

Contents

4	Part One: A Passion for Music
6	A Global Conservatoire
10	Manchester
16	Living Here
20	Wellbeing
24	Part Two: Undergraduate Study
28	Bachelor of Music with Honours
30	Bachelor of Music with Honours in Popular Music
32	Graduate Diploma of the RNCM/Bachelor of Music with Honours (The University of Manchester)
34	Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Inclusive Music Education
36	Part Three: Graduate School
40	Master of Music
42	Master of Performance
43	Postgraduate Diploma: Advanced Studies
44	Master of Education
46	Professional and Vocational Courses
48	International Artist Diploma
49	Mills Williams Junior Fellow in Conducting
50	Postgraduate Certificate in Secondary Education (PGCE)
52	Research Degree Programmes
56	Part Four: Schools of Study
58	Composition
60	Keyboard Studies
62	Strings
64	Vocal Studies and Opera
66	Wind, Brass and Percussion
68	Popular Music
70	Conducting
74	Part Five: Opportunities Around Every Corner
76	Performance Opportunities
80	Professional Opportunities
84	Facilities
90	Part Six: Endless Possibilities



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 in the top 10 for music in the QS World University Subject Rankings and to be rated Gold in all areas of the Teaching Excellence Framework. We're also the recipient of six 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 vibrant concert scene in Manchester. The stage is lit with warm yellow and purple lights, featuring a large circular graphic on the backdrop. A band is performing, with a central figure raising their arms. The foreground is filled with the silhouettes of a large audience.

Manchester



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



A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is smiling and looking to her right. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top with a red lace-trimmed neckline, blue jeans, and a brown belt with a gold buckle. She has a black headset with a microphone around her neck and a brown shoulder bag. The background shows a modern interior with large windows and a light-colored wall. The word "Wellbeing" is overlaid in white text on the center of the image.

Wellbeing

A photograph of two young women walking and talking in a bright, modern building with large windows. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a light blue ribbed long-sleeved top and blue jeans. The woman on the right has long dark hair and is wearing a dark blue top and light-colored pants. They are both smiling and looking towards each other. The background shows a blurred view of a city through large glass windows.

Student wellbeing has never been more important to us.

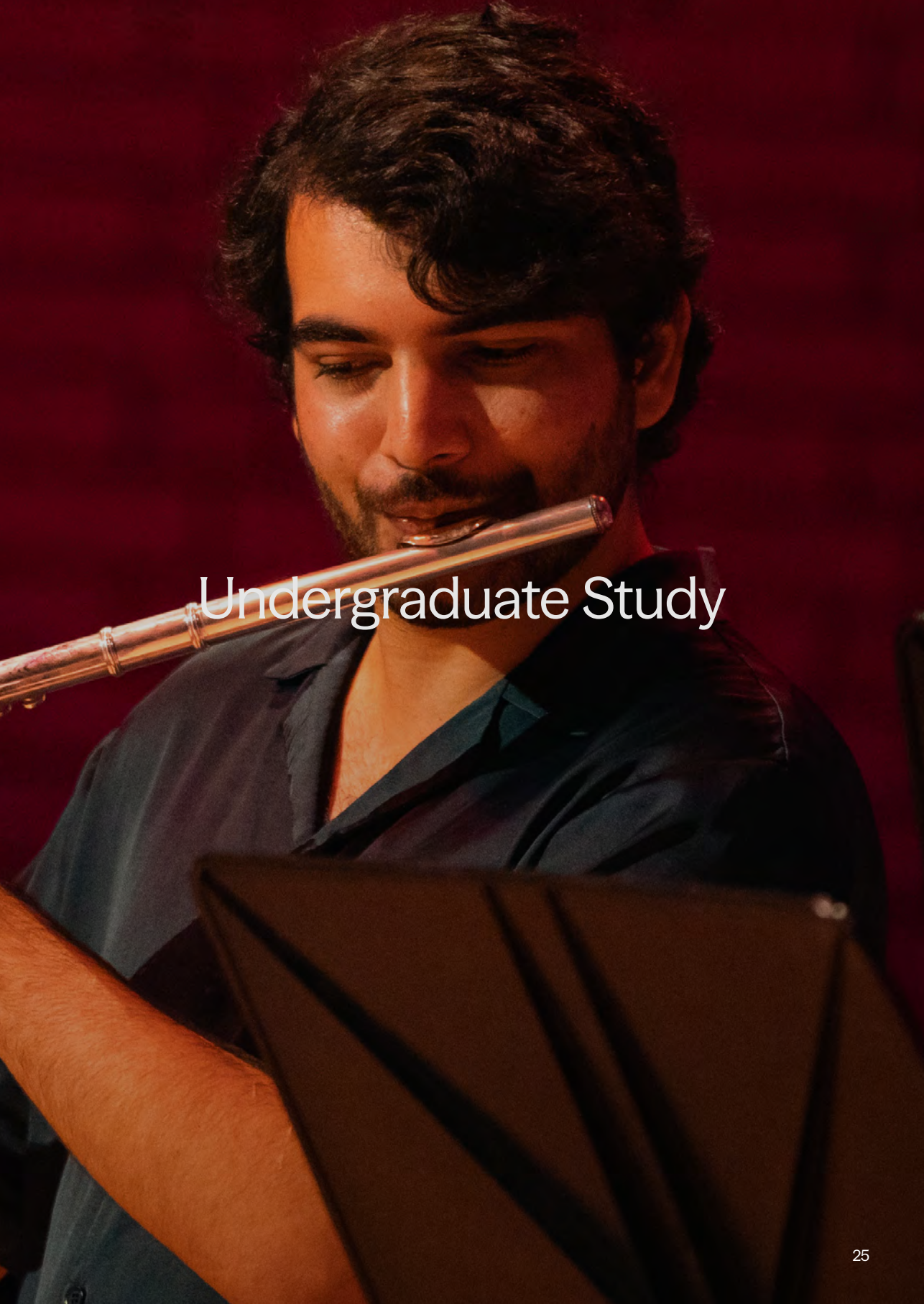
Year after year, we strive to create an environment in which you can simultaneously learn how to make music with excellence and discover how to live a fulfilled life as a musician and human being.

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 tailed 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, wherever that may be.

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: 1 October

Bachelor of Music with Honours

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 Orchestra, 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

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.



BMus (Hons) Popular Music
4 years full-time
UCAS Conservatoires Code: 201F
Application Deadline: 1 October



GRNCM/MusB (Hons)
4 years full-time
UCAS Conservatoires Code: 399F
Application Deadline: 1 October

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

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.



BA (Hons) Inclusive Music Education
3 years full-time
UCAS Conservatoires Code: 401F
Applications deadline: 13 January

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Inclusive Music Education

At the RNCM, we believe that music has the power to change lives, and that those who teach, lead, and facilitate music-making play a vital role in unlocking that power. Our new BA (Hons) in Inclusive Music Education is your opportunity to become one of those changemakers.

Designed for curious, socially engaged, and forward-thinking musicians, this three-year applied music degree builds musicianship alongside skills in teaching, leading education work, and creating music education projects. It brings together rigorous academic study and hands-on creative practice, helping you explore how music shapes people, cultures, and communities, while developing the confidence and expertise to inspire the next generation through meaningful, inclusive musical experiences.

Core elements include: understanding education and policy – why we teach and how we teach in an inclusive way – along with exploring music’s impact

on society; developing practical skills in leading and facilitating music making in different school and community contexts; developing an understanding of music in context across a range of repertoires, performance traditions, and cultural or historical settings; and preparing for a career in music education.

Supporting studies include non-assessed instrumental or vocal lessons on a main instrument or keyboard, taught by RNCM postgraduate performance students. Co-curricular opportunities include contributing to RNCM Engage activities such as RNCM Pathfinder, RNCM Engage Brass, RNCM Engage West Cumbria, RNCM Young Artists, and RNCM Young Projects.

A young man with dark, wavy hair is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to his right. He is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt with a high, ruffled collar and a dark brown, buttoned vest. The background is a solid, deep blue color. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face and the texture of his clothing.

Part Three

Graduate School





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.



Scan to find out more



Master of Music

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: 1 October

Master of Performance

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.

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: 1 October

Postgraduate Diploma: Advanced Studies

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.

PGDip

1 year full-time

UCAS Conservatoires Codes:

Performance: 601F

Composition: 620F

Application Deadline: 1 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

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).



Professional and Vocational Courses



Scan to find out more

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.

International Artist Diploma

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 repertory 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 Orchestra.

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.

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

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 Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and Manchester Camerata, as well as an annual repertoire session with the Hallé. Additionally, they 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.

Tenable for 2 years
Application Deadline: Spring 2027

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

Delivered with Manchester Metropolitan University, this PGCE is ideal for graduates who wish to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) while specialising in instrumental teaching.

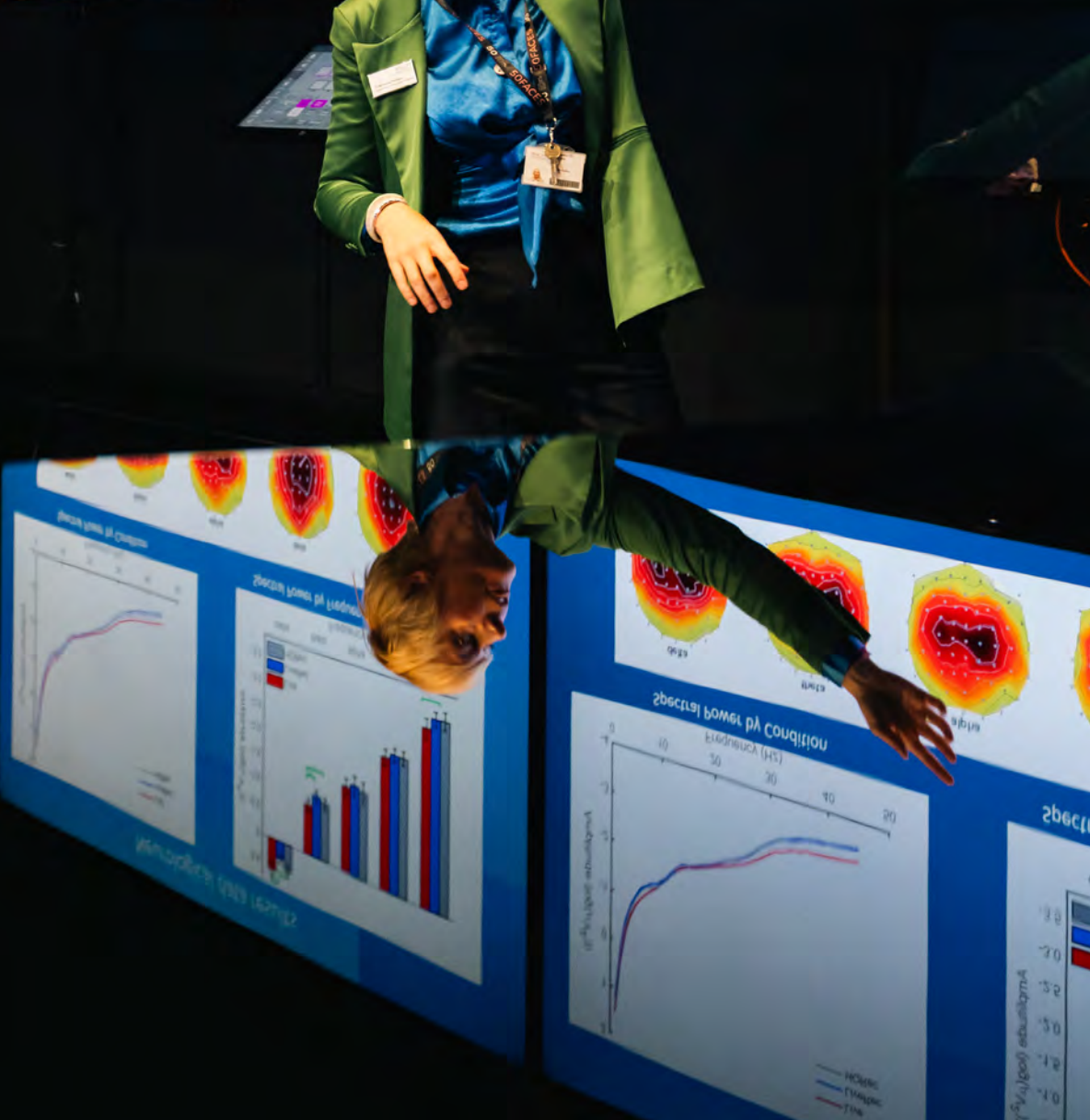
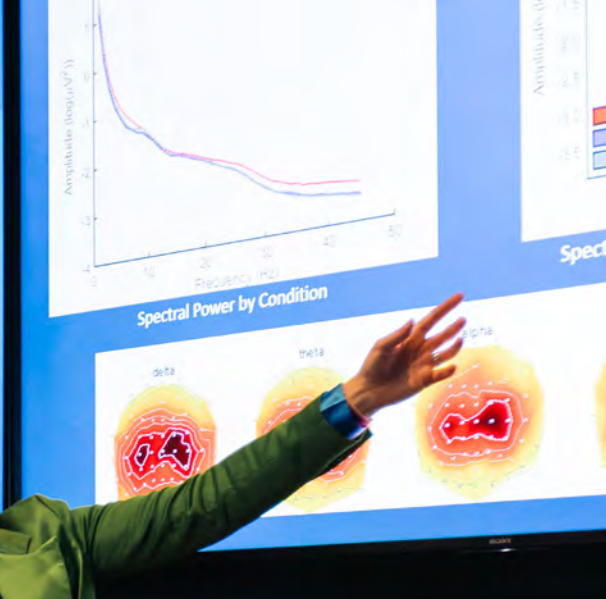
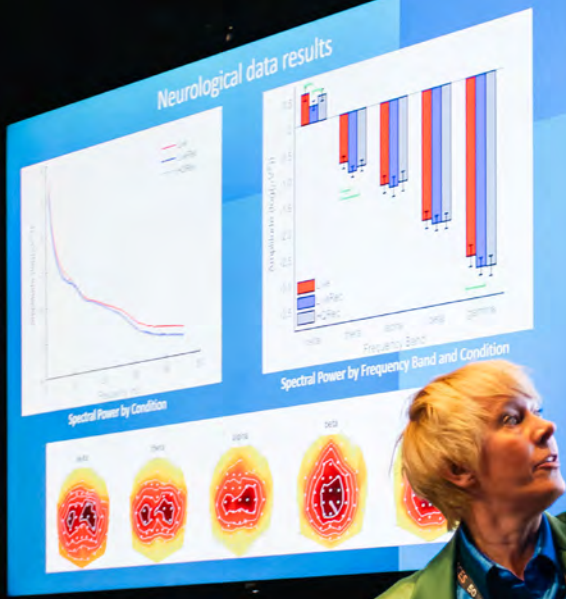
Through exceptional tuition at both institutions, you'll develop your performance skills, enhance your understanding of various integrated teaching methodologies, and receive full training on how to teach music at secondary level. You'll also gain valuable experience from two teaching placements at secondary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

12 months full-time

Applications via Manchester Metropolitan University

Application Deadline: Accepted throughout the year





Research Degree Programmes

Research is a cornerstone of the musical creativity and experimentation that flourishes at the RNCM.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music

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

All students are supported by a supervisory team, drawn from our specialist faculty. We have supervisory expertise in areas relating to musicology, music education, music psychology, composition, performance, and popular music (musicological and practice-based, including production). 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 the RNCM Research Portal (research.rncm.ac.uk), before contacting the Head of Doctoral Programmes for an initial conversation.

Whatever your area, you'll have access to outstanding resources and facilities, exceptional supervision, individually tailored training, and opportunities for career development and enhancement at the RNCM and through partner organisations, including the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership and the Crafting Care Doctoral Focal College.

Please note that limited and competitive funding is available for PhD researchers. Applicants wishing to be considered for this should make it clear within their application.

Level 8 Advanced Artist Diploma

The Level 8 Advanced Artist Diploma (AAD) is a 12-month programme intended for advanced performers, composers, and producers pursuing careers as professional artists. With an established track record of high-level artistic practice, students on the AAD will develop their skills, critical awareness, and artistic identity through immersive self-directed study and engagement with diverse audiences.

The programme centres on an artistic research project, devised by the student with support from a principal study professor and an artistic supervisor. Assessment is based on a final portfolio submission, which may take a variety of forms, such as a recital, a recording, or a set of compositions.

On a Level 8 (doctoral level) programme, it is expected that candidates demonstrate a high level of autonomy in devising, preparing and executing their projects, and that the final portfolio makes a novel contribution to their field of artistic practice.

'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 Manchester Contemporary 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 Orchestra, BBC Singers, Hallé, Northern Ballet School, and the Filmmaking and Creative Writing courses at Manchester Metropolitan University) bring real-world experiences and interdisciplinary collaborations.



Scan to find out more





Scan to find out more



Strings

'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

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 Orchestra, 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.



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 Orchestra, 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



'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
MASTER



A young man with short brown hair is shown from the chest up, playing a grand piano. He is looking slightly to his left with a focused expression. The lighting is warm and dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and the piano's lid. The background is dark, and there are several large, soft, circular bokeh light spots in the foreground, creating a dreamy atmosphere. The piano's keyboard and the top of the lid are visible in the lower half of the frame.

Part Five

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a pen, poised to write on a document. The scene is bathed in a warm, orange-red light, creating a soft, bokeh effect in the background. The text is centered over the image.

Opportunities Around Every Corner

professional creative team, numerous concerts of opera excerpts, and an annual Children's Opera co-created from scratch with over 100 pupils from local primary schools. All RNCM students also have the chance to take part in our Chamber and Gospel Choirs, as well as our Symphony Chorus, which forms a key part of every first-year undergraduate's ensembles skills training.

Our unrivalled performance opportunities mean that experiences stretch far beyond the RNCM. Every year, our Artist Agency provides hundreds of (often paid) performance experiences with venues and professional organisations around Manchester, the North of England, and the wider UK.

Recent collaborations have provided opportunities for students to perform at major festivals, such as the BBC

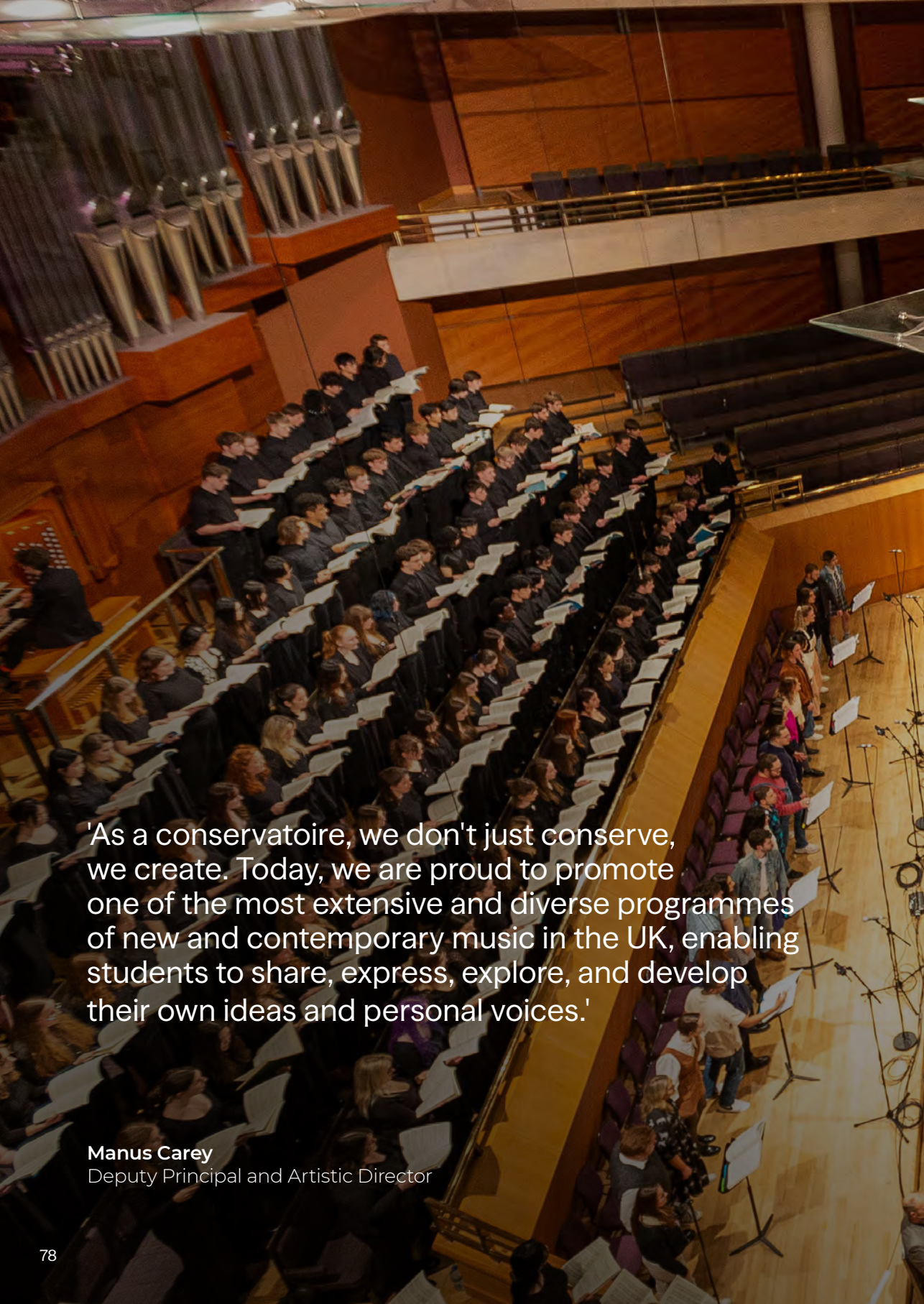
Proms and Manchester International Festival, with other performances taking place across Europe, China, Australia, and elsewhere overseas. Our Symphony Orchestra has travelled to Italy for almost 20 years to take part in Montepulciano's annual Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte, and our Big Band has participated in the Malta International Arts Festival and presented workshops and concerts in Changzhou, China.

Opportunities for Popular Music students are also extensive thanks to our partnerships with institutions in Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Rotterdam, and Valencia. Our Artists Live series of external events enables new bands and artists to develop their talent and perform original music in Manchester venues.



Scan to find out more





'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 and Artistic Director



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 Orchestra, 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,



Scan to find out more

concert management and recording, performance, teaching, and fundraising at key organisations across the UK and, on occasion, overseas. You can also 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.



'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.'

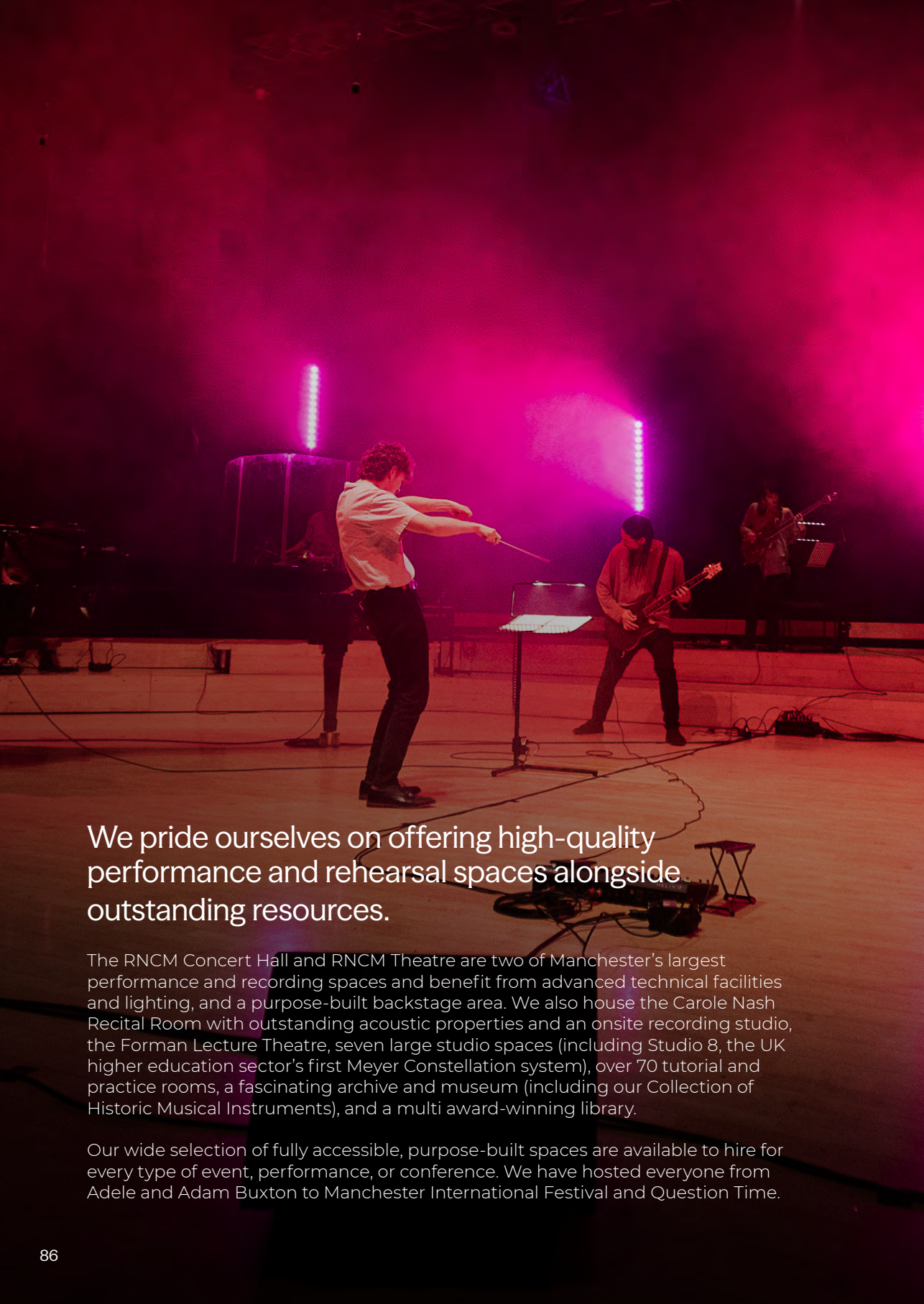
Vulva Voce
Alumni String Ensemble





Facilities





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.

Our wide selection of fully accessible, purpose-built spaces are available to hire for every type of event, performance, or conference. We have hosted everyone from Adele and Adam Buxton to Manchester International Festival and Question Time.



Scan to view our 360 virtual tour





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

Part Six



Endless Possibilities



Abel Selaoce (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.'

Wayne Kwon (cello, 2021)

Sub Principal Cello, London Philharmonic Orchestra




'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



A portrait of Ellie Slorach, a woman with short, light brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt under a blue and white patterned jacket. She is standing in front of a colorful, blurred background that appears to be a stage or concert hall with bright lights.

'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

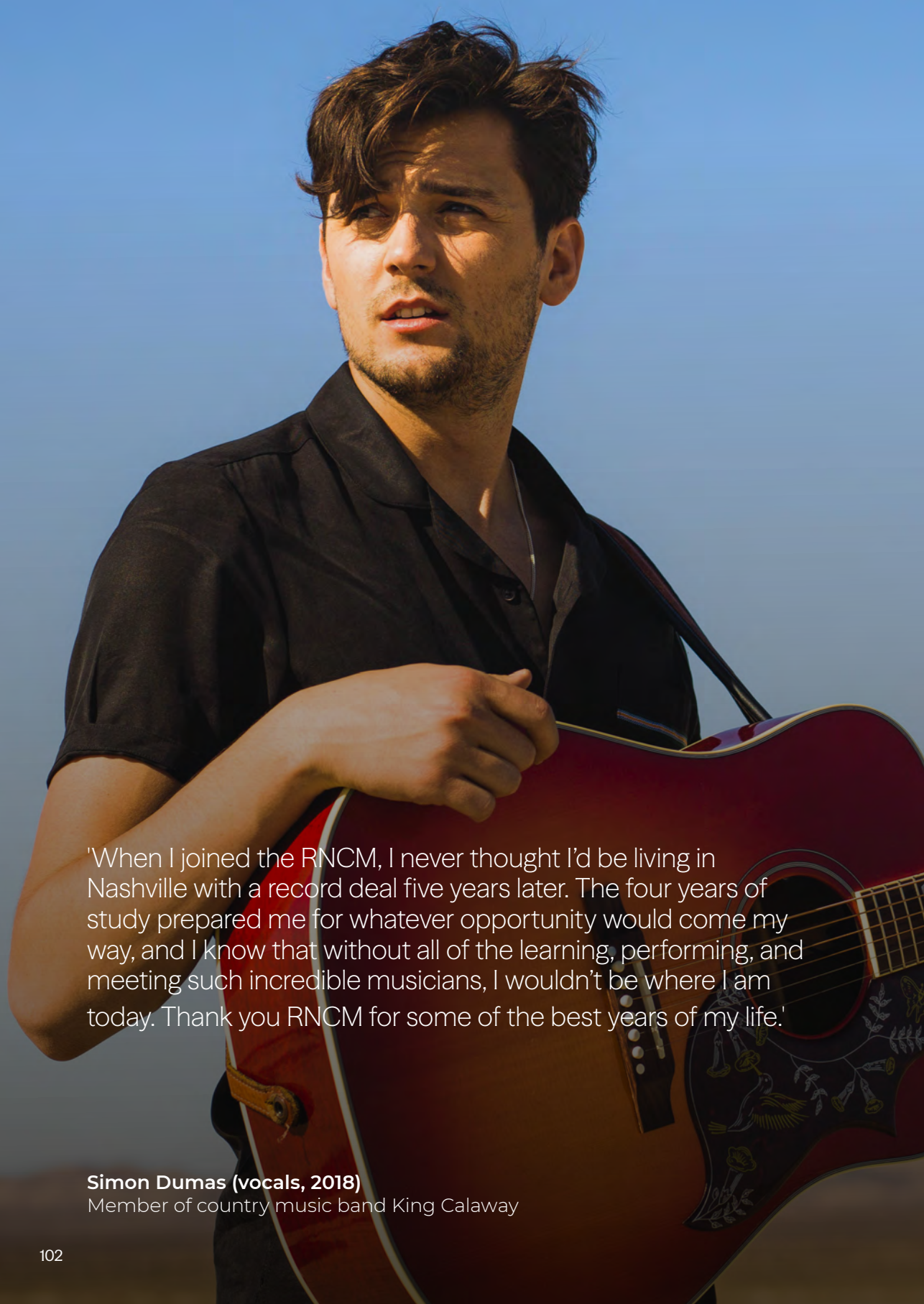


'I had a transformative experience at the RNCM that shaped both my personal and professional growth. It taught me to be the best version of myself, to embrace it and let it shine! The collaborative and dynamic learning environment also helped me develop my critical thinking and problem-solving abilities 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





'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 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



RNCM

Mano
Metro
Uni

RNCM IS ALIVE WITH PEOPLE
TO SHARE YOUR PASSION FOR MUSIC
IN A GREAT CITY
TALENT AND GREATNESS



PHOTO CREDITS:

Natalie Argent: 28, 61, 62

Robin Clewley: 4, 8-11, 24-27, 32, 36-44, 52, 56, 70-79, 84-87, 104

Alex Ferrari: 102

Craig Fuller: 65

Jessie Glazard: 90

Victoria Haydn: 7, 12-21, 46-51, 55, 58, 66, 88, 106

Wayne Kwon: 94

Phil Sharp: 92

Chia Chia Lee: 95

LIME Music for Health: 103

Mike Plunkett Photography: 96

Andrea Terzuoli: 82

