

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Our current degree programmes aim to create professional musicians with high-level practical skills who are flexible, thoughtful and well-informed about music and the opportunities available within the profession. Your development as a performer or composer lies at the heart of these programmes. We have shaped these in ways that allow scope for both flexibility and specialisation to help you prepare for the ever widening demands of the music profession.

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Pictured: Vladimir Ashkenazy with RCM Student Sofya Gulyak, winner of the 2009 Leeds International Piano Competition









# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The RCM's undergraduate programmes include the BMus(Hons) degree, a BSc in Physics and Musical Performance and a range of Experience Programmes. The BMus(Hons) balances training in solo, chamber and orchestral performance with critical enquiry into music past and present. Special features include an emphasis on studies within your individual faculty, Alexander Technique and health awareness courses for young musicians, and community outreach projects.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### Bachelor of Music: BMus(Hons)

- Weekly lessons on your Principal Study – your main instrument, voice, or composition
- Opportunities for instrumentalists to undertake Related Study on an instrument related to your Principal Study (e.g. cor anglais or baroque oboe for oboists)
- Second Study tuition is available (audition at start of programme necessary) and students with an equally high level of ability in two areas may undertake Joint Principal Studies

- Faculty-based activities, including chamber music and duo performance coaching, an orchestral training programme, performance classes, language classes (singers), music technology (composers) and improvisation (organists)
- Orchestral and choral projects, workshops and masterclasses in all areas including period instruments
- A range of core units in historical, technical, practical and vocational subjects to provide breadth and depth to your study and help develop key skills such as oral and written communication, team working and problem solving
- A comprehensive range of options in Years 3 and 4, allowing you to specialise in particular areas of interest and expertise
- Exchange opportunities, as part of your RCM studies, with leading international conservatoires. BMus(Hons) students can take a junior year (third year) exchange to the USA or to Australia. Year 3 and 4 students often study in Europe for a term. For full details see page 25
- The award, to successful students at the end of the programme, of the internationally recognised BMus(Hons) degree under the RCM's own Royal Charter. The RCM is the only English conservatoire entrusted to create and award its own degrees





### Years 1 and 2

- Performance studies in Principal and Related instruments, with regular workshop opportunities for performance
- A range of practical faculty-based activities
- Training in education outreach and instrumental teaching
- Courses in history and performance practice, practical musicianship/stylistic studies, aural awareness, study skills, Alexander Technique and musicians' wellbeing
- Options in history and stylistic studies topics in Year 2
- Opportunity to fast track to higher levels of study in aural awareness and practical musicianship

### Years 3 and 4

- Continuing work in performance studies (Principal, Related and Second Study instruments)
- Creation of a personalised programme of study from the following options (offered on either a yearly or two-yearly basis):
  - duo performance
  - chamber music
  - conducting
  - improvisation
  - accompaniment (on piano, organ and guitar)
  - orchestration and arrangement
  - stylistic studies
  - aural in professional contexts
  - composition (including composition for screen)
  - historical studies (including interdisciplinary and research project options)
  - jazz history
  - jazz harmony, composition and arranging
  - psychology of music
  - education and outreach
  - instrumental and vocal teaching
  - classical CD production
  - studio musicianship
  - composing with the sequencer
  - Alexander Technique
  - specialist vocal performance (in song classes and opera, acting and movement)

### BSc(Hons) in Physics and Musical Performance

- 4 years full-time
- Taught jointly with Imperial College London

This programme combines advanced performance training and related musical studies with all the components of an honours degree in physics. See page 88 for the application procedure or visit [www3.imperial.ac.uk/physics/courses/ug](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/physics/courses/ug)





## EXPERIENCE PROGRAMMES IN LONDON

### Gap Year Experience Programme

This flexible programme is intended for talented young musicians who want to take a gap year before commencing an undergraduate programme. For suitable students, the programme can then be used to transfer direct to Year 2 of the BMus(Hons).

### Junior Year or Semester Experience Programme

This programme is ideal for Junior Year North American students and Asian or other overseas students who want to experience studying and living in London for either a semester or a whole year. Most international higher education institutions will give credit for Junior Years or semesters abroad.

### Gap Year and Junior Year/Semester Experience Programme Content

Each programme is arranged on an individual basis, according to instrumental and personal priorities, and within an articulated credit structure. It provides:

- Individual lessons on Principal Study
- Opportunities for involvement in orchestras, ensembles, choral groups and chamber music
- Participation in core academic classes (for example, aural awareness, historical studies), according to need, and a range of BMus options appropriate to the level of the student
- Concerts, masterclasses, seminars and workshops
- Access to RCM resources (Library, Museum of Instruments, Studios, Centre for Performance History, Centre for Performance Science, practice facilities)

The purpose of these programmes is to provide an opportunity for intensive practical work in London, enabling those who have already achieved a high standard to consolidate their technique and to widen their musical experience. Places are offered only to those who show high levels of ability, potential and motivation. Applicants must be able to meet BMus(Hons) entry requirements (see page 87). Successful Experience Programme students are provided with a full transcript at the end of their studies, together with a certificate of study, and can attend the RCM Graduation Ceremony in July.

# POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The RCM is home to a lively community of taught and research postgraduate students. It offers a range of postgraduate programmes which encourage interaction and dialogue at all levels.

At their core resides the concept of the informed musician who works across practice and theory. As well as encouraging the study of key sources relevant to performers and composers, the RCM's postgraduate programmes foster critical skills and provide students with a platform upon which to engage in topical debates about all issues connected with the arts; not least to rehearse the arguments for the importance of their own music-making.

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### Masters programmes

- **MPerf:** for instrumentalists, conductors and singers
- **MMus in Performance:** for instrumentalists, conductors and singers
- **MComp:** for composers and composers for screen
- **MMus in Composition:** for composers and composers for screen
- **MSc in Performance Science:** for performance scientists

The RCM's Masters programmes are designed to prepare you for the music profession. They encourage you to develop your creative personality as a musician and to benefit from the highly distinguished and experienced team of professors.

The MPerf and MComp programmes are designed specifically for performers, conductors and composers with a strong emphasis on Principal Study. The MMus programmes are intended for those who are aiming for careers that require more extensive academic experience alongside high level performance or composition skills. They also provide a solid grounding for those aiming for further study at doctoral level.

### Artist Diploma

- **ArtDip in Performance:** for instrumentalists who have already demonstrated excellence in performance at Masters level, either here at the RCM or elsewhere
- **ArtDip in Opera:** for singers who have already demonstrated excellence in performance at Masters level, either here at the RCM or elsewhere

### Other awards

- **PGDip:** for instrumentalists, conductors, singers and composers who have completed one year of a two-year full-time Masters programme
- **GradDip:** for overseas student singers only, as a bridge to Masters study

### Doctoral programme

- **PhD:** for performers, composers, musicologists and performance scientists, combining practice and theory at the highest level





## PROGRAMMES FOR INSTRUMENTALISTS

The MPerf and MMus in Performance are designed to allow a strong emphasis on one-to-one tuition on your Principal Study instrument. They also offer the opportunity to undertake a Second Study, for example the historical equivalent of your Principal Study instrument.

There are unparalleled opportunities for solo, chamber and orchestral performance, in repertoire ranging from medieval to contemporary, unlimited coaching in chamber music and a rich array of faculty-based activities, including workshops and masterclasses with international artists. For examples of performance opportunities, please see page 20.

### MPerf (Master of Performance)

- Two years full-time/three years part-time

This postgraduate programme concentrates on the development of practical skills through Principal Study and faculty-based activities, and is assessed through recitals and concerts. The programme also offers a wide range of complementary Electives, mostly examined by submitted portfolios of work. These Electives include:

- Concerto Competition
- Conducting
- Contemporary Music in Action
- Continuo Accompaniment
- Duo Performance
- Experimental Music
- Historical Performance
- Keyboard Improvisation
- Music, Culture and Contemporary Media
- Repertoire Project
- Sources of Performance History
- Alexander Technique
- Chamber Music

MPerf students also prepare a Professional Portfolio that includes training in:

- Studio Experience
- New Media
- Programme Notes
- Spoken Presentation
- Professional Skills

### Master of Music: MMus in Performance

- Two years full-time/three years part-time
- Exceptionally can be taken fast-track in one calendar year

The MMus in Performance has at its core the same Principal Study, Electives and faculty-based activities as the MPerf programme (please see left). In addition, students prepare a Critical Project/Lecture Presentation and an Academic Portfolio that includes training in:

- Communicative Writing
- Scholarly Writing
- Spoken Presentation
- Programme Notes

Through these units practical work is further underpinned by the musicological disciplines that inform performance. Students are taught through lectures, small-group seminars and one-to-one tuition, and cover theoretical and musicological approaches to performance, aesthetics, analysis, the study of recordings, collaborations with composers, and performance practice issues. Assessment is through both written and spoken tasks.

### Artist Diploma in Performance

- One year full-time only

This programme is for advanced instrumentalists providing a final intensive preparation for professional life. The Artist Diploma offers students who have already demonstrated a high level of Principal Study achievement at Masters level to engage in a further year of concentrated Principal Study activity, culminating in a juried public recital examination.





## SPECIALISMS

Instrumentalists on the Masters programmes have the option to specialise in one of the following areas. Please note that the Orchestral Performance specialism is only available to MPerf students (not MMus).

### Orchestral Performance (not MMus)

This option provides orchestral training through specialist units in the skills needed for orchestral work, including orchestral sit-ins, sectional coaching and group seminars. There are opportunities for side-by-side work with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra (admission to these schemes is by competitive audition).

Exceptional Year 2 students also participate in the "Pathways" scheme with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, where they are assigned a dedicated mentor from the orchestra, take part in rehearsals across the year (including rehearsals for the BBC Proms) and perform in a special concert at BBC Maida Vale Studios.

All students perform in the RCM's own orchestras and ensembles, with guest conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Vladimir Jurowski, Sir Roger Norrington, Bernard Haitink, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Andrew Litton. Specialist assessment methods are mock auditions and continuous assessment of orchestral participation.

### Historical Performance

This specialism supplements Principal Study in a historical instrument with extended projects on various eras, nationalities and genres. It is designed to give intensive experience and understanding of the challenges of period performance. There is also scope for a Second Study.

The programme is delivered by the Historical Performance team, headed by Ashley Solomon, Director of the period-instrument ensemble Florilegium. Recent contributors to the programme have included Walter van Hauwe, Malcolm Bilson, Laurence Dreyfus, Rachel Podger and Dame Emma Kirkby. Specialist assessment methods are assessed concert work and some written assignments.

Please see page 62 to find out more about Historical Performance at the RCM.

### Piano Accompaniment/ Repetiteur

This programme offers intensive training in the accompaniment of both instrumental and vocal music. There are regular classes by internationally renowned pianist Roger Vignoles, focussing on vocal repertoire. Other provision includes performances of duo repertoire and chamber music; sight-reading and transposition; fortepiano, harpsichord, continuo playing and figured bass; techniques for the repetiteur, and basic conducting.

There are close links with the College's other faculties, especially the Vocal Faculty and Opera School. Specialist assessment methods are continuous assessment and participation in recitals.

### Contemporary Piano

This specialism provides pianists with the opportunity to expand their repertoire interests through intensive experience of the demands of working with contemporary music. The Keyboard Faculty has many teachers distinguished for their collaborative work with composers. Under the leadership of Vanessa Latache, Head of Faculty, Masters students are offered a series of workshops/seminars to complement their Principal Study provision.

This series includes sessions on minimalism and post minimalism, contrasts between radical complexity and simplicity, music for prepared piano, aleatoric music and improvisation. Students work alongside staff and student composers in preparing pieces for concert performance, and are offered the chance to develop orchestral piano, duo and ensemble playing, as well as solo performance.





## PROGRAMMES FOR CONDUCTORS

### MPerf (Master of Performance)

- Two years full-time/three years part-time

Conductors on the MPerf programme explore a wide variety of repertoire through their one-to-one conducting lessons. They also receive opportunities to direct various orchestras and ensembles, and take rehearsals for (and shadow) visiting conductors. To support their Principal Study, conductors are offered the following units:

#### Specialist Unit (Conducting Seminars)

- Analysis
- Specialist Techniques and Repertoire classes

#### Elective Units

- Continuo Accompaniment
- Experimental Music
- Music, Culture and Contemporary Media
- Repertoire Project
- Sources of Performance History

MPerf students also prepare a Professional Portfolio which includes training in:

- Studio Experience
- New Media
- Programme Notes
- Spoken Presentation
- Professional Skills

Assessment methods include continuous assessment and a final concert.

### Master of Music: MMus in Performance

- Two years full-time/three years part-time
- Exceptionally can be taken fast-track in one calendar year

In addition to the Principal Study, Elective and Specialist Units offered on the MPerf (please see left), MMus conductors complete a Critical Project/Lecture Presentation and an Academic Portfolio that includes training in:

- Communicative Writing
- Scholarly Writing
- Spoken Presentation
- Programme Notes

Through these units practical work is further underpinned by the musicological disciplines that inform performance. Students are taught through lectures, small-group seminars and one-to-one tuition, and cover theoretical and musicological approaches to performance, aesthetics, analysis, the study of recordings, collaborations with composers, and performance practice issues. Assessment is through both written and spoken tasks.



## PROGRAMMES FOR SINGERS

Most singers admitted to postgraduate programmes at the RCM study for at least two years, developing skills under the guidance of the College's outstanding staff and visiting professionals from the UK's leading opera companies. Masters singers may audition during their first year for fast-track entry to the ArtDip in Opera, potentially completing their Masters qualification during the first year of the Opera Course (usually MPerf).

### MPerf (Master of Performance)

- Two years full-time/three years part-time

The MPerf in Performance provides an opportunity for accomplished singers to concentrate on the development of their voice and the acquisition of vocal and operatic training. Skills essential to the singer's craft, acting and movement training and language work, are supplemented by elements that are designed to help students prepare for the professional world. To support their Principal Study, singers are offered training in the following units:

#### Specialist Units

- Repertoire Coaching
- Opera Coaching
- Interpretation and Artistry

Students also prepare a Professional Portfolio that includes training in:

- Studio Experience
- New Media
- Programme Notes
- Spoken Presentation
- Professional Skills

Assessment is by recital, continuous assessment and the assessment of an operatic scene or role. All students participate in fully staged opera scenes. Second Study is not available on this course.

### Master of Music: MMus in Performance

- Two years full-time/three years part-time

In addition to the Principal Study and faculty-based activities offered on the MPerf (please see left), MMus students in Performance prepare a Critical Project/Lecture Presentation, an Academic Portfolio and take Specialist Units including:

#### Specialist Units

- Repertoire Coaching or Opera Coaching, plus
- Interpretation and Artistry

#### Academic Portfolio

- Communicative Writing
- Scholarly Writing
- Spoken Presentation
- Programme Notes

Through these units practical work is further underpinned by the musicological disciplines that inform performance. Students are taught through lectures, small-group seminars and one-to-one tuition, and cover theoretical and musicological approaches to performance, aesthetics, analysis, the study of recordings, and the study of artistic movements underlying both opera and song.

Students are assessed by a recital, continuous assessment and the assessment of an operatic scene or role as well as both written and spoken tasks. Second Study is not available.

### Artist Diploma in Opera

- One or two years full-time

The Artist Diploma in Opera offers the most advanced level of postgraduate vocal study and is available to students who have already demonstrated excellence at postgraduate level either at the RCM or elsewhere. Applicants with suitable alternative previous experience may also enter this programme. Singers on the ArtDip in Opera study for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two. In addition to one-to-one Principal Study provision and Specialist Units as on the Masters programmes, students receive individual sessions with coaches from the major British opera companies and the National Opera Studio, masterclasses and career guidance. Assessment takes place either on the basis of a role in one of the RCM opera productions or through a substantial contribution to the opera scenes performed during the year.

### What is the role of the RCM International Opera School?

Most class-based postgraduate vocal study takes place within the RCM International Opera School and its teaching and rehearsal spaces. The Artist Diploma in Opera is the most advanced level of postgraduate vocal study and is open to those singers accepted into the RCMIOS. The Artist Diploma in Opera is specifically designed to enhance the skills of pre-professional postgraduate students through an intensive programme of one-to-one lessons and coaching, supplemented by bespoke movement, stagecraft and language classes. In addition to two sets of opera scenes in spring and summer terms, the RCMIOS mounts three fully-staged productions annually. The school is truly international, in terms of the range of nationalities of singers who study with us, as well as the high profile its productions enjoy.

Operatic repertoire is chosen to cater for the specific needs of singers studying on the Artist Diploma in Opera although Masters students are frequently invited to audition for roles in the RCM's critically acclaimed opera productions.



## PROGRAMMES FOR COMPOSERS

The Masters programmes for composers provide the opportunity to develop compositional technique and individual voice in the outstandingly rich performing environment of the RCM. There are regular opportunities to hear your work performed by fellow students and professionals, and numerous composers' orchestral workshops, sessions with resident professional ensembles, and other projects and showcase events.

### MComp (Master of Composition)

- **Two years full-time/three years part-time**

MComp students receive one-to-one tuition with composition professors, as well as weekly seminars and regular faculty classes. The programme also includes training in the professional skills necessary for the composer setting out on a career.

Students take Electives relevant to their activities as composers or choose from a range of other Electives that match their interests and experience. You have the opportunity to prepare a Professional Portfolio of promotional material to support your subsequent career, and also to make high-quality recordings of your work. These units include:

#### Specialist Unit

- Context, Materials and Repertoire

#### Electives

- Composition for Screen
- Conducting
- Contemporary Music in Action
- Electroacoustic Music
- Experimental Music
- Music, Culture and Contemporary Media
- Orchestration
- Pop Song Writing

#### Professional Portfolio

- Professional Skills
- Spoken Presentation
- New Media

Assessment is by the submission of a portfolio of compositions as well as by a take-away set paper.

### Master of Music: MMus in Composition

- **Two years full-time/three years part-time**
- **Exceptionally can be taken fast-track in one calendar year**

In addition to the Specialist Units, Electives (except Conducting) and Professional Portfolio offered on the MComp, MMus composers prepare an Academic Portfolio and Critical Project/Lecture Presentation/Composition Commentary.

These units explore theoretical and musicological approaches, aesthetics and analysis, mainly on the music of the 20th and 21st centuries. In addition, there is the option of writing a Critical Commentary on your own work in Year 2. Assessment for the composition element is by submission of a portfolio of compositions at the end of the year and a take-away set paper.

### MComp in Composition for Screen

- **Two years full-time/three years part-time**

Taught by staff active as screen composers, this programme emphasises a practical approach to screen music. Students prepare a professional portfolio of promotional material to support their subsequent career, and follow a programme of business skills tailor-made for screen composers that includes:

#### Specialist Units

- Practical Skills Project
- Music Business for Screen Composers
- Advanced Practical Skills Project

#### Electives

- Conducting
- Contemporary Music in Action
- Electroacoustic Music
- Experimental Music
- Music, Culture and Contemporary Media
- Orchestration
- Pop Song Writing

#### Professional Portfolio

- Professional Skills
- Programme note writing
- Spoken Presentation
- New Media

Students have their work performed throughout the course and there is interaction with industry professionals including composers, orchestrators and music supervisors. Assessment methods include continuous assessment of set assignments, more substantial projects and the submission of a portfolio of screen-music compositions.

### Master of Music: MMus in Composition for Screen

- **Two years full-time only**
- **Exceptionally can be taken fast-track in one calendar year**

In addition to the Specialist Units, Electives (except Conducting) and Professional Portfolio (except Programme Notes) offered on the MComp, MMus student prepare an Academic and Critical Studies Portfolio.

The Masters Programme in Composition for Screen prepares you for the submission of a portfolio of works addressing all aspects of the craft of screen-music composition. You will have your works performed by fellow students and professional ensembles, and receive tuition from active screen composers and experts, emphasising a practical approach to composition for screen. There are also networking events and workshops with film, television, and new media professionals as well as collaborations with students from London-based film schools.

### Where can I find further information?

Further information about the Postgraduate Programmes can be found on the RCM website at [www.rcm.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/postgraduate) which includes Frequently Asked Questions.

## OTHER PROGRAMMES

## MSc in Performance Science

- One year full-time/two years part-time

Drawing on the expertise and facilities of the RCM Centre for Performance Science (see page 82) – as well as the lively performance environment of the College – the aim of this innovative programme is to develop a robust understanding of the science of musical performance, while gaining the critical and analytical skills necessary to conduct high quality practical work and independent research in this field.

The programme benefits anyone who is motivated to gain a scientific understanding of how music is performed, taught, created, and perceived, including performers and educators aiming to progress their current careers through continued professional development. Equally, the programme serves as an ideal base for those wishing to pursue doctoral research and/or teaching in performance science, music psychology, or musicians' health, or in any area in which knowledge of scientific methods and techniques would be an advantage.

The programme challenges students to examine the physical and mental demands of practising and performing in real-world performance, educational and professional contexts through taught units on the Psychology of Performance, Musicians' Health and Wellbeing, and Musical Development. There are also units on Research Methods and a seminar series that keep abreast of the latest developments in performance science.

Students complete a research project, applying knowledge and experience informed and shaped by practical, theoretical, and ethical considerations. Assessment will be by a combination of coursework essays, oral presentations, written examinations, and an in-depth independent research project.

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

- Three or four years full-time, five or six years part-time

The RCM's Royal Charter entitles it to offer a full range of degrees in music including the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The PhD is a specialist research degree that particularly encourages practice-based research in the areas of performance, composition, musicology and the psychology of music. PhD candidates work with at least two supervisors in addition to attending group tutorials and seminars. The RCM's distinctive areas of research interest and resources are outlined in the Research section of the prospectus (please see page 78).

The RCM Doctoral Programme combines practice and theory at the highest level and encourages students to explore the answers to their research questions through their own creative practice. In submitting a doctoral thesis, students are invited to include practical work in addition to written commentaries, whether a composition or a performance portfolio.

For admission to the programme applicants will need to demonstrate a familiarity with existing theoretical and practical aspects of their intended field. There should also be a close match between the intended project and expertise of staff at the RCM.

## ACADEMIC STAFF

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