

Do  
What  
You  
Love

RNCM  
ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE of MUSIC



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A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark hair, smiling warmly. She is holding a violin with her left hand, and the instrument's scroll is visible in the upper left. She is wearing a dark, ribbed sweater with a decorative silver chain and circular ornaments at the neckline. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with warm lighting.

# Part One



# **A Passion for Music**

## **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 innovative conservatoires in 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 amazing things they achieve both on and off stage.

Dedicated to defining the future of music, the RNCM has remained at the forefront of music education globally for over 50 years. We're proud to be ranked number five for music in the QS World University Rankings (alongside New York's prestigious Juilliard School) and to be rated Gold in all areas of the Teaching Excellence Framework. We're also the recipient of five Times Higher Education Awards (including Entrepreneurial University of the Year), a Global Teaching Excellence Spotlight Award, two Greater China Awards, and three HEIST Awards, all of which highlight our commitment to ensuring that every student can create an incredible future, inspired by music.



# Royal Northern College of Music







**'Innovation  
and creativity  
lie at the core of all  
we do, empowering  
our students to  
develop high level  
specialist and  
vocational skills  
with which they will  
transform the future  
music industry.'**

**Professor Linda Merrick CBE  
Principal**

A photograph of a live music performance in a large venue. The stage is illuminated with bright yellow and purple lights. A band of several members is performing, with one member in the center having their arms raised. The background features large, stylized circular light patterns. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a large crowd of people are visible, looking towards the stage.

# Manchester

A photograph of a live music performance from the perspective of the audience. The stage is illuminated with warm orange and yellow lights, with a large, bright circular light source on the left. A band is performing, including a guitarist in a white shirt, a drummer, and several other musicians. The foreground is filled with the silhouettes of the audience's heads, creating a sense of being part of the event.

A city  
that **lives** and  
**breathes music**





## **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, an incredible sporting legacy, and a thriving LGBTQ+ community.

A pioneering place of firsts, Manchester is known the world over for talent and innovation. Music of all genres runs in its veins, and we're proud to be part of that legacy. At venues ranging from the impressive Co-op Live to the stunning Bridgewater Hall and intimate Hallé St Peter's, the city provides plenty of opportunities to enjoy classical and contemporary performers, from home grown to international artists, every day of the week. And from our base on Oxford Road, the RNCM is perfectly placed to enjoy it all. Excellent transport links for overseas and UK travel make coming in and out of the city easy and the centre of town is just a 20-minute walk away.



**'I never  
thought I  
would actually  
end up here...  
but it was the  
best decision  
I could have  
ever made.'**

**Gema Lu Cai**  
BMus (Hons), piano





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

Our Academic Services 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 RNCM. Our students occupy a large number of its 612 rooms, the majority of which are ensuite 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 two senior residents and a team of staff on hand to help you settle in from day one and provide support and assistance if needed. For students who prefer to rent a flat or share a house privately, Manchester has an abundance of accommodation within easy distance of the RNCM: in its many vibrant neighbourhoods, in the city centre, and in its suburbs.

**'I love working  
at the RNCM  
because of the  
students. They are  
so talented and easy  
to approach so we're  
always chatting  
in the café – that's  
my favourite thing.'**


**Audrey Lawson**  
Food and Beverage Assistant







# Wellbeing

A photograph showing the back of a man and a woman. The man is in the foreground, wearing a dark blue jacket over a patterned shirt. The woman is behind him, with long brown hair, also wearing a dark blue jacket. They are both looking out a window towards a bright, overcast sky. The text "Student wellbeing has never been more important to us." is overlaid in white on the man's jacket.

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

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

**Dr Sara Ascenso**  
Lecturer in Musicians' Health and Wellbeing

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

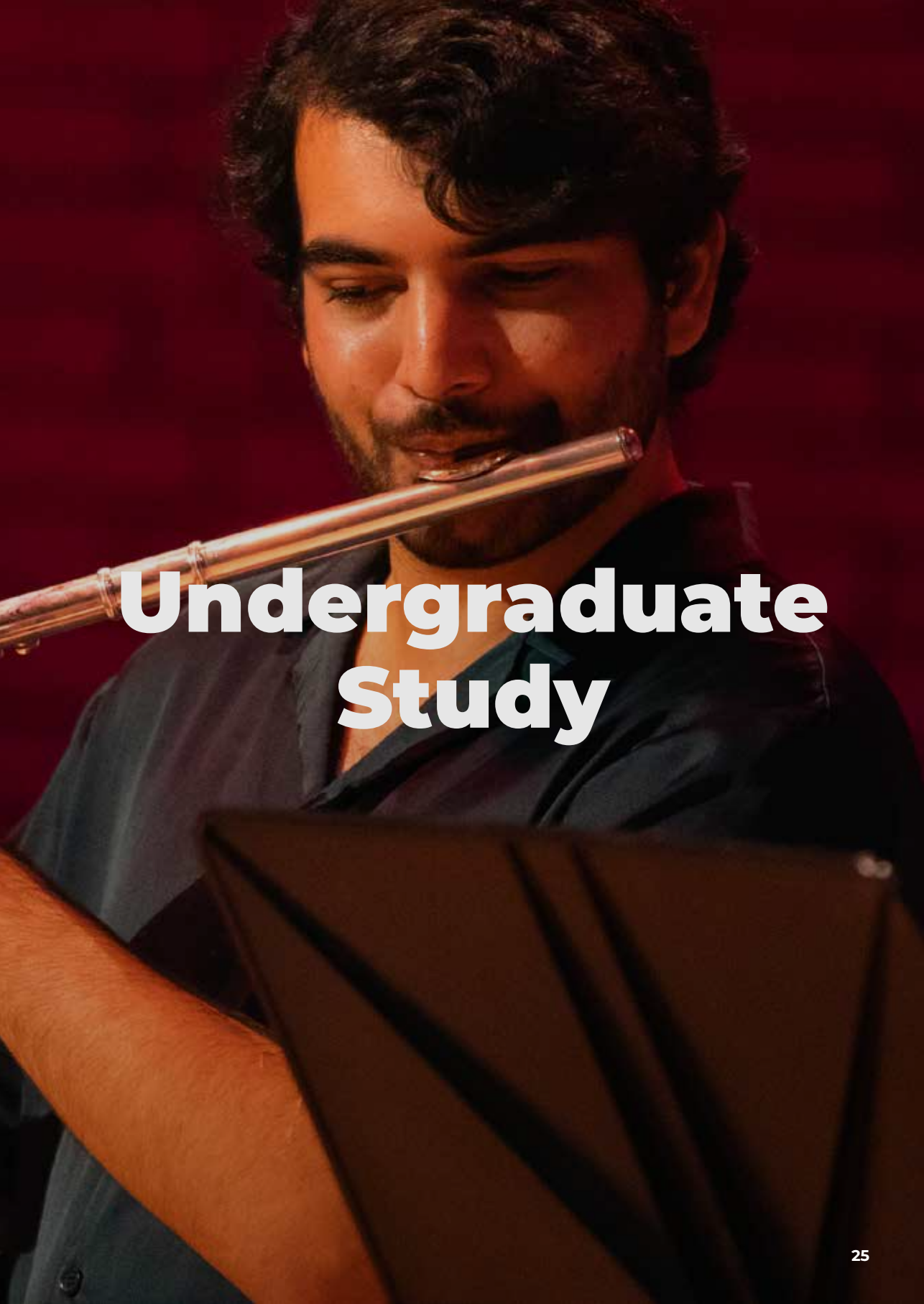
With a dedicated Lecturer in Musicians' Health and Wellbeing and a Wellbeing Hub onsite, we're fast developing a robust and holistic wellness provision that is tailored to musicians' needs, evidence-based, and embedded in the curriculum. We have a fantastic team of advisors, counsellors, and mental health first aiders, and we're proud to be part of the Greater Manchester Universities Student Mental Health Service – a collaborative centre providing mental health assessment, support, and treatment to students during their studies.

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 positive physical and psychological health are at the core of your student experience.





# Part Two



# Undergraduate Study



Scan to find out more

**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, jazz, or brass band route, or want to pursue popular music, our Undergraduate School offers the flexibility to build a programme that's right for you.

Studying alongside like-minded individuals, you'll enhance and refine your technical, creative, and critical skills, developing professionally and personally within a stimulating and enviable environment.







**BMus (Hons)**  
**4 years full-time | 3 years full-time (direct entry to Year 2)**  
**UCAS Conservatoires Code: 300F**  
**Application Deadline: 2 October**



# Bachelor of Music with Honours

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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 delivered to the highest standard.

With a clear emphasis on success, fulfilment, and musical wellbeing, the course provides the freedom to focus on areas key to your progression, helping you to master the skills needed to build and enjoy a career that shapes tomorrow's industry.

## 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, collaboration with other artists, popular music projects, and opera.

## Professional Development

Students undertake professional placements, design and lead their own creative projects, and receive expert tuition in industry-relevant skills, including conducting, teaching, recording and multimedia, 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 with the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Radio 3, Opera North, The Bridgewater Hall, One Education Music, and The Untold Orchestra. And, with the guidance of a professional mentor, independent creative projects can 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

Expand your knowledge and horizons by honing your critical thinking and communication skills through advanced training in performance studies, musicianship, theory, and cultural context. 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, music psychology, and the music industry.

# Bachelor of Music with Honours in Popular Music

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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 embraces innovation and diversity, empowering you to be ambitious and imaginative while actively encouraging and supporting you to develop your career alongside your studies.

## **Principal Study**

As a Popular Music student, you'll be treated as a professional from day one, with flexibility to create your own bespoke package while majoring in one of our core areas of study: artist development, performance, composition, and production.

Principal disciplines include bass guitar, guitar, drums, keyboards, and vocals, and we welcome applications from pop-focussed brass, percussion, strings, and woodwind instrumentalists, as well as DJs, MCs, and producers.

## **Opportunities and Tuition**

An impressive roster of visiting professors 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 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 perform in venues across Manchester as part of our RNCM Artists Live series of events, and to perform and record with our partners The Metropole Orkest and Abbey Road Institute.



**BMusP (Hons)**  
**4 years full-time**  
**UCAS Conservatoires Code: 201F**  
**Application Deadline: 2 October**



**GRNCM/MusB (Hons)**  
**4 years full-time**  
**UCAS Conservatoires Code: 399F**  
**Application Deadline: 2 October**

# Graduate Diploma of the RNCM/Bachelor of Music with Honours (UoM)

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

The distinctive and competitive pairing of these programmes is designed for students who enjoy not only being busy performers and composers with a wide variety of professional experience, but also intelligent musical thinkers.

Study comprises the entire three-year MusB (Hons) programme at The University of Manchester and approximately two-thirds of our four-year Bachelor of Music with Honours (BMus (Hons)) or Bachelor of Music with Honours in Popular Music (BMusP (Hons)). Your time with us involves intensive one-

to-one tuition, specialist classes and masterclasses, performance opportunities and a series of modules dedicated to ensembles, a professional industry placement, production and composition (for Popular Music students), and a wealth of elective options. This is complemented by the strong academic foundation gained through your studies.

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

## 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) and BMusP (Hons) programmes.



A photograph of a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a yellow t-shirt. He is playing a silver trumpet. In the foreground, the neck and headstock of a dark-colored electric guitar are visible. The scene is lit with warm orange and yellow stage lights, creating a soft glow. The text "Part Three" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Part Three



# Graduate School





Scan to find out more

**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.



# Master of Music

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

Helping you to shape your desired career via a personalised and flexible approach to study, this degree is designed to refine your artistic and technical skills through one-to-one Principal Study training, specialist classes and masterclasses, lectures and seminars, and a range of performance and creative opportunities. You'll also gain real-world experience through optional professional placements and performance, auditions, and networking opportunities with industry partners. Alongside this, you'll have the option to specialise in artistic research, musicology, music education, music psychology, and philosophy and music, as well as composition, instrumental, and vocal teaching specialisms.

## Routes Available

**Solo Performance** (including Conducting, two years only, Repetiteur Studies and Accompaniment) 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.

**Solo Performance** (Popular Music) is a hub for artist development, bridging the gap between undergraduate studies and research. It serves as a creative playground, fostering innovation and drawing upon cutting-edge research and industry practices.

**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.

**Joint Principal Study** is possible in exceptional cases, for applicants who demonstrate the capability to study at postgraduate level in two disciplines, which can be in performance, or performance and composition.





**MMus**

**2 years full-time | 1 year full-time 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: 2 October**

# Master of Performance

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Through a combination of advanced practical and pedagogical training and vocational studies, our MPerf degree heightens the skills and techniques needed to ensure you thrive.

It's perfect for graduates who are looking to become professional performers, providing exceptional one-to-one tuition, solo and ensemble performance opportunities, as well as specialist guidance on self-promotion. You'll also receive training in instrumental teaching, have the chance to gain

real-world experience via an external industry placement, and work with professionals to create and edit your own expertly produced recording, ensuring your future is as sustainable as it is successful.

## **Routes Available**

**Performance** in Keyboard, Strings, Voice, Wind, Brass, Percussion, and Popular Music.

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## **MPerf**

**2 years full-time | 1 year full-time intensive**

**UCAS Conservatoires Codes:**

**Classical Specialisms: 2 years: W310 | 1 year: M486**

**Popular Music: 2 years: W320 | 1 year: W330**

**Application Deadline: 2 October**

# Postgraduate Diploma: Advanced Studies

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Our PGDip is ideal for performers and composers who have a postgraduate 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 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.

Current PGDip students may also have the option to pursue further study on completion, by undertaking a second PGDip programme, refining their interests

to focus on a doubling instrument or opera role study within the performance route.

## **Routes Available**

**Performance** (including Popular Music) focuses on training in advanced-level techniques, styles, and practices of musical performance, 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 relevant repertoire, and enhanced presentation and communication.

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## **PGDip**

**1 year full-time**

**UCAS Conservatoires Codes:**

**Performance: 601F**

**Composition: 620F**

**Application Deadline: 2 October**



**MEd**

**UCAS Conservatoires Codes:**

**Master of Education: 1 year full-time: 901F | 2 years part-time: 902P**

**Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies: Education: 904F**

**Postgraduate Certificate in Education: 903C**

**Application Deadline: Accepted throughout the year**

# Master of Education

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Our new and industry-leading MEd is for music teaching professionals who wish to gain further training and accreditation for their teaching and/or conducting practice. It's perfect if you've completed an undergraduate or postgraduate course at a university or conservatoire and are now looking to specialise in education.


Through timetabled and optional modules, flexible supervision, and placements, you'll develop knowledge of relevant and current educational concepts to inform your own practice and learn how to creatively respond to the ever-changing developments in pedagogy and music education. You'll also graduate with a clear understanding of how to promote healthy and holistic approaches to learning and teaching.

Additionally, the MEd boasts a specialised pathway in Conducting for Community or Youth Ensembles, which is ideal if you work in music education and regularly conduct as part of your job (or aspire to), conduct amateur orchestras, bands, choirs, and other ensembles, are a military musician looking to enhance your career prospects, or are a professional musician who wants to bring conducting into your future plans.

## **Routes Available**

In addition to the full MEd (180 credits), this programme offers two other potential routes: a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies (120 credits) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (90 credits).





**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 Instrumental Training, delivered in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University.

# Professional and Vocational Courses



Scan to find out more

# International Artist Diploma

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Our International Artist Diploma (IAD) programme represents the pinnacle of achievement in performance and is intended for a small number of postgraduate 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.

## **Routes Available**

**Solo Performance** offers high-profile opportunities to perform, bespoke packages of intensive one-to-one tuition with international professors, 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.

**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 across all disciplines each year and admission is by competitive audition only. All applicants are expected to hold a Master's degree, although significant professional experience may be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Successful applicants will have their tuition fees covered in full.

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## **IAD**

**Solo Performance/Vocal Studies and Opera: 9 months full-time**

**UCAS Conservatoires Code: IADP**

**Application Deadline: 1 February**

# Mills Williams Junior Fellow in Conducting

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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 our 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 Professor Nicolás Pasquet, 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. An RNCM International Artist Diploma in Conducting is awarded on successful completion of this programme.

## **Additional Fellowships**

Other RNCM Fellowships are available for experienced orchestral musicians, accompanists, répétiteurs, and chamber ensembles. Commencing each September, these are competitive positions that provide exceptional opportunities for you to refine your professional experience across a range of settings.

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**Tenable for 2 years**  
**Application Deadline: Spring 2025**



# Postgraduate Certificate in Secondary Education (PGCE) in Music with Specialist Instrumental Teaching

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Delivered with Manchester Metropolitan University, this PGCE is ideal for graduates 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 in the region.

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**12 months full-time**

**Applications via Manchester Metropolitan University**

**Application Deadline: Accepted throughout the year**





# Research Degree Programmes

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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 be right for you.

We offer pathways 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. Each pathway can be followed separately or in combination with another. Whichever pathway(s) 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 currently 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 primary supervisor, a secondary supervisor, and a principal supervisor based at Manchester Met.

Research topics and methods should be congruent with that of your primary supervisor, so we advise applicants to start the process by viewing current staff research interests, published on our website.



**'I love  
working as  
an usher at the  
RNCM - the team is  
absolutely amazing,  
and there's never a  
boring shift with  
the sheer variety  
of events that  
happen here!'**

**Nia Edwards**

BMus (Hons), mezzo-soprano  
Front of House Usher





# Part Four





# **Schools of Study**





Scan to find out more



# Composition

**'I love seeing our students develop their craft and build the confidence to hear their music come alive. They engage with diverse approaches to composition in a supportive, adventurous School.'**

**Dr Larry Goves, Head of Composition**

Immersed in the legacy of Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Alexander Goehr, Sally Beamish, Benjamin Wallfisch, Emily Howard, Daniel Kidane, and Grace-Evangeline Mason, our School of Composition is a laboratory of invention. It's a place where new things happen, where artistry evolves and compositions come alive: on stage, on screen, online, and in the studio.

With a focus on developing your own compositional identity and professional skills, you'll learn from inspirational professors through intensive one-to-one training, classes in compositional techniques, and regular School-wide seminars. You'll also have the chance to try out your works in progress via our Composer Lab and enjoy live performances of your pieces by

our Brand New Orchestra and other ensembles. All students also have the chance to undertake specialist training in composition with technology and sound art and can access immersive audio and a reactive acoustic through our world-class Studio 8.

Festivals focusing 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, Hallé, Northern Ballet School, and the Filmmaking and Creative Writing courses at Manchester Metropolitan University) bring real-world experiences and interdisciplinary collaborations.

# 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 Keyboard Studies**

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, contemporary music, collaboration, teaching, or becoming a repetiteur, the well-rounded training you'll receive will prepare you for a rewarding portfolio career.

Principal Study tuition is available in piano, harpsichord, and additionally in accompaniment for postgraduates. We house arguably the best fleet of pianos in the UK, including 51 Steinways and 80 Yamahas, and harpsichordists have access to a large range of period instruments. We have previously had inspiring masterclasses and talks from world-renowned artists

such as Dame Imogen Cooper, Lang Lang, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Angela Hewitt, Alfred Brendel, Richard Goode, Noriko Ogawa, and András Schiff. Our international chairs in piano, Sir Stephen Hough and Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, regularly visit the college for classes, clinics, and one-to-one lessons.

Opportunities to perform include a weekly performance class, internal competitions (including our prestigious Gold Medal), professional engagements throughout the country, and public concerts and festivals 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.



Scan to find out more







Scan to find out more



# Strings

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 professors 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 Northern Sinfonia (orchestra of The Glasshouse), Manchester Camerata and Manchester Collective, 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.

**'We equip students with practical and tangible steps so that they can become the best version of themselves and find their own unique place in our evolving profession.'**

**Chris Hoyle, Head of Strings**

# Vocal Studies and Opera

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

Drawing on the expertise of our dedicated professors, 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 participate in public recitals, concerts and biannual Opera Scenes, ensembles

such as the RNCM Chamber Choir and RNCM Songsters, a host of internal and external competitions and professional engagements, and our fully staged opera productions. Open to vocalists in all years, RNCM operas are performed in our 670-seat 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 the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Opera North, Buxton International Festival, and Edvard Grieg Korene in Norway provide enviable opportunities for further professional development, and we're fortunate to be the home of postgraduate Repetiteur Studies, providing intensive training for pianists wishing to enhance their skills in this area.

**'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 Vocal Studies and Opera**



Scan to find out more







Scan to find out more



# Wind, Brass and Percussion

**'We always try to look for, acknowledge, and nurture the potential of our students. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than seeing them thrive on the variety, quantity, and quality of opportunities afforded to them, and in doing so ultimately realising their true potential.'**

**Kevin Gowland, Murray Greig and Simone Rebello**

Heads of Wind, Brass and Percussion.

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 RNCM and through Professional Experience Schemes with partners including the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, and Opera North. These enable students to develop their musical and personal skills and gain an understanding of the professional protocol in a range of settings. Students within the

School also undertake additional lessons on their relevant doubling, associated, or jazz instrument, further enhancing their progression as a versatile and industry-ready musician.

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

# 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.'**

**Professor Andy Stott**, Head of Popular Music

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 artistic development and teach the essential skills of performance, composition, and production.

Through a combination of intensive individual lessons, 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 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.

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.



Scan to find out more







Scan to find out more



# 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 skills to advance with confidence in the profession.

In addition to conducting student instrumental and opera performances, the most valuable gift you can receive is the opportunity to lead experienced players within world-class orchestras. This is why our partnerships with the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata, Northern Ballet, and others are integral to our offer. Postgraduates and Junior Fellows work as assistant conductors with

the BBC Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and have podium opportunities with the others, and MMus students take their final examinations in concert with the BBC Philharmonic.

Students from other disciplines receive a uniquely comprehensive and varied range of electives throughout all years of study, and a pathway exists allowing undergraduates to take more than 50 per cent of their final year credits in conducting.

Complementary to this is a discrete pathway for conductors within our Master of Education degree. This is ideal if you work in music education and regularly conduct as part of your job (or aspire to), conduct amateur orchestras, bands, choirs, and other ensembles, are a military musician looking to enhance your career prospects, or are a professional musician who wants to bring conducting into your future plans.

**'It's a great privilege to guide the incredibly talented young conductors at the RNCM and to watch them constantly grow through the many and varied experiences we give them.'**

**Professor Mark Heron**, Head of Conducting

**'Our programmes  
are designed to  
ensure that every  
student has the same  
opportunity to access  
the learning that they  
need to become fabulous  
musicians, leaders,  
and educators, with a  
deep sense of social  
responsibility and  
artistic integrity.'**

**Professor Jennie Henley**

Director of Programmes and Professor in Music Education

# ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC MASTERS







# Part Five

A photograph of a string orchestra featuring young musicians. In the foreground, a young man on the left and a young woman in the center are playing violins. They are looking intently at their instruments. Behind them, other musicians, including a young woman on the right, are visible, some playing violas. The scene is lit with warm, reddish-orange stage lights, creating a focused and artistic atmosphere. The text "Opportunities Around Every Corner" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Opportunities Around Every Corner

# Performance Opportunities

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

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 is central to your conservatoire education and one of the most exciting things about studying with us.


We are one of the UK's busiest live music venues and our diverse and innovative public performance programme provides an incredible range of solo, chamber, and collaborative opportunities across all genres each year. Flagship ensembles include our Symphony, Chamber, and Opera Orchestras, our renowned Brass Band, our Wind

Orchestra, Big Band, and Session Orchestra (which brings together students from our Classical and Popular Music programmes), and our Brand New Orchestra (which allows student composers to have their works performed publicly).

Innovation, creativity, collaboration, and co-curation are strongly encouraged through initiatives such as our MIUAWGA (Make It Up As We Go Along) improvisation ensemble and our annual Lab Week. Both provide students with the space to explore cutting-edge ideas, new music, and new ways to perform within a truly 'safe to fail' environment. We also host several festivals throughout the year, including the International Brass Band Festival and individual days dedicated to strings, saxophone, and percussion. These enable you to perform with and alongside some of the most exciting and internationally





A high-angle, wide shot of a large choir performing in a modern concert hall. The choir is arranged in multiple tiers, filling the central part of the stage. They are holding sheet music and appear to be singing. To the left, a large, modern organ with many tall, cylindrical pipes is visible. The stage floor is light-colored wood. In the foreground, the backs of some audience members' heads are visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the performers.

**'As a conservatoire, we don't just conserve, we create. Today, we are proud to promote one of the most extensive and diverse programmes of new and contemporary music in the UK, enabling students to share, express, explore, and develop their own ideas and personal voices.'**

**Manus Carey**  
Deputy Principal (Performance and Programmes)





# Professional Opportunities

**Our home in one of the most exciting cultural cities in the world provides invaluable opportunities across our local networks and an unrivalled set of partnerships within the music and creative industries.**

From leading organisations such as the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata, Opera North, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and Norway's Edvard Grieg Korene, to the innovative Manchester Collective, our students benefit from unique Professional Experience Schemes that offer valuable pathways into various areas of the profession, and provide early employment opportunities for many of our graduates. Complementing this, the RNCM is proud to lead the International Benchmarking Group (IBG) and Interplay, two established networks uniting outstanding institutions worldwide to enhance your professional and personal development as you study.

Artist development is embedded within our curricula, providing you with real-world experience as you build the skills needed for a career in today's industry. All BMus students undertake an industry placement during their time with us, and Popular Music undergraduates complete a professional engagement module, allowing you to work as a freelance musician or gain industry experience as part of your degree. Placements include community engagement and education, arts administration and management, concert management and recording, performance, teaching, and fundraising at key organisations across the UK and, on occasion, overseas. You can also



Scan to find out more

apply for paid work via our Student Ambassador Scheme, and you can pitch your own creative ideas to a panel of business and industry experts in the hope of securing funding and invaluable mentoring from entrepreneurs. Alongside this, we'll teach you how to market and promote yourself, develop and deliver independent projects, and manage your finances.

If you're an RNCM postgraduate, your professional development will be fully supported through a range of projects and initiatives designed to bridge the gap between study and professional life.



A photograph of two young women standing in a room with a large window in the background. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved jumpsuit and is holding a violin. The woman on the right is wearing a blue and black denim jacket over a black top and is also holding a violin. The room has a concrete wall with some graffiti and a wooden floor. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights from the window.

**'The Creative Innovators Award forced us to think about creating a business plan and to really decide the direction of our career after college. The key skills we gained from that initiative included planning and budgeting for gigs, creating promotional materials, and learning how to communicate our message. The aims and goals we wrote at that time are still the same aims and goals we have today.'**

**Vulva Voce**  
Alumni String Ensemble





# Facilities









Scan to view our 360 virtual tour

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

The RNCM Concert Hall and RNCM Theatre are two of Manchester's largest performance and recording spaces and benefit from advanced technical facilities and lighting, and a purpose-built backstage area. We also house the Carole Nash Recital Room with outstanding acoustic properties and an onsite recording studio, the Forman 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, a fascinating archive and museum (including our Collection of Historic Musical Instruments), and a multi-award-winning library.







**'We're really  
proud to offer  
a service, no matter  
how big or small,  
that ensures our  
students have  
the best possible  
experience while  
they're here.'**

**Stuart Bowkett**

Porter





# Part Six



# Endless Possibilities

**Porij (popular music, various years)**  
Nathan Carroll, Scout Moore, James Middleton, and Jacob Maguire

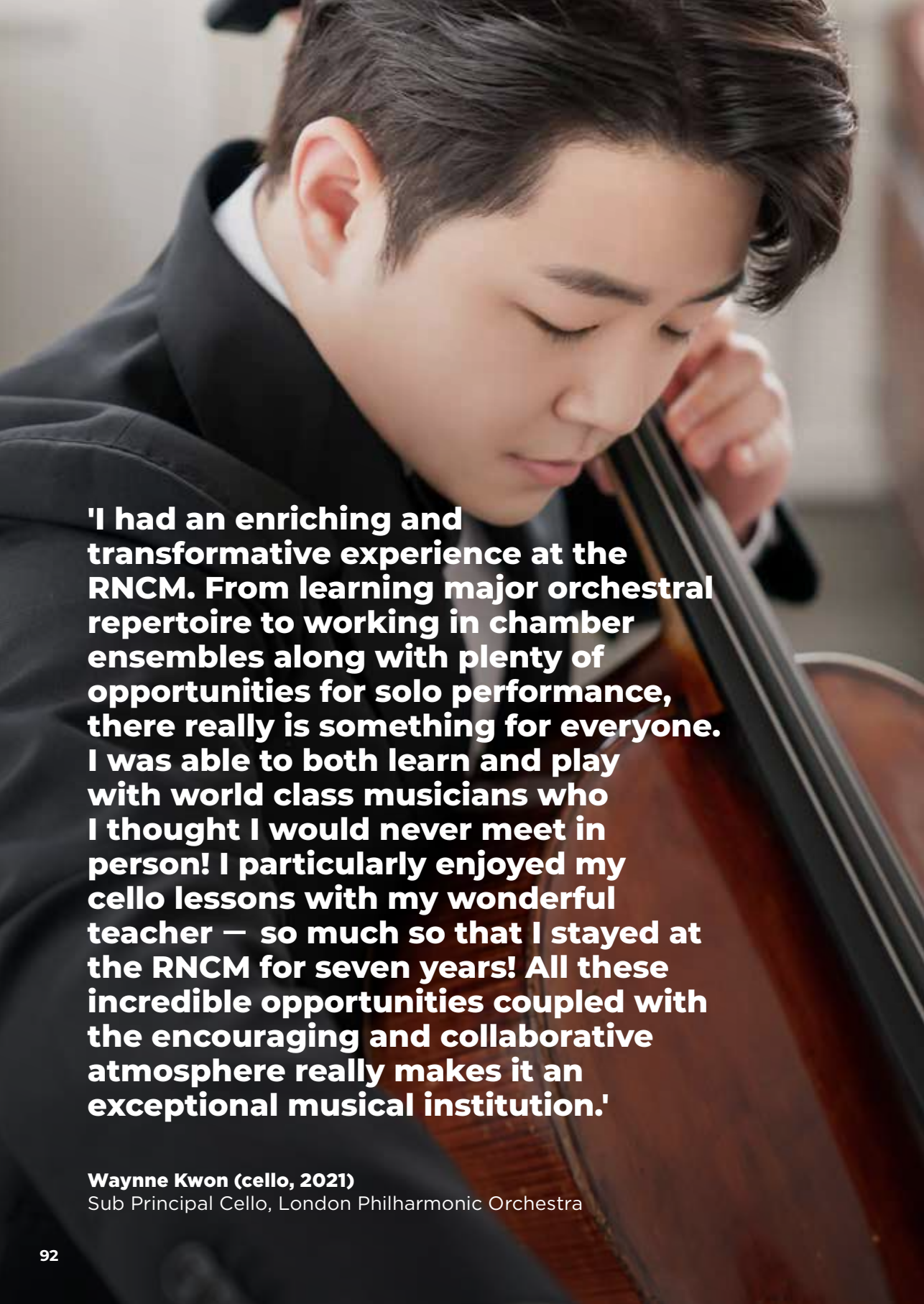
Abel Selaocoe (cello, 2018)



## **Being part of our 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.






**'I had an enriching and transformative experience at the RNCM. From learning major orchestral repertoire to working in chamber ensembles along with plenty of opportunities for solo performance, there really is something for everyone. I was able to both learn and play with world class musicians who I thought I would never meet in person! I particularly enjoyed my cello lessons with my wonderful teacher — so much so that I stayed at the RNCM for seven years! All these incredible opportunities coupled with the encouraging and collaborative atmosphere really makes it an exceptional musical institution.'**

**Waynne Kwon (cello, 2021)**

Sub Principal Cello, London Philharmonic Orchestra

A close-up portrait of a young woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a large black hat. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a textured wall with some colorful abstract patterns.

**'It's difficult to state 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 make the greatest possible impact. It is truly a unique music conservatoire environment. Movers and shakers of the world: you know where to come.'**

**Dr Jo Yee Cheung (piano, 2014)**  
Chief Executive of Olympias Music Foundation

**'The RNCM's fresh and innovative approach was the reason I moved to Manchester. My teachers on the MMus course guided me with so much insight and inspiration, creating a warm community in which to grow. The College also provided a great site for artistic experimentation and creative risk-taking — the best way to learn! I went on to work with companies such as Rambert, Glyndebourne, Dutch National Ballet, and many more, but it's not surprising that I returned to the RNCM a few years later to do a PhD; it felt like coming back home.'**


**Anna Appleby (composition, 2024)**

Opera composer, pop musician and recent PRiSM Doctoral Researcher with the BBC Philharmonic







A portrait of Ellie Slorach, a woman with short, light brown hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a white t-shirt under a blue and white patterned jacket. The background is a blurred, colorful pattern of red, yellow, and blue, with white diagonal lines.

**'At the RNCM, I had unparalleled opportunities on the podium working with orchestras and choirs across many varying genres of music, plus acting as assistant conductor on projects for all the major orchestras in the North West. It was a springboard into the profession and I'm really glad to now be living and working in Manchester!'**

**Ellie Slorach (conducting, 2018)**  
Founder of Kantos Chamber Choir

A portrait of Dorothy Yeung, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

**'I had a transformative experience at the RNCM that shaped both my personal and professional growth. It taught me to be the best version of myself, to embrace it and let it shine! The collaborative and dynamic learning environment also helped me develop my critical thinking and problem-solving abilities which I use every day of my life. My career path has taken me to some challenging and extremely interesting roles, from artist management to an innovative technology start-up, and now at Deloitte Switzerland. The RNCM gives you a springboard to success!'**

**Dorothy Yeung (piano, 2000)**

Firmwide Internal Communications Manager, Deloitte Switzerland





**'It's hard to summarise what I learned at the RNCM...The top-quality teaching has been incredibly valuable for me as a player, but equally important are the skills that I have needed further down the line that I never even realised I was cultivating whilst studying. Advocacy, for myself and others, and communication are the things that immediately come to mind. In today's music industry you need a lot of skills beyond just being a great player to have a healthy and fulfilling career, and in hindsight, the RNCM really helped prepare me for that.'**

**Linton Stephens (bassoon, 2009)**

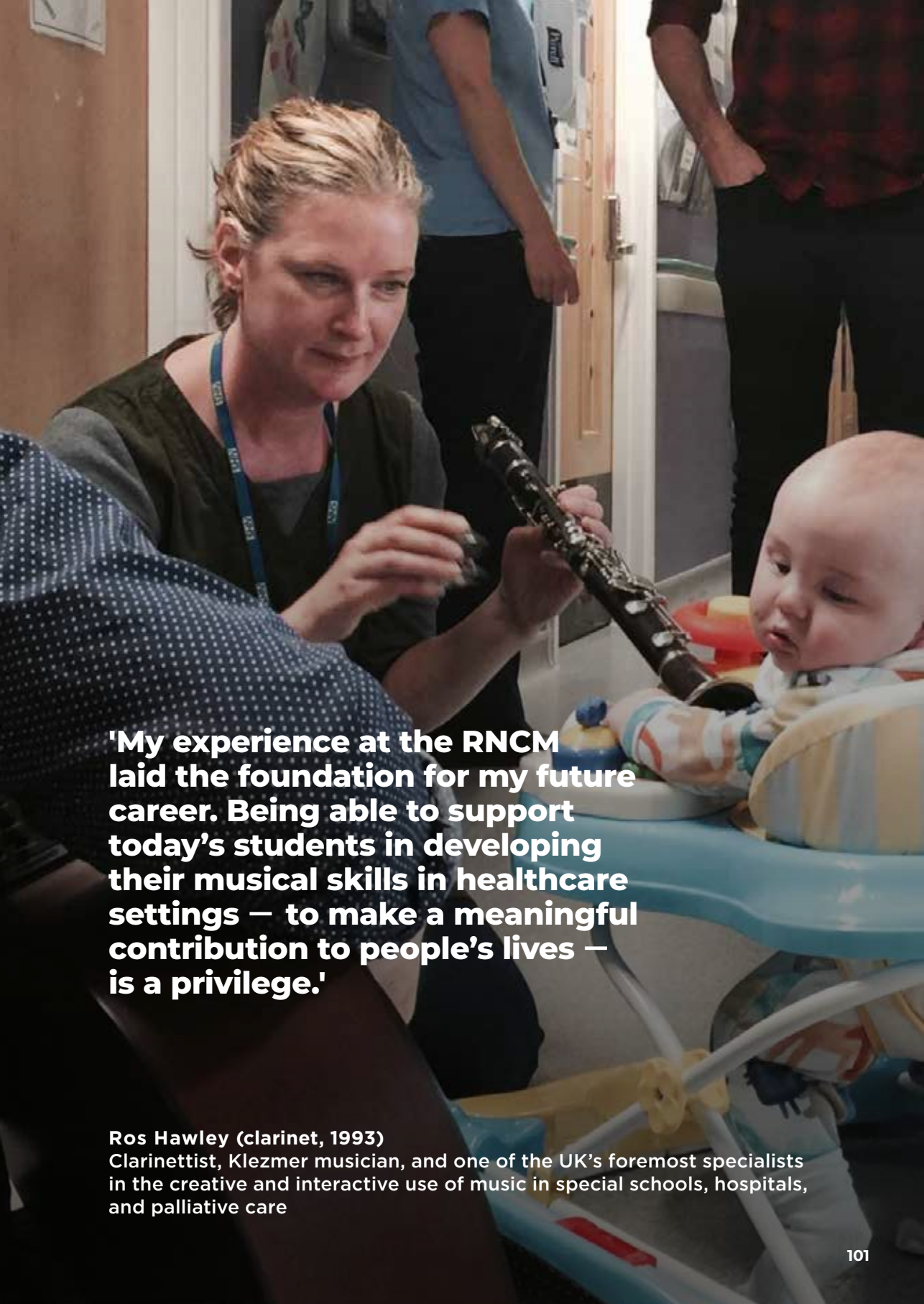
BBC Radio 3 broadcaster and presenter, and freelance bassoonist





**'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

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a dark green vest over a grey shirt and a blue lanyard, is kneeling and playing a black clarinet. She is looking down at the instrument. In the foreground, a baby is sitting in a blue and white striped baby walker, looking towards the woman. The background shows a hospital corridor with other people standing near a doorway.

**'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)**

Clarinetist, Klezmer musician, and one of the UK's foremost specialists in the creative and interactive use of music in special schools, hospitals, and palliative care







**PHOTO CREDITS:**

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**Craig Fuller:** 63, 84

**Jessie Glazzard:** 88

**Victoria Haydn:** 7, 12 - 19, 44, 49, 53, 56, 64, 86, 102

**Wayne Kwon:** 92

**Chia Chia Lee:** 93

**LIME Music for Health:** 101

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