

A man with a beard and a black turban is playing a sarangi, a traditional Indian stringed instrument. He is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the instrument. The text "Summer 2025" is in the top left, "at the RNCM" is in the bottom left, and "RNCM ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC" is in the bottom right.

Summer
2025

at the RNCM

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE of MUSIC

Cover photo: Jasdeep Singh Degun
Photographer: Adam Lyons



RNCM Session Orchestra
Photographer: Natalie Argent

Welcome to the RNCM

Our Summer programme is full of the usual eclectic array of performances, large and small, crossing genres and bringing our students together with many of the most exciting musicians in the world. In fact, collaboration remains a major feature of this season, and the innovative spirit of Manchester is never far from what we do.

We come together with **Manchester Jazz Festival** for two separate performances featuring trumpeter Yazz Ahmed and John Helliwell's Super Big Tramp Band, we welcome back the charismatic Dutch conductor **Antony Hermus** to conduct Mahler's epic Second Symphony as part of **Manchester Classical** at The Bridgewater Hall, and we're joined by the wonderful **Scottish Ensemble** for a unique kinetic production of music by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky in *Impulse – Music in Motion*, as part of our exciting *Dance:Music* series celebrating the synergy of music and movement.

New and contemporary works feature heavily, as ever, through our focus on the music of **Roxanna Panufnik**, a newly written chamber opera by **Zakiya Leeming** inspired by the science of immunity (a Wellcome Trust commission), and the **RNCM Session Orchestra: Original Artists Edition** showcase of the creativity coming out of our Popular Music department.

In June, we extend a grateful thanks to sitarist **Jasdeep Singh Degun** who ends his time as our Innovate Fellow with a newly created performance alongside RNCM musicians.

This issue, we've taken a Deep Dive into our annual all-ages party **Explore@RNCM**, which opens up our building to the community on our doorstep to play, watch, and even perform with our students (read more on page 13). So much of the energy and excitement of RNCM performances comes from you, our audience and loyal supporters, and we hope you have an opportunity to catch us at the RNCM or around the city.



Book Now

Original Artists, New Music

Our passions for innovation, exploration, creation, and research in music come through this summer as audiences are invited to experience new approaches to both contemporary classical and pop performances.

Our **In Focus** event – one in a regular series, that invites a trailblazing living composer to the RNCM to celebrate their contribution to music and collaborate with them – looks at **Roxanna Panufnik**, whose choral work reflects her deep interest in bridging faiths through song (Thu 1 May, from 1.15pm). Ahead of the event, Roxanna will work closely with students to create a compelling day of performance, which will also include an **In Conversation** with Roxanna and a collaboration with the **RNCM Chamber Choir**. *In Focus* will later transfer to Wigmore Hall, London (Sat 10 May).

Speaking about the motivation for her music, Roxanna explains: *'I'm on a mission to shout from the rooftops the beauty of all these different faiths' music. It's about bringing us together. Too often we don't think about what we have in common, but instead about our tiny fraction of difference from each other.'*


The same spirit of exploration and coming together continues throughout the season via our **Spotlight** series devised entirely by RNCM students (which returns on Wed 30 Apr to complement the broader programme with free 30-minute concerts), an exciting programme from the **RNCM Wind Orchestra** (Fri 13 Jun), the **RNCM Session Orchestra: Original Artists Edition** (Sat 14 Jun), a collaborative concert of non-Western music from composer and sitarist **Jasdeep Singh Degun** and RNCM students (Thu 19 Jun), and a new opera about immunisation and immune memory from PRISM Artist and Producer in Residence (Research Assistant) **Zakiya Leeming** (Tue 24 Jun).



In Focus Tickets



Roxanna Panufnik
Photographer: Benjamin Ealovega



Jonathan Morton of Scottish Ensemble
Photographer: foxbrush

Inspirational Artists

Interview:

Jonathan Morton, Scottish Ensemble +*

Scottish Ensemble: Impulse – Music in Motion +*

Fri 2 May | 7.30PM
RNCM Concert Hall
Full: £22



Read the Full Interview

The RNCM brings its **Dance:Music** theme to a close with a special performance from **Scottish Ensemble**, one of the country's most versatile and pioneering groups of outstanding musicians and part of our *Inspirational Artists* season. We sat down with the group's Artistic Director and Leader **Jonathan Morton**, an RNCM alumnus, to find out more about **Impulse – Music in Motion** – a memorised, kinetic production of Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings that grew out of a long-term creative relationship with acclaimed Sweden-based choreographer Örjan Andersson.

Jonathan: *'We all know implicitly that making sounds on acoustic instruments is a physical activity, but we wanted to make it a lot more explicit for an audience and for the musicians, and really focus on it.'*

'I think audiences go to concerts primarily to listen to great music and that's wonderful – long may that continue. But there's always space for musicians and audiences to experiment, to test boundaries and parameters and look for new information.'

'The act of musicians committing all the music to memory has a significant impact on how it is performed... it's a huge challenge to be asked to play eight meters apart, and across these huge distances there's an intensity of listening and an intensity of performance that is quite electrifying – or can be! The kind of concentration and focus that is required from the musicians is extremely high. I think that's what the audiences respond to; there's definitely more danger and more risk involved.'

Read the full interview online at rncm.ac.uk.

WED 30 APR | 7.30PM | CH
FREE, WITH TICKET

RNCM Brand New Orchestra

New orchestral works by our
composition students

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Dag Wirén's Serenade for Strings

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

THU 1 MAY | VARIOUS TIMES AND
VENUES | FREE, WITH TICKET

Roxanna Panufnik In Focus

Including:

Thursday Lunchtimes

1.15PM | CH

In Conversation

6.30PM | CNRR

Heartfelt (featuring RNCM Chamber Choir)

7.30PM | CH

Celebrating the diverse work of the
British composer

FRI 2 MAY | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £22

Scottish Ensemble: Impulse - Music in Motion ✱

A memorised, kinetic production
developed with choreographer
Örjan Andersson

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Olivier Messiaen's Harawi

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 3 MAY | 7PM | CH | FULL: £8

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band 20th Anniversary Concert

An evening of brass band music,
promoted by MYBB

SAT 3 MAY | DOORS 7PM | T
FULL, FROM £21.45

Brian Bilston & Henry Normal

Together for the first time, promoted by
Edge Street Live

SUN 4 MAY | 2.30PM AND 7PM | T
FULL: £18.50

The Greatest Show on Earth

An annual showcase, promoted by
Northern School of Theatre and Dance

SUN 11 MAY | 7.30PM | T | FULL,
FROM £22

Tony Ann (piano)

Contemporary meets classical in
a solo show, promoted by Serious

SAT 17 MAY | 8PM | T | FULL: £22

Yazz Ahmed: A Paradise in the Hold

New music from the genre-bending
British-Bahraini trumpeter, promoted
by manchester jazz festival and RNCM

SAT 24 MAY | 8PM | T | FULL: £27.50

John Helliwell's Super Big Tramp Band

Instrumental arrangements of beloved Supertramp tunes, promoted by manchester jazz festival and RNCM

Pre-show performance:

Ambleside Quartet

7PM | RNCM BAR | FREE

SUN 31 MAY | 7PM | T | FULL: £33

The Ultimate Classic Rock Show

Two hours of anthems, promoted by Front of House Productions

THU 5 JUN | 6PM | T | FREE,
WITH TICKET

RNCM Opera Scenes

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

Also:

TUE 10 JUN | 6PM

THU 19 JUN | 6PM

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

Thursday Lunchtimes

The RNCM Brass Band performs music by Vaughan Williams and Peter Graham

FRI 13 JUN | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £18

RNCM Wind Orchestra +

RNCM staff and students perform side-by-side, reviving the Orchestra's 2004 album *Dances with Winds*

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Ethel Smyth's String Quintet

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 14 JUN | 7PM | T | FULL: £18

RNCM Session Orchestra: Original Artists Edition

The next generation of artists from our Popular Music department perform original music with a live orchestra

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Suit Up Barbershop Quartet

6PM | CNRR | FREE

SUN 15 JUN | 2PM | T | FULL: £13

RNCM Young Explorers: Queens of Pop

The Untold Orchestra's interactive family show returns, featuring music by Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Sabrina Carpenter, Ariane Grande, and Lady Gaga – visit our website to find out more about the pre-show pop singing workshops

MON 16 JUN | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £13

RNCM Christopher Rowland Chamber Ensemble of the Year

Our annual prize in honour of the architect of our chamber music department

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Cortet Presents 'Dreams of the Unknown'

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

TUE 17 JUN | 7.30PM | CH | FULL: £18

Steven Osborne (piano) with RNCM Pianists

Osborne performs music by Ravel with our staff and students plus music by Jaëll and Boulez

WED 18 JUN, FRI 20 JUN | 2PM
PHILHARMONIC STUDIO, MEDIACITY
FREE, BY TICKET APPLICATION ONLY

BBC Philharmonic

Our International Artist Diploma students and postgraduate conductors perform with BBC Philharmonic – see our website for more details

WED 18 JUN | 7PM | CH | FULL: £13

The Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss

Finalists from School of Vocal Studies and Opera perform selections from Strauss' repertoire

THU 19 JUN | 7.30PM | CH | FREE: £18

Unbound: Jasdeep Singh Degun (sitar) with musicians from RNCM

An exploration of non-Western music traditions

SAT 21 JUN | CH | FREE WITH TICKET

RNCM Gold Medal

2PM | **Composition Final**

3.30PM | **Classical Final (solo)**

Our annual prize celebrates the finest new music and solo performance

SUN 22 JUN | 3PM | CH

FULL: £13.20

Greater Manchester and Blackburn with Darwen Music Hub Celebration Concert 2025

Promoted by GM Music Hub

TUE 24 JUN | 7PM | T | FULL: £18

Dangerous Matter

A new opera from composer Zakiya Leeming in response to immune memory

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight:

Felix Mendelssohn's Octet

6PM | CNRR | FREE

WED 25 JUN | 7.30PM | CNRR
FULL: £13

RNCM Guitars

A showcase from our guitar students

THU 26 JUN | 7.30PM | T | FULL: £18

RNCM Big Band with Iain Ballamy (saxophone)

The saxophonist and composer performs his original music

Pre-show concert:

Spotlight: Wind Quintets of the 21st Century

6.30PM | CNRR | FREE

SAT 28 JUN | 2PM | THE
BRIDGEWATER HALL | FULL: £15

RNCM Symphony Orchestra: Mahler 2 'Resurrection'

Antony Hermus conducts, part of Manchester Classical (Fri 27 Jun-Sun 29 Jun)

SUN 29 JUN | 12-4PM
RNCM VENUES | FULL: £10

Explore@RNCM

Our all-ages annual party with live performances and creative activities

WED 2 JUL | DOORS 7PM | T
FULL: £33

Juno Birch

A night of stand-up comedy, promoted by AEG

THU 17 JUL-SUN 20 JUL | THU-SAT
7.30PM, SAT-SUN 2.30PM | T
FULL: £25.50

Germaine Kruij: A Possibility

Illusion, sound, and performance merge to create a world of infinite possibilities, commissioned and produced by Factory International in Manchester

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). Accessible seating (with Essential Companion) is available in all venues.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

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

MEMBERSHIP

As an RNCM Member, you can enjoy unparalleled performances by our students, alumni, artists in residence, and partners from across the globe.

For just £35 a year, members get access to half price and discounted tickets, special offers on food and drink, invitations to exclusive events, and more.



Join Today

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.

Complementing this series, our Popular Music students also perform in venues around the city, including Band on the Wall and 33 Oldham Street. Follow us on Instagram at @rncmlive for announcements and updates.

ST ANN'S CHURCH

MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE

WED 2 APR 2025 | 1PM

**Roisin Fleming (piano) |
Ardentia Trio**

WED 7 MAY 2025 | 1PM

**Tammy See (piano) | Genesis Duo:
Rachael Green (saxophone) and
Ben Attfield (piano)**

WED 4 JUN 2025 | 1PM

**Xi Ouyang (piano) |
RNCM Songsters**

WED 2 JUL 2025 | 1PM

**Michael Korzeniewski (piano) |
Jestour Piano Quartet**

THE WHITWORTH

OXFORD ROAD

SUN 11 MAY | 3PM

Ventis Vocal Ensemble

SUN 1 JUN | 3PM

Toska String Quartet

EMMANUEL CHURCH

DIDSBURY

SAT 3 MAY | 11AM

**Gebbels Piano Trio |
RNCM Chamber Choir**

SAT 17 MAY | 11AM

**Jess Pun Lai Yuen (flute) and
Roderick Barrand (piano) |
Xueer Wu (viola) and
Roderick Barrand (piano)**

SAT 31 MAY | 11AM

**Ruby Hendry (mezzo-soprano)
and Ben Attfield (piano) |
James Smith (piano)**

SAT 5 JUL | 11AM

**Olias Saxophone Quartet |
Ventis Vocal Ensemble**

SAT 26 JUL | 11AM

**Jay Carroll (piano) | Phoebe Watts
(mezzo-soprano) and
Russell Medley (piano)**

Deep Dive: Explore@RNCM

Our all-ages annual party, *Explore@RNCM* is a huge celebration of the music within our local community, showcasing over 250 local musicians each year in a day of performances and creative activities. There's a real festival feel to the event as performers from more than 20 nationalities fill the RNCM with music.

The theme is community connections and celebrating the enormous variety of music represented in the diverse make-up of our city: from classical to jazz, reggae to hip hop, and through world music from Iran, China, India, Egypt, Ukraine, and more. Manchester as a city has always championed its musical talent and creativity and *Explore@RNCM* is our chance to celebrate that history.

It is also an opportunity to introduce new audiences to our building, with many people coming through our doors for the first time to enjoy the music, workshops, face painting, dance, spoken word, and roving circus performers, as well as international food and drink. Music-making is something everyone can enjoy, regardless of age or ability, and it remains an important cultural experience that brings us together and creates community cohesion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Audiences can even collaborate with RNCM students and composers on the day to create their own music using our award-winning facilities.



Explore@RNCM
photographer: Robin Clewley



Find Out More

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 RNCM is a cashless venue

THE RNCM PIANO FLEET CAMPAIGN

With 132 pianos, the RNCM houses one of the biggest fleets in the UK. Pianos are vital to our music ecology – used by the youngest in our Junior School and RNCM Engage projects to the most advanced postgraduates on the cusp of international careers. Our entire fleet of pianos is currently leased and we aim to purchase them to safeguard their future, save money, and ensure we can deliver world-class training for generations of students to come. You can help; name a piano from £5,000 and create a unique legacy for yourself or a loved one.

Discover more at rncm.ac.uk/piano-campaign.

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.

HIRE OUR FACILITIES AND 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 the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards 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.

SUPPORT US

The RNCM is a registered charity (no. 504949) and 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.



RNCM

SAT 28 JUN // THE BRIDGEWATER HALL // 2PM

**RNCM Symphony
Orchestra: Mahler 2
'Resurrection'**

With Antony Hermus *conductor*



Find Out More

**MANCHESTER
CLASSICAL**

Contact Us

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

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

rncm.ac.uk

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Manchester, UK

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.