orchestras throughout the year, and masters students currently take their final examinations in concert with the BBC Philharmonic.

For students from other disciplines, we offer a uniquely comprehensive and varied range of elective courses in all years of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. And a pathway exists allowing undergraduates to take more than 50% of their final year credits in conducting.

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

# Undergraduate Study

WE  
RE  
AST

**We're dedicated to providing an outstanding education that propels our students into careers as inspiring and versatile musicians, fully-equipped for exciting futures both on and off stage.**

Whether you're following a classical route or want to pursue popular music, our new Undergraduate School offers flexibility to build a programme that's right for you. Studying alongside likeminded individuals, you'll enhance and refine your technical, creative, and critical skills, developing professionally and personally within a stimulating and enviable environment.

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





# BACHELOR OF MUSIC WITH HONOURS

**4 YEARS FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODE: 300F**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER**

Our BMus (Hons) degree supports the education of creative, inquisitive, well-rounded musicians, complementing your passion for performance or composition with academic and professional training to the highest standard.

And with a clear emphasis on success, fulfilment, and musical wellbeing, you'll have the freedom to focus on areas key to your progression, helping you to master the skills necessary to build and enjoy a career in the 21st century.

**The programme comprises:**

## PRINCIPAL STUDY

Whether you're studying one discipline or two, you'll receive intensive one-to-one training with a designated tutor, plus group classes, masterclasses, and many additional creative and performance opportunities including chamber music, jazz, brass band performance, historical performance, and opera.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT, PLACEMENTS AND PROJECTS

Students undertake professional placements, design and lead their own creative project, and receive expert tuition in industry-relevant skills, including conducting, recording and editing, website design, teaching and musicians' health. Training in entrepreneurship, including copyright law, tax and accounting for freelance musicians, is delivered by experienced staff and visiting experts.

Possible career choices can be explored through placements within the music industry, including organisations such as the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, Opera North, The Bridgewater Hall and One Education Music. And, with the support and guidance of a professional mentor, independent creative projects embrace everything from organising and promoting concerts, masterclasses and workshops to community outreach schemes, recording projects, and composing/arranging for student-led ensembles.

## ACADEMIC STUDIES AND OPTIONAL PATHWAYS

Hone your critical thinking and communication skills through advanced training in performance studies, musicianship, theory and cultural history. Your personal journey is then supported by optional pathways, enabling in-depth study of performance and composition in different musical periods and genres, the development of new practical skills, and the exploration of an incredibly diverse range of topics. These are delivered by experts in composition, conducting, education, health and wellbeing, historically-informed performance, media and technology, musicology, the music business, and music psychology.

## DIRECT ENTRY

Direct entry into Year 2 of this degree is available to a limited number of exceptional candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic and practical ability during their audition and interview and hold a Level 4 qualification on entry (such as DipABRSM).

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

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF THE RNCM/ BACHELOR OF MUSIC WITH HONOURS (THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER)

**4 YEARS FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODE: 399F**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER**

It can sometimes be difficult for young musicians and composers to choose between university or conservatoire study. The GRNCM takes that difficulty away, offering those with outstanding musical and academic ability the opportunity to study two degree courses simultaneously: the Graduate Diploma of the RNCM (GRNCM) and the Bachelor of Music (MusB) at The University of Manchester, located just metres away.

This unique and competitive programme, known informally as the 'Joint Course', is designed for students who are not only busy performers with a wide variety of professional experience, but extremely intelligent musical thinkers.

Study comprises the entire three year MusB (Hons) programme at The University and approximately two-thirds of our four-year BMus (Hons). Your time with us involves intensive one-to-one tuition, specialist classes and masterclasses, performance opportunities and a series of modules dedicated to artist development, including conducting, recording, editing, musicians' health and wellbeing, and a professional industry placement. This is complemented by a strong academic foundation gained through your studies at The University.

Embracing a combined conservatoire and university experience means that all bases are covered, enabling you to progress as a resilient and adaptable performer ready to create a thriving portfolio career.

## SHORTLISTING

Spaces for this intensive and demanding course are limited. Approximately 20 applicants are shortlisted for an audition at the RNCM and interview at The University of Manchester each year.

All GRNCM applicants are automatically considered for a place on our BMus (Hons) programme.

- [rncm.ac.uk/grncm](https://rncm.ac.uk/grncm)

# BACHELOR OF MUSIC WITH HONOURS IN POPULAR MUSIC

**4 YEARS FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODE: 201F**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER**

Over the last decade, our Popular Music programme has established itself as a global destination of choice for outstanding music students, teachers, researchers and professional artists.

Continually reinventing to respond to the ever-changing, dynamic industry, this unique course creates exceptional musicians, original artists and inspired entrepreneurs with a drive to build purposeful, successful and sustainable careers.

## WHAT WE TEACH

Students on our Popular Music programme are treated as professionals from day one, gaining flexibility to create their own bespoke package while majoring in one of our four core areas of study.

With a strong focus on artist development and taking inspiration from Manchester's iconic music scene, this exciting degree teaches the essential skills of the 3D musician: performance, composition and production. It embraces innovation and diversity, empowering you to be ambitious and imaginative while actively encouraging and supporting you to develop your career alongside your studies.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND TUITION

An impressive roster of visiting tutors from various sectors of the industry will play an essential role in your education, and you'll learn with and work alongside students from all Schools of Study through original projects, taught modules, and our flagship Session Orchestra and Big Band.

Enviably opportunities for artistic collaboration and career development are offered on a global scale via our exceptional international network of educators, practitioners and students from conservatoires in Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Rotterdam, Singapore and Valencia. You'll also have the chance to work as a signed artist with our independent label, Northern Quarter Records, and to perform and record with our partners The Metropole Orkest and Abbey Road Institute.

## WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're seeking outstanding students from around the world with the talent, creativity and passion to be a part of our diverse and inclusive community. Our principal disciplines are bass guitar, drums, guitar, keyboards and vocals, and we also invite applications from pop-focused brass percussion, strings and woodwind instrumentalists as well as DJs, MCs and producers.

— [rncm.ac.uk/popularmusic](https://rncm.ac.uk/popularmusic)

# Postgraduate Study

THE  
FIRST  
STEP



**Bridging the gap between education and professional life, our Graduate School provides a stimulating environment for advanced studies in performance (including conducting), composition, musicology, music psychology, and music education.**

Each programme is highly flexible and carefully tailored to provide the finishing touches and real-world experience in preparation for your chosen career path.

Whether you aspire to work as a professional performer, composer, music educator or researcher, the skills you'll acquire as an RNCM postgraduate will set you on the right track for an exciting future, inspired by music.

- [rncm.ac.uk/postgraduate](https://rncm.ac.uk/postgraduate)



# MASTER OF MUSIC

**2 YEARS FULL-TIME | 1 YEAR INTENSIVE**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODES:**

**CLASSICAL SPECIALISMS: 2 YEARS: 801F | 1 YEAR: 805F**

**POPULAR MUSIC: 2 YEARS: 701F | 1 YEAR: 702F**

**COMPOSITION: 2 YEARS: 820F | 1 YEAR: 823F**

**CONDUCTING: 2 YEARS: 807F**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 OCTOBER**

Our MMus degree meets the diverse needs of the music professional and is ideal for those who have a strong vision of where their future is heading.

Helping you to shape your desired career via a personalised and flexible approach to study, you'll refine your creative and technical skills through one-to-one Principal Study training, specialist classes and masterclasses, lectures and seminars, and a range of performance opportunities. You'll also gain real-world experience through optional professional placements, benefit from performance, audition and networking opportunities with industry partners, and have the option to specialise in artistic research, musicology, music education or music psychology and undertake practical and research-based modules.

Composition builds on skills such as composition craft, technique, and creative conception, and explores areas including interpretative and reflective skills, approaches to different repertoire, and enhanced presentation and communication.

- [rncm.ac.uk/mmus](https://rncm.ac.uk/mmus)

## ROUTES AVAILABLE

Solo Performance (including Conducting (two years only), Répétiteur Studies, Accompaniment and Popular Music) focuses on training in advanced-level techniques, styles and practices of musical performance or conducting, and the development of critical and reflective approaches to relevant repertoire.

# MASTER OF PERFORMANCE

**2 YEARS FULL-TIME / 1 YEAR INTENSIVE**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODES:**

**CLASSICAL SPECIALISMS:**

**2 YEARS: W310 | 1 YEAR: M486**

**POPULAR MUSIC:**

**2 YEARS: W320 | 1 YEAR: W330**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**1 OCTOBER**

Our MPerf degree provides training in performance to the highest level.

Through a combination of intensive one-to-one Principal Study sessions, specialist classes and masterclasses, lectures, seminars and workshops, practical exercises and solo and ensemble performance opportunities, it's perfect for graduates who aspire to perform professionally.

The course also offers a compulsory research strand, training in instrumental teaching and the chance to gain real-world experience via an external industry placement, a guaranteed teaching placement and the opportunity to work with professionals to create and edit your own expertly-produced recording, ensuring your future is as sustainable as it is successful.

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

# POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA: ADVANCED STUDIES IN PERFORMANCE/ COMPOSITION

**1 YEAR FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODES:**

**PERFORMANCE: 601F**

**COMPOSITION: 620F**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**1 OCTOBER**

Our PGDip is ideal for performers and composers who have a master's-level qualification and wish to perfect their craft with us.

Designed to enhance your musical experience, the programme offers exceptional Principal Study training and group tuition, complemented by a flexible choice of modules that reflect the dynamic and evolving music industry. You'll also benefit from a range of performance and professional development opportunities to further enhance your creative and technical skills and employability.

## ROUTES AVAILABLE

Performance (including Conducting) focuses on training in advanced-level techniques, styles and practices of musical performance or conducting, and the development of critical and reflective approaches to relevant repertoire.

Composition builds on skills such as composition craft, technique, and creative conception, and explores areas including interpretative and reflective skills, approaches to different repertoire, and enhanced presentation and communication.

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



## PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COURSES

**Our commitment to providing world-class training extends to a portfolio of specialist courses that cater for exceptional performers and conductors and those who wish to work as music educators.**

They include our prestigious International Artist Diploma, the highly sought-after Junior Fellowship in Conducting and, amongst others, our PGCE in Music with Specialist Instrument Training, delivered in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University.





# POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOLO PERFORMANCE/CONDUCTING/ VOCAL STUDIES AND OPERA (INTERNATIONAL ARTIST DIPLOMA)

**SOLO PERFORMANCE/VOCAL STUDIES AND OPERA: 9 MONTHS FULL-TIME  
CONDUCTING: 18 MONTHS FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CONSERVATOIRES CODES:**

**SOLO PERFORMANCE/VOCAL STUDIES AND OPERA: IADP  
CONDUCTING: IADC**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 FEBRUARY**

Our IAD programme represents the pinnacle of achievement in performance at the RNCM and is intended for a small number of artists on the cusp of international careers.

Through intensive tuition and specialist classes, you'll receive advanced musical training to the highest level in performance or conducting, honing your artistic, technical, presentation and communication skills. You'll also expand your recital and concerto repertoire and benefit from prestigious performance opportunities.

Vocal Studies and Opera offers opportunities to work with international coaches, directors and conductors, develop performance skills through intensive one-to-one training, vocal consultancy and language coaching, experience a wide range of classes focusing on stage skills, and undertake major roles in RNCM Opera productions.

A maximum of four places are available each year. Admission is by competitive audition only and all students accepted will have their tuition fees covered in full.

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

## ROUTES AVAILABLE

Solo Performance and Conducting offer high-profile performance opportunities, bespoke packages of intensive one-to-one tuition with international tutors, access to a professional pianist, and professional career development. Assessment includes a full-evening public recital at the RNCM and a concerto performance with the BBC Philharmonic.

## POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (PGCE) IN MUSIC WITH SPECIALIST INSTRUMENTAL TEACHING

**12 MONTHS FULL-TIME**

**UCAS CODE: WX3C**

**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

Delivered in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, our PGCE is ideal for graduates with a true passion for music education who wish to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) while specialising in instrumental teaching.

Through exceptional tuition at both institutions, you'll develop your performance skills, enhance your understanding of various integrated teaching methodologies, and receive full training on how to teach music at secondary level. You'll also gain valuable experience from two teaching placements at secondary schools and music services in the region.

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

## MILLS WILLIAM JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP IN CONDUCTING

**TENABLE FOR 2 YEARS**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
EARLY-JANUARY**

Our Junior Fellowship in Conducting is a much sought-after position, providing one young conductor, about to enter the profession, an opportunity to gain widespread experience with the College's full range of ensembles.

Subject to agreement, Junior Fellows also have the chance for engagements with the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Manchester Camerata as well as an annual repertoire session with the Hallé. They also benefit from one-to-one training and masterclasses with Sir Mark Elder, Music Director of the Hallé and our International Chair in Conducting.

There's no age restriction for application, but the successful candidate is likely to be a recent graduate with some professional experience. Initial selection is made via an online application process, followed by a round of live auditions at the College. The position currently offers a stipend of £10,500 per year.

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

# RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

**Research is a cornerstone of the musical creativity and experimentation that flourishes at the RNCM, as well as a valuable activity in its own right.**

If you have a strongly defined idea of a research project in some aspect of music, and want the freedom to pursue it through rigorous enquiry and reflection, a research degree may well be right for you.

We offer routes in Musicology, Music Psychology, Music Education, Composition and Performance (performance practice or practice-led research), all of which enable us to form and consolidate connections between research, teaching and practice. Whatever path you choose, you'll have access to outstanding resources and facilities, exceptional supervision, individually tailored training, and opportunities for career development and enhancement at the RNCM, Manchester Metropolitan University (which validates and awards our research degrees) and through the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership.

All students are supported by a supervisory team, normally drawn from our specialist faculty and made up of a principal supervisor, a secondary supervisor, and a Director of Studies based at ManMet. Research topics and methods should be congruent with that of your principal supervisor, so we advise applicants to start the process by viewing our staff research interests, published in the Guidelines for Applicants on our website.

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

# Opportunities Around Every Corner

BE  
A  
VE  
PE



**The music industry has changed significantly in recent years, which is why we'll always encourage you to look beyond your studies.**

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With a growing trend towards portfolio careers, we want to ensure that you gain an all-round experience while you're with us. The range of professional and performance opportunities we offer will help you develop the skills needed to establish and maintain a successful future in a competitive sector.



# PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

**Embracing more than life on stage, performance is a key part of conservatoire training and one of the most exciting things about studying with us.**

Supported by our diverse artistic programme, opportunities include everything from large orchestral projects and cross-school collaborations, to full-scale opera productions, intimate chamber concerts and solo recitals.

Varying in size and focus, our orchestras and ensembles cover genres from classical to contemporary, and our thriving and energetic chamber music programme provides valuable opportunities to develop your skills through expert tuition, masterclasses and performance. You'll also have the chance to gain an understanding of early performing styles, repertoire and technique, and if you have an interest and passion for jazz or choral singing, you'll have the freedom and support to explore this too.

Guest conductors, composers and musicians also work with students throughout the year, heightening the breadth of training and musical perspectives we're proud to offer. And there are plenty of chances for you to propose your own projects via a host of creative initiatives throughout the year.

Our unrivalled performance opportunities mean that experiences aren't limited to the RNCM. Every year, many students head out on the road, presenting events at venues across the UK and taking part in exciting collaborations with professional organisations. Some students also tour overseas during their course. For example, our Symphony Orchestra has travelled to Italy to take part in Montepulciano's annual Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte for almost 20 years and our Big Band has participated in the Malta International Arts Festival and presented workshops and concerts in Changzhou, China.

Collaborations also provide valuable opportunities for performance in other countries. Popular music students have worked with peers from partner institutions in Amsterdam, Los Angeles Rotterdam and Valencia, and in 2018 over 100 classical musicians joined forces with students from the Paris Conservatoire for a series of concerts in Manchester, London and Paris to mark the end of the First World War.

- [rncm.ac.uk/performance](https://rncm.ac.uk/performance)







# PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**A whole strand of our undergraduate offer is dedicated to artist development.**

During your studies you'll learn how to market and promote yourself, develop and deliver independent projects and manage your finances.

All BMus students undertake an industry placement during their time with us, and Popular Music undergraduates complete a module on Professional Engagement, allowing them to work as freelance musicians or gain industry experience as part of their degree. Placements range from orchestral performance to marketing, fundraising and community outreach, both in the UK and, on occasion, overseas. You can also apply for paid work via our Student Ambassador Scheme, supporting our Marketing and Student Recruitment team to promote what we do to prospective students. And you can pitch your own project ideas to a panel of business and industry experts in the hope of securing funding and mentoring from invaluable entrepreneurs.

We've worked hard to forge strong relationships with orchestras and ensembles across Europe and are proud to have important partnerships with the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and Opera North closer to home. We also lead the International Benchmarking Group (IBG) and Interplay, two unique and established networks uniting outstanding institutions worldwide to enhance your professional and personal development.

Added to this, we've built substantial links with organisations such as the BBC at Salford's Media City and Global Radio (home of Classic FM), as well as numerous performing arts organisations, festivals and agencies across the UK and beyond, all of which provide exceptional opportunities for you to develop projects, embrace real-world experiences and refine your career aspirations.

- [rncm.ac.uk/professionallopportunities](https://rncm.ac.uk/professionallopportunities)



# FACILITIES

**Our exceptional facilities mean you're working in a professional environment from day one.**

We pride ourselves on offering high-quality performance and rehearsal spaces alongside outstanding resources.

## PERFORMANCES SPACES

The RNCM Concert Hall (745-seat) and Theatre (670-seat) are two of Manchester's largest performance and recording spaces. Our Concert Hall has undergone a multimillion pound redevelopment to include a balcony and the most advanced technical facilities and lighting, and both venues benefit from a purpose-built backstage area. We also house the Carole Nash Recital Room (117-seat) with outstanding acoustic properties and an on-site recording studio, a newly upgraded lecture theatre, seven large studio spaces (including Studio 8, the UK higher education sector's first Meyer Constellation system), over 70 tutorial and practice rooms, and eight Zoom rooms.

## RESOURCES

Ensuring you have access to the right technical resources and support is really important to us. All PCs and Macs within our IT Suite and Composition Labs have the latest copy of Sibelius software installed, every student has a personal Zoom account to support online activities, and there are WiFi hotspots throughout the College should you want to work remotely. Our IT team will support your learning with tools including an online portfolio management system, video conferencing facilities and Moodle (our virtual learning environment), and our Sound and Video department offers student recording services and AV equipment loan.

We're also home to an award-winning Library and fascinating Collection of Historic Musical Instruments, and we're proud to host Ensemble+, an initiative allowing a network of higher education and professional partners to share learning and teaching via high-tech remote communication.

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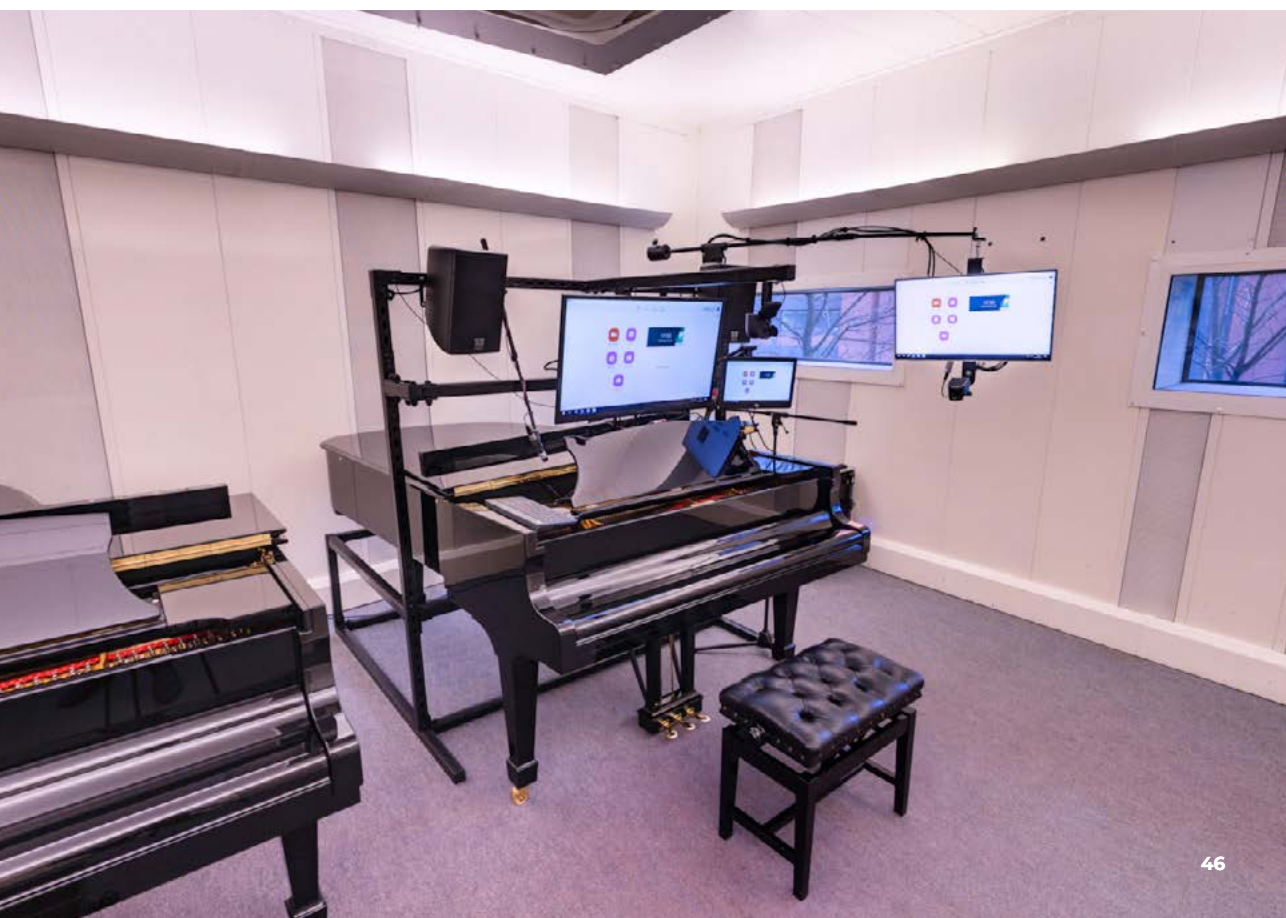
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# Endless Possibilities

ART  
AXIS


## Being part of the RNCM family doesn't end at graduation.

Whichever path you choose, wherever in the world, remaining part of your life is really important to us.

Our alumni network is integral to our DNA and we're continually impressed by the amazing things they achieve. Whether they're performing in venues throughout the world, inspiring a classroom of children, making an incredible difference in hospitals and care homes or utilising their skills in a different industry, their stories define who we are today and inspire where we could be tomorrow.

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





‘Signing with Intermusica management and making my début with top world orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic right after graduating was absolutely mind blowing and a thrilling sign of trust! The conducting course at the RNCM allowed me to be prepared to face orchestras in great serenity. Having had Sir Mark Elder around as a mentor was very valuable.’

**CHLOÉ VAN SOETERSTÈDE**

(CONDUCTING, 2017)

MARIN ALSOP TAKI CONCORDIA CONDUCTING FELLOW,  
SELECTED BY INTERMUSICA FOR FULL REPRESENTATION



**‘I’ll always be thankful to the RNCM for giving me the freedom to explore my love of opera and working with voices. Its first-class guidance enabled me to develop as a pianist and répétiteur and make essential connections to opera houses I’ve since worked for.’**

**JAMES HENDRY**

**(PIANO, 2012 AND RÉPÉTITEUR STUDIES, 2016)**

**CONDUCTOR WITH CONTRACTS AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE COVENT GARDEN,  
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA AND OPERA NORTH, ERSTE KAPELLMEISTER FOR THE  
STAATSOOPER HANNOVER AND ASSOCIATE OF THE RNCM**

‘I initially came to the RNCM to play classical music, which I’m still completely passionate about and want to play as much as possible. It’s just for me, as a musician, it’s important to put myself in different situations and prosper. Looking back, I think that while I enjoyed playing classical music, I also started to miss home quite a bit and playing African music was a good way of taking me back there.’

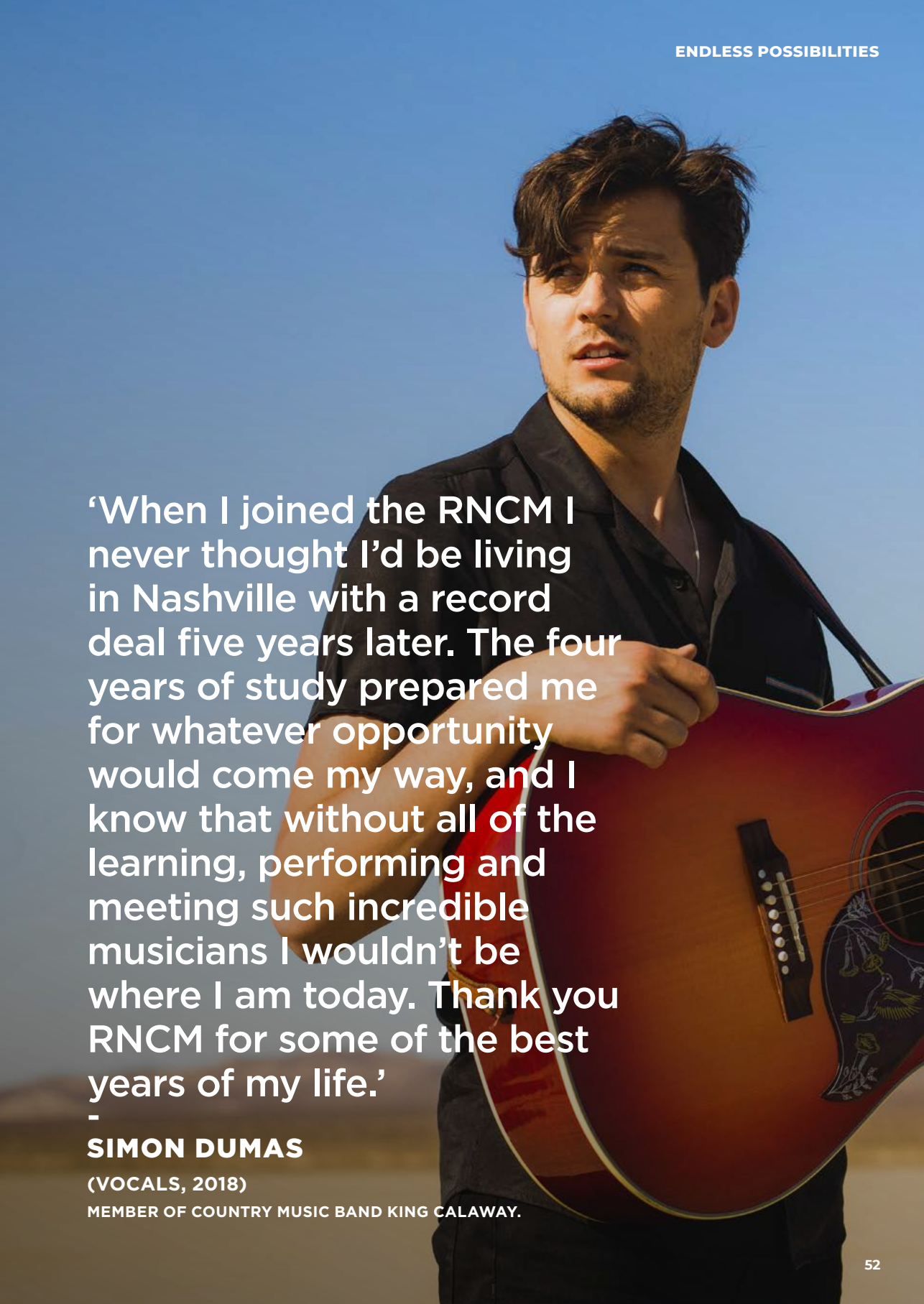
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## ABEL SELAOCOE

(CELLO, 2018)

AWARD-WINNING SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PLAYER, FOUNDER OF THE AFRICAN CELEBRATION TRIO CHESEBA AND ASSOCIATE OF THE RNCM





‘When I joined the RNCM I never thought I’d be living in Nashville with a record deal five years later. The four years of study prepared me for whatever opportunity would come my way, and I know that without all of the learning, performing and meeting such incredible musicians I wouldn’t be where I am today. Thank you RNCM for some of the best years of my life.’

—  
**SIMON DUMAS**

(VOCALS, 2018)

MEMBER OF COUNTRY MUSIC BAND KING CALAWAY.





‘My experience at the RNCM brought me much closer to my career goals. Forming the Ignition Orchestra project has been incredibly rewarding and I love working with musicians from differing backgrounds and influences to create something new and exciting. Performing to 5,500 people at the Royal Albert Hall was a definite highlight!’

**KATIE CHATBURN**

(COMPOSITION, 2014)

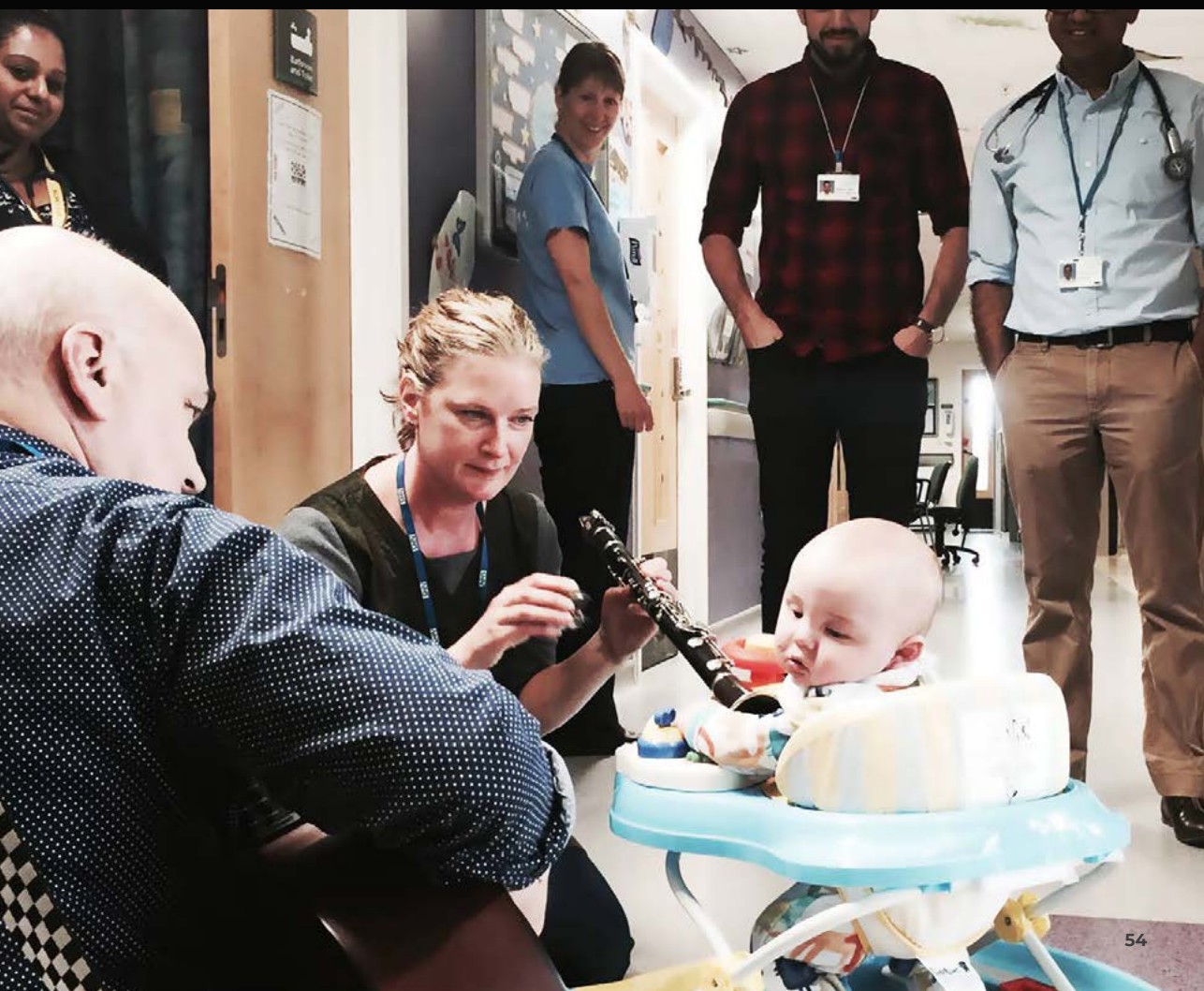
COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, ARRANGER AND  
FOUNDER OF THE IGNITION ORCHESTRA

**‘My experience at the RNCM laid the foundation for my future career. Being able to support today’s students in developing their musical skills in healthcare settings - to make a meaningful contribution to people’s lives - is a privilege.’**


**ROS HAWLEY**

**(CLARINET, 1993)**

**CO-FOUNDER OF LIME MUSIC FOR HEALTH, AN AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDES PLACEMENTS FOR RNCM STUDENTS TO WORK ON THE WARDS OF THE ROYAL MANCHESTER CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL EACH YEAR**







**‘My passion as a musician has always been to advocate strongly for the invigoration of classical music, and there is something in the spirit of the RNCM that really fuelled this. It is a community with such heart and I feel so lucky to have been a part of it.’**

**LINDA BEGBIE**

(BASSOON, 2014)

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR WITH MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE



‘With great enthusiasm I threw myself into life at the RNCM to make the most of the opportunity to hone my composing and conducting skills and develop a network of inspiring musicians. This combination enabled me to establish my own interdisciplinary company delivering both high-quality performance and high-impact participation, and most importantly, creating art that matters to me.’

**LEO GEYER**  
(COMPOSITION, 2014)

COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR. FOUNDER OF CONSTELLA OPERABALLET, THE WORLD’S ONLY COMPANY DEDICATED TO OPERA-BALLET, CREATING CUTTING-EDGE INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCES FOR TODAY’S AUDIENCE

‘It is difficult to understate quite how significant my time at the RNCM has been for my development as an artist and social entrepreneur. From the time I first arrived, the RNCM has supported me to explore my creative potential, develop my networks and use what I have learnt to the greatest possible impact. It is truly a unique music conservatoire environment. Movers and shakers of the world, you know where to come.’

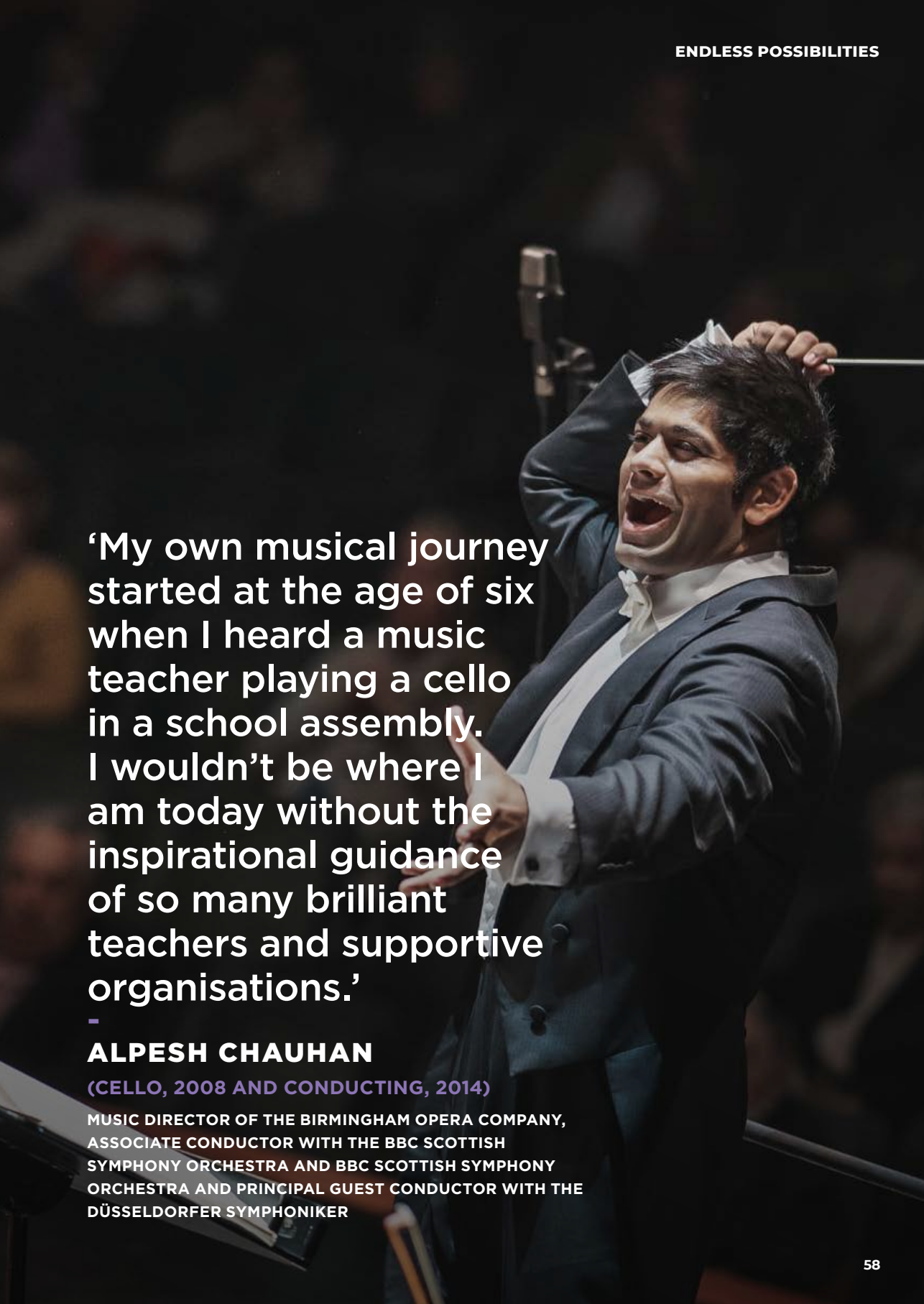
**JO YEE CHEUNG**

(PIANO, 2014)

DIRECTOR OF THE OLYMPIAS MUSIC FOUNDATION







**‘My own musical journey started at the age of six when I heard a music teacher playing a cello in a school assembly. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the inspirational guidance of so many brilliant teachers and supportive organisations.’**

**ALPESH CHAUHAN**

**(CELLO, 2008 AND CONDUCTING, 2014)**

MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE BIRMINGHAM OPERA COMPANY,  
ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR WITH THE BBC SCOTTISH  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA AND PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR WITH THE  
DÜSSELDORFER SYMPHONIKER




**‘China is my home country, but I call Manchester my home, so it’s a very special feeling for me to be in between the two, building and facilitating the RNCM’s relationship with Chinese conservatoires.’**

**LE YU**

**(PERCUSSION, 2014)**

**RNCM DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERCUSSION, INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT FOR CHINA, ASSOCIATE OF THE RNCM AND ONE HALF OF THE AWARD-WINNING AURORA PERCUSSION DUO ALONGSIDE DELIA STEVENS (PERCUSSION, 2014)**





‘Music is a language understood by everyone and can help children and adults to develop communication and interpersonal skills, co-ordination and discipline, as well as being a great source of fun.’

**NORIKO TSUZAKI**

(VIOLIN, 2006)

HEAD OF SPECIAL NEEDS AT THE ELGAR SCHOOL OF MUSIC,  
FOUNDER OF SPECIAL VIRTUOSI AND EDUCATION OFFICER  
AND SUB-PRINCIPAL NO 4 FIRST VIOLIN WITH  
THE ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# DO WHAT YOU LOVE

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

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