



# Annual Impact Report

2021/22

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

**RNCM**  
ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE of MUSIC





## INTRODUCTION

It is a great joy to hear the RNCM alive with the buzz of students and music-making once again, and to welcome audiences back into our venues to experience live performance.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering generosity of our community, whose support has enabled us to bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic with a renewed sense of creativity and determination.

Investing in our dedicated young musicians ensures they can access life-changing opportunities, flourish in their studies and follow their passions.

Every grant or donation is a vote of confidence in our talented students and means we can provide them with outstanding education and specialist training, propelling them into careers on the national and international stage, where they will define the future of music.

Thank you.

**PROFESSOR LINDA MERRICK**  
**PRINCIPAL**





THANKS TO YOU WE...

Raised

**£1.7 million**

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Offered

**296**

scholarships and bursaries

to students across our junior school and senior college

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Gave

**1 in 3**

of our students

financial support to help them through the year

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Offered well-being, physiotherapy,  
and counselling support to

**270 students**

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Offered

**over 7,000**

music-making opportunities  
for under-18s

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Launched initiatives to  
further progress in areas of

**belonging, equity,  
diversity and inclusion**

including the **Williams-Howard Prize** to encourage the  
playing of music from composers of African heritage,  
and the **RNCM Ukrainian Musicians Fund**



# STUDENT SUPPORT

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

### EVERY AWARD MAKES A DIFFERENCE

It can be hard for musicians to maintain a balance between training and managing the costs of study. Student awards are critical in achieving this – your support has helped to champion talent and potential, providing vital security amidst the ongoing challenges our students face. Thanks to you, we have also been able to offer pastoral support, mentorship, and masterclasses to ensure our students receive the very best experience during their time here.

***'I wouldn't be creating the music that I love or have the chance to push myself as a musician if it wasn't for your support.'***

**RICCARDO O'GRADY** DRUMS

***'This time last year I would never have thought I'd have had these experiences. I feel incredibly lucky to be at the RNCM, supported by you.'***

**INDIA BLACKSHAW-BRITTON** VIOLA

***'I am very grateful for your contribution to my studies. Without this support, following my dreams to becoming an opera singer would not be possible.'***

**PASQUALE ORCHARD** SOPRANO

***'It is because of your generosity that many young musicians across the world can fulfil their dream of studying in an institution such as the RNCM.'***

**EMILIO YANEZ-RUIZ** COMPOSITION





# APPEALS

## COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### ANNUAL APPEAL 2021

You donated a staggering **£73,013** to our **Future of Music Appeal**, to nurture the next generation of talent through scholarships, bursaries, hardship funding and student well-being resources.

Your generosity helped to support our students to realise their full potential regardless of financial barriers or hardships out of their control.

***'If it wasn't for the timely help from the Hardship Fund, I would have been forced to reconsider my place at the RNCM. The relief was overwhelming, and I found myself flourishing in my studies without the burden of trying to find another job.'***

ANASTASIA BEVAN SOPRANO

### WILLIAMS-HOWARD PRIZE £15,385 RAISED SO FAR

Established by countertenor Michael Harper, The Williams-Howard Prize is a new annual competition celebrating and encouraging the study and performance of art songs by composers of African heritage. Thanks to your support, we have been able to grow this initiative – the first of its type in Europe.

### RNCM UKRAINIAN MUSICIANS FUND OVER £50,000 RAISED SO FAR

Launched in response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, we are creating pathways for music students from Ukraine to continue their studies with us here in Manchester, providing tuition fee and bursary support, English language training, and health and well-being care. We have welcomed seven students across our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, Junior RNCM and RNCM Young Artists, and continue to support a number of other students who have sadly encountered challenges on their journeys over to study with us.

**Thank you for helping these talented young musicians to continue their studies despite the devastation they have faced.**

***'I am deeply passionate about inspiring the next generation of singers and pianists to embrace this work and keep these songs alive, ensuring that they are not forgotten but are embedded firmly into the canon of classical song repertoire.'***

MICHAEL HARPER

FOUNDER OF THE WILLIAMS-HOWARD PRIZE, COUNTERTENOR AND RNCM TUTOR

# RNCM ENGAGE: MUSIC EDUCATION

## BUILDING BRIDGES AND OVERCOMING BARRIERS

The focus of RNCM Engage is to foster talent and inspire children and young people to make music, whilst safeguarding pathways to conservatoire education. This year, you helped to shape the lives of aspiring musicians through:

### PATHFINDER

Our flagship outreach project providing free bespoke instrument training, mentorship and pastoral support for young people aged 8-18 who demonstrate talent but face financial, social, or cultural barriers to music progression. Your generosity has helped Pathfinder to reach nearly 300 students to date. This year, two Pathfinders will start as RNCM undergraduates, whilst seven passed auditions to join Junior RNCM.

### JUNIOR RNCM

Thanks to you, JRNCM continues to offer weekly world-class training to 200 talented young musicians aged 8-18. It provides a robust foundation to prepare students for Higher Education level study at the RNCM or universities elsewhere.

### YOUNG PROJECTS

Exciting instrument-specific opportunities for school-age musicians to develop their musical, technical, and creative skills. Whether first-access or building on experience, your support has ensured we foster a lifelong passion for music.

### RNCM YOUNG ARTISTS

With industry sponsorship, we piloted Young Artists – a new Saturday school for 11-18-year-olds to create bands and nurture the next generation of pop musicians. Young Artists will launch in September 2022 and tap into the incredible creativity and ambition of young people who want to make original music. Over 50% of places are provided free of charge to pupils who would not otherwise have been able to attend.

*'We have watched our daughter flourish and develop into a confident and competent musician. Her love of music has been nurtured at the JRNCM, and under the expert tuition of her tutors, our daughter continues to evolve.'*

**PARENTS OF ELEANOR, JRNCM STUDENT**

*'RNCM Young Artists has definitely inspired me to take on new music challenges in the future, because by working with other people, I feel more empowered to learn.'*

**RNCM YOUNG ARTISTS PARTICIPANT**

*'JRNCM has given me amazing opportunities. The teaching has been phenomenal, and I've met loads of like-minded young people since I joined. JRNCM has been life changing!'*

**MADDIE, JRNCM STUDENT**





# RNCM ENGAGE: COMMUNITY

## A CHANCE TO SHINE

### CHILDREN'S OPERA

Children's Opera brings the joy of music and live performance to primary school-aged children in our local communities, culminating in an original performance on our Theatre stage.

With your support, we have been able to reach over 140 pupils this year.

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***'I just want to do it  
again and again!'***

### CHILDREN'S OPERA PARTICIPANT

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### RNCM YOUNG VOICES

Launched in January 2022 and led by RNCM alumni and students, RNCM Young Voices is an exciting new vocal group for anyone aged 14-18 to rehearse and perform music including pop, gospel, jazz, musicals, and world music with like-minded people in a fun environment.

Thanks to our funders, it is completely free to attend, and participants do not need any previous experience – just energy and a real enthusiasm for singing.

# ARTISTIC ENRICHMENT

## SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

### NORTHERN BALLET, CONDUCTING FOR DANCE

New funding has helped us forge an exciting partnership with Northern Ballet – designed to inspire and challenge student conductors on the cusp of embarking on their professional careers. Working with dancers and musicians from Northern Ballet, students gain invaluable professional experience in conducting for dance, opening new career paths and nurturing a pool of talent to be employed by ballet companies worldwide.

***‘The highly specialised nature of ballet conducting makes opportunities for conducting students to work with companies first-hand practically non-existent. My time working alongside the company was truly invaluable... I have been bitten by the ballet bug.’***

**RILEY COURT-WOOD, CONDUCTOR**

### BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

Marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, our landmark festival returned from a pandemic-enforced hiatus with **A New Beginning** – our vision for a sustainable, relevant, and inclusive future for brass band music.

This festival draws some of the top brass bands from across the UK and provides students with an inspiring experience.

### STRING QUARTET STUDIO

The String Quartet Studio brought yet another successful year, providing hands-on, immersive training for quartets aiming to reach new heights and explore new directions. Working closely with Donald Grant (Elias Quartet) and our esteemed Chamber Music Faculty, this flexible scheme included a package of career advice and mentoring, ensemble and individual instrument tuition, masterclasses, and more, making it a highly sought-after and unforgettable experience.



### RNCM CREATIVE INNOVATORS AWARD

The RNCM Creative Innovators Award recognises students who excel in creative entrepreneurship and ambition. Finalists pitched their business ideas and artistic ventures to a panel of industry experts, with five winners receiving a monetary prize to support their innovative projects.

***‘The panel were extremely impressed with the creativity and diversity of each project. Everyone who took part was a fantastic ambassador for the RNCM and we’re all very excited to follow their next steps.’***

**HANNAH MCCABE, FELLOW IN CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

***‘The passion from the students – that’s what we need in Greater Manchester.’***

**SACHA LORD, CREATIVE INNOVATORS AWARD PANELLIST, CO-FOUNDER OF PARKLIFE FESTIVAL AND THE WAREHOUSE PROJECT**



# PRINCIPAL'S CIRCLE

Our Principal's Circle is a community of loyal supporters who are passionate about championing the RNCM's exceptional young musicians.

Collectively, they have a significant impact on life at the RNCM, with their continued generosity supporting a wide variety of unique opportunities that enrich our students' learning experience.

THIS YEAR

**42 members supported  
with £50,605**

Helping to make the following projects a reality:

An internship with **Brass for Africa** in Uganda for a recent RNCM graduate

A professional partnership with **Northern Ballet** for conducting students

The successful pilot of **RNCM Young Artists**, a new initiative for pop musicians aged 11-18

A co-commission for **RNCM Wind Orchestra**, to be performed as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations

A **library of scores** of art songs by composers of African heritage for students to access – part of the Williams-Howard Prize

RNCM students will be delivering workshops alongside performances as part of a new partnership with schools on the **Isle of Man**

Student harpists attended the **World Harp Congress** in Cardiff



# REGULAR GIVING

THE HEART OF THE RNCM

We want to thank everyone who supports the College through our Membership scheme, Name A Seat, regular donations, or ticket top-ups. Your generosity is instrumental to the work we do.

**£38,476**

donated via direct debit by

**82**

generous supporters

**£3,290**

raised through Box Office donations

when booking to see concerts at the RNCM

**17**

seats named

across our Concert Hall and Theatre



# GIFTS IN WILLS

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

**£345,000 gifted**

A gift to the RNCM in your will has the power to change a student's future. Each year, we are humbled by our legacy supporters who have kept us in their thoughts, and those who honour the memory of a loved one through their gift.

***'The financial support really was paramount in me being able to study at the RNCM. It meant that I could focus the extra energy and attention onto my studies and immerse myself fully into the College.'***

**MATTHEW PEACOCK** GUITAR  
Supported by a gift in will



## A YEAR OF PROGRESSION

After being closed to the public for 18 months during the pandemic, we could not wait to open our doors again to share live music, with over 180 performances throughout the year from students across the College and professional artists.

We were thrilled to be awarded a £3.4 million grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, providing a pivotal opportunity for us to vastly improve the quality and efficiency of our building and develop a forward strategy around the route to decarbonisation.

This year (2022-23) marks the 50th anniversary of the RNCM. So much has been achieved since the College was founded in 1973 and we are indebted to all those who have helped us to weave the rich fabric of our institution over the past half-century. Your faith in the work we do has given us the means and motivation to continue to dream big and look forward with excitement to playing our part in shaping the future of music for the next 50 years and beyond.

We have a memorable year ahead, with plenty of special events to celebrate this landmark anniversary. We cannot wait to share even more live music, innovation, and outstanding experiences with you.



# YOUR IMPACT HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARY

## NAMED AWARDS AND PRIZES

Alice Orrell and A&N Kendall Award  
Anderson Powell Prize  
Ann Gerrard Bursaries  
Annie Fletcher Award  
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music  
The Barney Miller International Travel Award  
Bob Halliwell Award  
Charles Greenhough Awards  
Dolly Knowles Scholarships  
The Doreen Johnson Bursary  
The Dorothy Smith Scholarship  
The Dorothy Stone Award  
The Edward Milner Award  
The Emmanuel Bursary  
Francis Higgins Bursary  
Frederick Lunt Award  
FW Wright Piano Scholarship  
Garner Howard Award  
Geoffrey Woodward Award  
The George Henry Peters Scholarship  
Giles Thomas Lyth Scholarships  
Gough Kelly Award  
Gwilym Gwalchmai Jones Award  
The Hargreaves and Ball Scholarship  
Hilda Collens Memorial Award  
The Hipgnosis Award  
Ian Scott Award  
Ian Spencer Fox Guitar Bursary  
Jacob Marsland Award  
The James and Mary Glass Scholarship  
Jane Anthony Memorial Fund  
Jellis Bequest  
John Fewkes (Leicestershire) Instrumentalist Scholarships  
John Halsall Scholarship  
John Wilson Junior Fellowship in Piano Accompaniment  
The José and Rafton Smallwood Award  
The Kenneth Hedley Bequest  
The Liam Ferguson Award  
The Manchester Welsh Society Prize  
The Margaret Allen Piano and Cello Awards  
The Marjorie and John Brooks Award  
Marie Thecla Kieran Award  
The Martyn Edwards Jazz Bursary  
Maurice and Jean Buckley Award  
The Millar Award  
The Milton Waring Award  
Muriel Berry Scholarship  
Noleen Ingham Brass Scholarship  
The N.W Award  
Ogus Travel Bursary  
The Pat Barney Award  
The Peter Heath Award  
The Pidem Fund Award  
Reggie and Ann Dennis Scholarship  
The Richard Newitt Awards  
The Riga Heesom Award  
The Rollo Davidson Scholarship  
Rowland Hardy Awards for Clarinet and Cello  
Thomas Edward Wilson Bursary  
Thomas W Swift Award  
Waverley Fund Scholarships  
The Williams-Howard Prize

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

The Albert & Eugenie Frost Music Trust CIO  
The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement  
The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation  
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The Schroder Charity Trust  
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The Sir John Fisher Foundation  
Sophie's Silver Lining Fund  
The South Square Trust  
The Stanley Picker Trust  
The Stoller Charitable Trust  
The Thistle Trust  
Thriplow Charitable Trust  
The Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust  
The Waverley Fund  
The William and Frances Dobie Charitable Foundation  
The Wolfson Foundation  
The Zochonis Charitable Trust

## GIFTS IN WILLS

Paul Berry  
Joan Collier-Baker  
Margaret Hopwood  
Susan Margaret Knowles  
Jean Margaret Thomson



# THANK YOU...

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

We are incredibly grateful for the support of all the individuals who have made donations this year, with a special thank you to:

Kathleen Arundale  
Michael Asbury  
Elizabeth Astorga  
Gloria Bakhshayesh  
John Batley  
Jo Boosey  
Patricia Brien  
Janina Cebertowicz  
Peter Clarke  
John Clough  
Michael Coe  
Ann Cook  
Raymond Cooke  
Neil Court  
Caroline Crawshaw  
Avril Danczak  
Lynne Dawson  
Julia Dickinson  
Ceri Dornan  
Nicholas Dumbreck  
Carolyn Eadie  
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John Haines  
Michael Harper  
Iain Henderson  
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Terence Maher  
John Mason  
Gillian Matthews  
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Ian and Sue McKinlay  
William McLewin  
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Victor Stone  
Michael Swain  
David Sweeney  
Mike Taylor  
Sharon Thomas  
Gaynor and Nick Tole  
Rosemary Whitesman

## PRINCIPAL'S CIRCLE

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Philip and Fiona Geiger  
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Allan and Ida Michaelson  
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Robert and Margaret Moss  
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David and Jayne Roper  
Anthea and John Slater  
Peter Snook  
Dave and Mandy Spencer  
Jim Spencer  
David Stanton  
Eric Waite  
Neville Whitbread

David and Ann Woolf  
Rodney Hill and  
Christopher Wright  
*and a number of anonymous  
Principal's Circle donors*

## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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## DEVELOPMENT BOARD

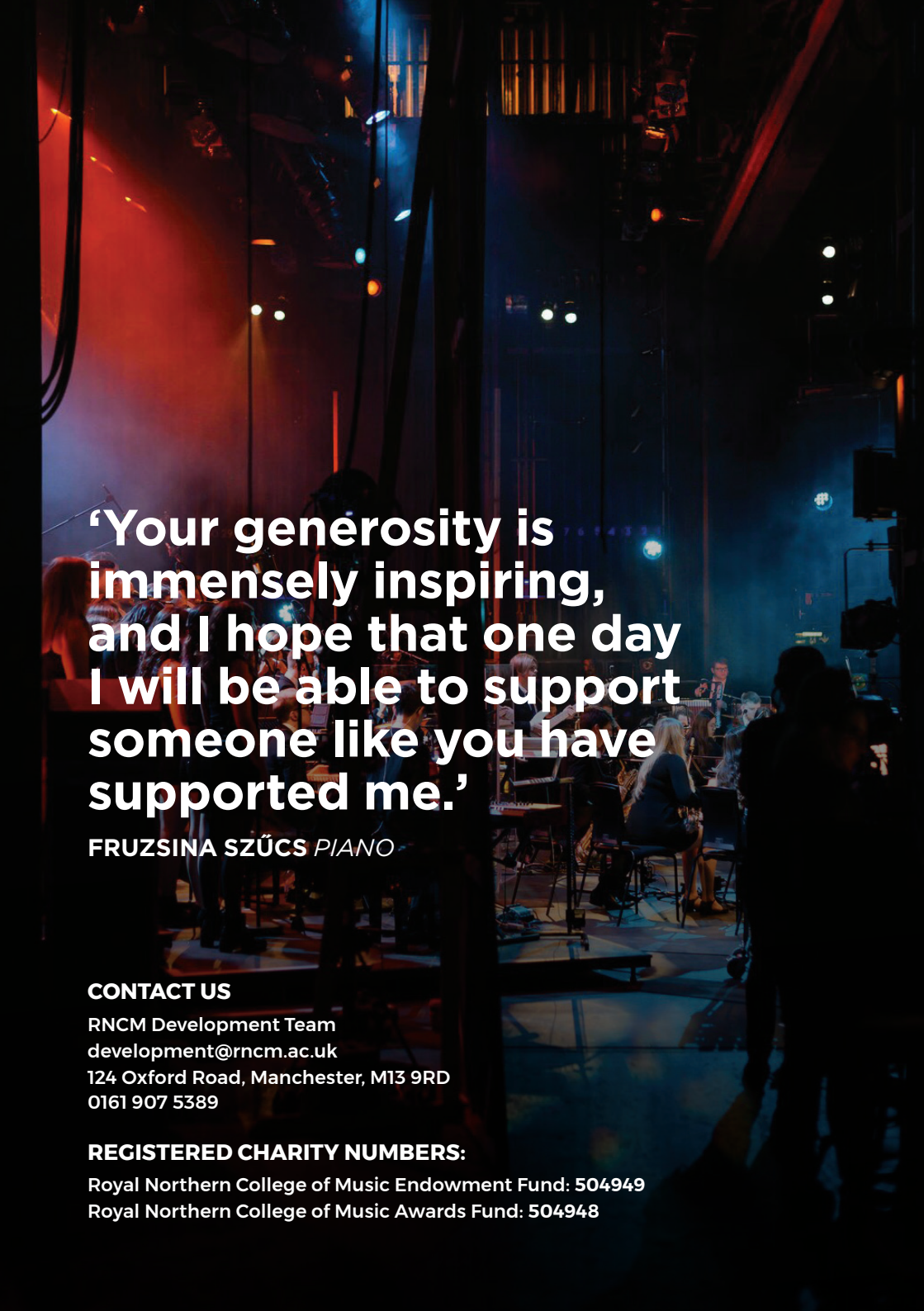
Ravi Gupta  
Sir Howard Bernstein  
Tim Burrage

## FUNDERS



**Special thanks to all our generous donors who prefer to remain anonymous.**



A dimly lit concert hall with a stage and audience silhouettes. The stage is illuminated with blue and red lights, and the audience is visible in the foreground as dark silhouettes. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**‘Your generosity is  
immensely inspiring,  
and I hope that one day  
I will be able to support  
someone like you have  
supported me.’**

**FRUZSINA SZÜCS** *PIANO*

**CONTACT US**

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**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBERS:**

Royal Northern College of Music Endowment Fund: 504949  
Royal Northern College of Music Awards Fund: 504948