



Welcome

to the RNCM



Book Online

Spring is festival season at the RNCM, and we hit the ground running in January with our annual **RNCM Strings Festival** (Sat 10 – Sun 11 Jan) – bringing together an exciting mix of international guests performing alongside RNCM musicians. This year, we're joined by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Naomi Woo, and guests including violinist Ning Feng, cellist Li-Wei Qin, and double bass player Théotime Voisin.

The RNCM International Brass Band Festival (Fri 23 – Sun 25 Jan) features Foden's Band, Black Dyke Band, Brighouse & Rastrick Band, and more, as well as our own RNCM and Junior RNCM brass players. And finally, the RNCM Day of Percussion (Sun 8 Feb) returns with a packed programme that includes a performance of Steve Reich's Quartet for 2 vibraphones and 2 pianos – find out more in our Deep Dive (page 17).

Picking up our *Legends and Lore* theme is our spring opera, Leoš Janáček's classic *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Sun 22 – Sat 28 Mar), while our acclaimed *Inspirational Artists* series continues with our cover star, cellist and RNCM alumnus *Abel Selaocoe*, plus pianist *Alice Sara Ott, ARC Ensemble* (Artists of the Royal Conservatory, Canada), cross-disciplinary composer/performer *Liza Bec*, guitarist *Campbell Diamond*, and *RNS Moves* in a joint programme with *Candoco Dance Company*.

It is always an honour to welcome such innovative international performers to our concert halls, just as it will be our great pleasure to welcome you to experience these memorable performances with us.

Legends and Lore Interview: †

Louise Wallwein

RNCM Symphony Orchestra: Scheherazade Stories to Tell the King

Fri 6 Mar | 7.30pm RNCM Concert Hall Full: £18



Read the Full Interview

Louise Wallwein MBE is a multi-award-winning poet, playwright, and performer from Manchester. She joins us in March as the RNCM's pioneering Poet-in-Residence, celebrating our Legends and Lore theme alongside the RNCM Symphony Orchestra with a new spoken word commission inspired by the storyteller in One Thousand and One Nights, Scheherazade, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite composed in her honour.

Louise spoke to us about her contribution to the *Inspirational Artists* series, which is generously supported by the Haworth Trust.

'The challenge was thrown down for me by the RNCM, and I was like, 'Ooh, what can I do to this story to give it a Manc flavour?',' Louise recalls. 'I'll be using my accent and my way of performing and storytelling, of course, but I wanted to see if there's anything in the ancient stories that I can find to make it feel contemporary and relevant now

'We live in a country that's got a king, and I was thinking about what stories I might want to tell The King... The King isn't after us like King Shahryār (of One Thousand and One Nights), but I still like this idea of asking: "What could we say, what do we want, what do we need The King to know, and how would we keep The King engaged?"."

Louise says she identifies with Scheherazade, who changed her destiny by telling stories. 'When I wrote my very first play, I was resistant to the idea; I'd just left the care system and I was very much on my own. I needed a way to survive, and writing was magically placed in front of me.

'I love writing so much because it has given me a different path and purpose.'





Inspirational Artists Interview: *

Clarence Adoo, RNS Moves

RNS Moves with Candoco Dance Company

Tue 17 Mar | 8pm RNCM Concert Hall Full: f22



Read the Full Interview

Clarence Adoo MBE established physically inclusive ensemble RNS Moves after surviving a life-changing car accident in 1995. Since then, he has cofounded Paraorchestra, set up RNS Moves, and pioneered a new instrument – the Headspace. A graduate of the Royal College of Music and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, Clarence was awarded the MBE for his contribution to music in 2012.

His life story is extraordinary, but Clarence says it has been full of interesting twists. 'I grew up playing in the Salvation Army brass band and didn't have many lessons, but when I was about to leave school, I started practicing quite seriously.

'A year or two later, I applied for the Royal College of Music ... I rang up before my audition and said, "Who's going to be playing the piano for my cornet exam?", and they said, "Oh, we don't do cornet here. It's got to be trumpet". I went out and bought a trumpet two weeks before my audition... and when they asked how long I'd been playing the trumpet, I said, "Do you mean the cornet?", and they confirmed, no, the trumpet! I replied: "Since Tuesday.""

Clarence made his name with the Royal Northern Sinfonia as a trumpet player, as well as on the pop and jazz scenes. Being 'catapulted into the disabled world' left him full of ambition for what he could still achieve, and he hopes to bring that spirit out in the RNCM students when they work together on RNS Moves' Inspirational Artists performance.

'I get so excited about an opportunity to set light to somebody's imagination or talent in a different way, or to challenge them musically... I'm hoping that the students will be thinking in a different direction and learning things that they didn't think were possible to do.'



THU 8 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE. WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

RNCM Wind Brass and Percussion ensembles

SAT 10 - SUN 11 JAN I VARIOUS TIMES AND VENUES

RNCM Strings Festival

Including:

Junior RNCM Chamber Groups

SAT 10 JAN | 6PM | CNRR FREE, WITH TICKET

BBC Philharmonic Orchestra with RNCM Students

SAT 10 JAN | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

RNCM Young Strings

SUN 11 JAN | 1.30PM | UPPER CONCOURSE | FREE

RNCM String Ensemble

SUN 11 JAN | 2PM | CH | FULL: £13

Guest Artist Recital: Schumann and Bottesini

SUN 11 JAN | 3.15PM | CNRR | FULL: £13

Pop-Up Performances

SUN 11 JAN | 3.15PM | CAFÉ BAR | FREE

RNCM String Orchestra

SUN 11 JAN | 4.30PM | CH | FULL: £13

Celebrating the versatility, beauty, and brilliance of string music, with very special guests including Naomi Wo (conductor), Ning Feng (violin), Le-Wei Qin (cello), Théotime Voisin (double bass), Su Zhen (viola), and Jeremy Young (piano), plus performances from musicians of all ages throughout the building



MON 12 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Songs by Britten, Brahms, and Loewe

THU 15 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

RNCM Wind Orchestra performs

SAT 17 JAN | DOORS 7PM | T FULL, FROM: £29.15

Justin Hawkins Rides Again

The Darkness frontman returns with his one-man show, promoted by AEG

MON 19 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Including Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals for two pianos

MON 19 JAN | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

Alice Sara Ott (piano)*

The formidable pianist performs music by John Field and Beethoven as part of our Inspirational Artists season

WED 21 JAN | 1.30PM MANCHESTER MONASTERY FULL: £10

Manchester Camerata

RNCM students perform Shostakovich, Dvořák, Tüür, Strauss, Zawadzki, and more with the acclaimed orchestra, promoted by Manchester Camerata

WED 21 JAN | 6PM | T FREE. WITH TICKET

RNCM Opera Scenes

Vocal and conducting students present some of opera's greatest moments

Also:

FRI 23 JAN | 6PM WED 28 JAN | 6PM FRI 30 JAN | 6PM

THU 22 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE. WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

Vocal chamber music

FRI 23 – SUN 25 JAN | VARIOUS TIMES AND VENUES

RNCM International Brass Band Festival

Including:

Fridav:

Festival Prelude: RNCM Euphonium & Baritone Ensemble

6.15PM | CNRR | FREE, WITH TICKET

Foden's Band

7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

Saturday:

Concord Brass Band

The 4barsrest Interview

1.30PM | T | FREE, WITH TICKET

Tredegar Town Band

3PM | CH | FULL: £22

Junior RNCM Brass Band 4.45PM | T | FREE, WITH TICKET

Black Dyke Band

7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

Sunday:

RNCM Brass Band

11AM | CH | FULL: £22

RNCM Young Low Brass and Young Trombones

12.30PM | Concourse | FREE

Yorkshire Youth Band

1.30PM | T | FREE, WITH TICKET

Cory Band

3PM | CH | FULL: £22

Brass Bands England Discussion

4.45PM | CNRR | FREE, WITH TICKET

Brighouse & Rastrick Band

6.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

The greats of the modern brass scene takeover the RNCM, with performances from Foden's Band, Black Dyke Band, Brighouse & Rastrick Band, and more

MON 26 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Music for euphonium and trombone

MON 26 JAN | 7.30PM | CH FULL: £18

ARC Ensemble (Artists of the Royal Conservatory, Canada)*

The Canadian group reintroduces music marginalised under 20th century repressive regimes

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Bacewicz's Piano **Ouintet No 1**

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

TUE 27 JAN | 8PM | CH | FULL: £18

The End Times*

Liza Bec's apocalyptic coming of age tale, with one foot in the supernatural and one foot in science

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Märchenerzählungen -Stories in Sound *

7PM | CNRR | FREE



THU 29 JAN | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes -Relaxed Performance

RNCM Baroque Ensemble



FRI 30 JAN | 8PM | CH FULL: £22

BBC Philharmonic Orchestra: Music of the Sun Kina

Jonathan Cohen directs music by Bach, Vivaldi, Jean-Baptiste Lully, and Jean-Philippe Rameau, promoted by BBC Philharmonic Orchestra

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: RNCM Songsters

7PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 31 JAN | 6PM | CH | FULL: £22

KNDS Fairey and Whitburn Bands present **Brass Across Borders**

A celebration of the best of brass from England and Scotland, promoted by KNDS Fairey Band

LISTINGS | FEBRUARY

MON 2 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Including Robert Schumann's Fantasiestücke

MON 2 FEB | 7.30PM | T FULL, FROM: £26.40

Cabaret Extreme

A beautifully bizarre blend of burlesque, daring drag, extreme stunts, and contemporary circus, promoted by Cabaret Extreme

THU 5 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

RNCM Chamber Orchestra performs with the Royal Northern Sinfonia

FRI 6 FEB | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £13

RNCM Chamber Choir and Edvard Grieg Vokalensemble *

Side-by-side performance embracing the rich choral traditions of Britain and Norway

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Kumori Quartet plays Liszt and Wagner * 6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SUN 8 FEB | 10AM - 7PM VARIOUS VENUES AND PRICES -DAY TICKETS, FULL: £26; PERCUSSION DISCOVERY MORNING AND SINGLE SESSIONS: £8

RNCM Day of Percussion

A day of exciting and informative sessions from world-renowned artists to inspire working professionals and percussion students alike, including a relaxed family-friendly Percussion Discovery Morning for ages five to 11 – discover more in our Deep Dive (page 17)

MON 16 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

RNCM School of Strings students perform

MON 16 FEB | 7.30PM | CNRR FULL: £13

Rafael Rojas (tenor)

The first of our four International Artist Diploma recitals

WED 18 FEB | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £25

Manchester Camerata and RNCM: Fanny Mendelssohn, Mozart, Beethoven

Gábor Takács-Nagy conducts, plus Caroline Pether (violin)

THU 19 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

Morelia Piano Trio performs Robert Schumann Piano Trio No 1 in D minor Op 63 SAT 21 FEB | 7PM | T | FULL: £18

RNCM Session Orchestra: Songs in the Key of Life

Celebrating 50 years of Stevie Wonder's award-winning album

MON 23 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

The music of Debussy

WED 25 FEB | 7.30PM | CNRR FULL: £18

Campbell Diamond (guitar)*

The inspirational quitarist performs selections from Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Caprichos de Goya, and more

THU 26 FEB | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes -**Relaxed Performance**

RNCM percussion ensembles

THU 26 FEB | 7PM | CH | FULL: £13

The Frederic Cox Award for Singing

Vocal students take centre stage in a prize to commemorate the renowned vocal tutor

FRI 27 FEB | DOORS: 7PM | T FULL: £32.45

Coleen Nolan - This Is Me

A joyous celebration of life, love, and laughter, promoted by Glasswerk

SAT 28 FEB | DOORS: 7PM | T FULL: FROM £41.80

Ron Sexsmith and Band

Three-times Juno winning songwriter performs music from across his catalogue, promoted bv Senbla

LISTINGS | MARCH

SUN 1 MAR | DOORS: 7PM | CH FULL, FROM: £33

Lucy Rose

The singer-songwriter returns with her fifth studio album, This Ain't The Way You Go Out, promoted by AEG



MON 2 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Music by Liszt and Dun

THU 5 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

RNCM quitar students perform



FRI 6 MAR | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £18

RNCM Symphony Orchestra: Scheherazade †

Poet-in-Residence Louise Wallwein joins our students to unveil stories of our city and our time, interwoven with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* – read more on pages 4-5

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Cello to the Metal

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 7 MAR | DOORS: 7PM CH | FULL: £25.85

Madison Cunningham

The Grammy winner returns with Ace, promoted by Live Nation

SUN 8 MAR | 2PM | CH | FULL: £13

RNCM Young Explorers: Aesop's Fables

Family event introducing young people to orchestral music, with storytelling from Michael Rosen

MON 9 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Music by Ravel and Falla

TUE 10 MAR | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £13

RNCM Chopin Prize

The annual competition showcases the piano skills of RNCM students

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Oscar Navarro's Game of Thieves*

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

WED 11 MAR | 6PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

European Chamber Music Academy Showcase

The best of chamber music and young professional ensembles from across Europe

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Coleridge-Taylor's Clarinet Quintet

5PM | CNRR | FREE

THU 12 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

RNCM harp students perform

THU 12 MAR | 7.30PM | CNRR FULL: £13

Johannes Gray (cello)

The second of our four International Artist Diploma recitals



FRI 13 MAR | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

Abel Selaocoe (cello) with Bantu Ensemble*+

The inspiring South African cellist and RNCM alumnus returns for an evening of genre-defying music

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Mendelssohn's **Concert Pieces**

6.30PM | CNRR | FRFF

SUN 15 MAR | 3PM | CH | FULL: £25

Manchester Camerata: One Damn Thing After Another

John Andrews conducts a mixed programme, performed by alumni Alexandra Dariescu (piano) and Alexander Mitchell (viola) with Rachel Clegg (cor anglais)

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Britten's Canticle II 'Abraham and Isaac' +

2PM | CNRR | FREE

MON 16 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Including violin music by Beethoven and Clara Schumann

TUE 17 MAR | 8PM | CH | FULL: £22

RNS Moves with Candoco Dance Company*

Royal Northern Sinfonia's inclusive ensemble brings music by Bach, Pärt, Caroline Shaw, and more, joined by the world-leading dance company THU 19 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes -Relaxed Performance +

RNCM saxophone students perform works connected to the Leaends and Lore theme, including Roddy Skeaping's Cries, Bells, Chats and Whispers

SUN 22 MAR | 3PM | T FULL, FROM: £26

Janáček: The Cunning Little Vixen+

Leoš Janáček's much loved opera

Also:

TUE 24 MAR | 7.30PM THU 26 MAR | 7.30PM SAT 28 MAR | 3PM

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Laurence Crane's European Towns

2PM | CNRR | FREE

MON 23 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE, WITH TICKET

Monday Lunchtimes

Piano duets by Poulenc, Shostakovich, and Chaminade

MON 23 MAR | 7.30PM | CNRR FULL: £13

Jason Wong (percussion)

The third of our four International Artist Diploma recitals

THU 26 MAR | 1.15PM | CH FREE. WITH TICKET

Thursday Lunchtimes

Strauss' Four Last Songs for piano, violin, horn, and voice

FRI 27 MAR | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £13

RNCM MIUAWGA Ensemble

Our improvisational ensemble delivers a spontaneous programme

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Handel's Hercules * 6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 28 MAR | DOORS 7.30PM | CH

Salford Choral Society presents Rutter and Fauré

John Rutter's *Magnificat* and Fauré's *Pavane Op 50* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, promoted by Salford Choral Society

LISTINGS | APRIL

SAT 11 – SUN 12 APR | VARIOUS TIMES CH | FULL: £10

National Concert Band Festival

The UK's largest Wind Band and Big Band Festival, promoted by NCBF

BOOK ONLINE

Buy tickets on our website 24/7, or via 0161 907 5555 on Mondays and Thursdays, 2-5pm (exc. bank holidays and the Christmas period).

ACCESS

Accessible seating (with Essential Companion) is available in all venues. Our relaxed Lunchtimes events especially welcome those with access needs to enjoy free performances. For more information about access, visit rncm.ac.uk/access.

MEMBERSHIP

As an RNCM Member, you can enjoy unparalleled performances by our students, alumni, artists-inresidence, and partners from across the globe. For just £35 a year, RNCM Members get access to half price and discounted tickets, 15% off in our Café Bar, invitations to exclusive events, and more.





Join Today

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Group, Multibuy, and Student/Under 26 discounted tickets are available for some shows – see individual listings online.

RNCM On the Road

RNCM On the Road is a series of free, walk-in concerts around the region performed by student musicians, bringing the music closer to you.

ST ANN'S CHURCH

MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE

WED 7 JAN | 1PM

Yonina Liss (piano) | Francis Bamford (counter-tenor) and Jennifer Sykes (piano)

WED 4 FEB | 1PM

Belle Wong (piano) | Nick Rushworth (saxophone)

WED 4 MAR | 1PM

Jasmin Jiang (piano) | Barry Lo (French horn) and William Poon (piano)

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

OXFORD ROAD

SUN 11 JAN I 3PM

InSlide Out Trombone Quartet

SUN 15 FEB I 3PM

Brasis Ensemble

SUN 15 MAR | 3PM

RNCM Songsters

EMMANUEL CHURCH

DIDSBURY

SAT 10 JAN I 11AM

Liana Storey (piano) | Cardinal Wind Quintet

SAT 31 JAN I 11AM

Emily Nicolas (trombone) | Palmieri Piano Quintet

SAT 21 FEB | 11AM

Estelle Gonzalez (viola) and Liana Storey (piano) | Osian Ensemble

SAT 28 FEB | 11AM

Lucy Breakwell (soprano), Edward Wenborn (baritone), and James Gillett (piano) | RNCM Composers

Deep Dive: RNCM Day of Percussion

For 32 years, the RNCM Day of Percussion has showcased the full spectrum of percussion artistry through a dynamic mix of workshops, clinics, and performances – delivered by RNCM musicians and by invited artists recognised at the highest levels of teaching and performance.

Founded by the College's former Director of Percussion Ian Wright and continued by his successor and the festival's current Artistic Director Simone Rebello, the full-day event is a place for performers, educators, and enthusiasts to be fully immersed in pure percussion – everything from vibraphone and drums to finger cymbals and bird whistles.

'There was nothing else like this happening in the UK, and it continued to be the sole event of its type for many years,' says Simone. 'The format for the day has stayed in place throughout, demonstrating the longevity of lan's original idea and the uniqueness of it.

'Our main targets have always been to inspire, educate, and entertain, and to create lots of elements within the day that involve the students. Which means there is always something for everyone!'

Among the highlights in 2026 are Emmanuel Séjourné's debut visit discussing vibraphone in contemporary music, maestro Sanju Sahai's tabla workshop, and Andrea Vogler's all-ages ensemble jam Big Play. Paul Clarvis discusses his work on Hollywood blockbusters in his Percussion on Film Soundtracks session (including Star Wars and Mufasa: The Lion King), Simone's own BackBeat Percussion Quartet marks 30 years together, and awardwinning musician Kai Strobel joins the RNCM Percussionists for an evening performance to close the day.

RNCM Day of Percussion

Sun 8 Feb | 10am – 7pm All Venues Full, From £26 (Percussion Discovery Morning and single sessions: £8)



Book Online



Discover the RNCM

FOOD AND DRINK

Our fully accessible RNCM Café Bar serves freshly prepared breakfasts, lunches, and evening meals, as well as takeaway salads, sandwiches, wraps, cakes, and snacks. All our selections include vegan options, and we operate our service in a sustainable, environmentally responsible way.

For more information, including opening hours, visit **rncm.ac.uk/foodanddrink**.

Please note: the Café Bar is cashless.

STUDY HERE

Everyone within the RNCM's vibrant community plays an essential part in maintaining our status as one of the world's most exciting and forward-thinking conservatoires and destination of choice for talented young musicians.

To find out more, go to rncm.ac.uk/study-here.

SUPPORT US

As a charity (registered charity numbers 504949 and 504948), the RNCM relies on the generosity of individuals, companies, and charitable trusts to support our mission.

To find out more about supporting our work, visit **rncm.ac.uk/support**.

HIRE OUR FACILITIES AND OUR MUSICIANS

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.

For more information, including availability and hire charges, visit **rncm.ac.uk/hire**.

If you're interested in booking RNCM musicians for your event, email artistagency@rncm.ac.uk.



RNCM

SUN 22 - SAT 28 MAR 2026

Janáček: The Cunning Little Vixen

Matinee **3pm**Evening **7.30pm**



Book Online

The **RNCM Opera Circle** plays a vital role in nurturing the next generation of talented students, providing them with exceptional opportunities to grow and shine on stage. Members of our Opera Circle enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes access and witness first-hand how your generosity inspires and transforms our students' journey.

Find out how you can help, or join today at rncm.ac.uk/opera-circle

Contact Us

Box.office@rncm.ac.uk | 0161 907 5555

Phone lines open Mondays and Thursdays between 2pm and 5pm

rncm.ac.uk 124 Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RD

Registered charity numbers RNCM Awards Fund 504948 | RNCM Endowment Fund 504949

Artists and programmes are correct at the time of going to press and we reserve the right to change artists and/or programmes without notice if necessary.