

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Andrea Bocelli Foundation and Community Jameel launch international scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London**

- **World-renowned singer and Andrea Bocelli Foundation Founder Andrea Bocelli visits the RCM to sign an agreement for a new scholarship**
- **Community Jameel, the global philanthropy, partnered with ABF to establish the scholarship at the RCM**
- **The Andrea Bocelli Foundation-Community Jameel Scholarship will support students every year from 2020/21, with a preference for vocal students**
- **A major aim of the RCM's More Music Campaign is to expand the RCM's scholarship programme to widen access to excellent music education**

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation (ABF) and Community Jameel, two global philanthropies, today [25.11.2019] launched an international scholarship at the Royal College of Music (RCM) in London, opening the door to up-and-coming singers to join one of the world's greatest conservatoires based on merit and need.

The announcement was made during a visit to the RCM by Andrea Bocelli, the world-renowned singer and founder of ABF, and Mohammed Jameel KBE, founder of Community Jameel, alongside the leaderships of both organisations.

The celebrated star and others attended a signing event with RCM Director Professor Colin Lawson and listened to a performance by talented young singers from the RCM Opera Studio, a dedicated training centre for the opera stars of tomorrow.

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation-Community Jameel Scholarship was established by an endowment that is part of the More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music Campaign. The scholarship will be used to support students who study full-time at the RCM and will be awarded on merit at audition and need, helping talented students to overcome barriers and access world-class training.

Andrea Bocelli founded ABF in 2011 to empower people and communities and help them overcome barriers in order to reach their full potential. Many of the foundation's core values are shared by Community Jameel, a global philanthropy with a focus on creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation, and youth. Earlier this year, on stage at the Winter in Tantora festival in AlUla, Saudi Arabia, Bocelli explained how Mohammed Jameel had inspired him to pursue philanthropy and found the ABF. Community Jameel has a commitment to promoting learning in the arts, including through Art Jameel, an organisation that supports artists and creative communities, which Community Jameel founded in 2003.

Maestro Andrea Bocelli stated:

*“The Andrea Bocelli Foundation believes that music education can become an integral part of the lives of children and youth. In fact, the Foundation’s staff and volunteers work tirelessly to include and promote world-class programmes and methodologies that leverage music as a powerful tool to promote the discovery and full expression of the self.”* The Maestro added, *“We are thrilled to take a new step in support of our commitment to music education with the establishment of the Andrea Bocelli Foundation-Community Jameel Scholarship at the Royal College of Music, one of the world’s most esteemed institutions, in collaboration with our cherished partner Community Jameel.*

Fady Jameel, President, International of Community Jameel, said:

*“With our goal of innovating for a better future, we have found in the Royal College of Music a global institution taking a creative approach to delivering musical education for all. In partnership with the Andrea Bocelli Foundation, and inspired by Maestro Bocelli himself, we are committed to improving access to the best vocal training for aspiring, talented singers from around the world. We look forward to future Andrea Bocelli Foundation-Community Jameel Scholars attaining the highest peaks of musical accomplishment.”*

The RCM is the top conservatoire in the UK for Performing Arts according to the QS World University Rankings. The College’s More Music Campaign represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the conservatoire and double the size of its South Kensington campus. Along with building brand new facilities, the RCM is fundraising to expand its scholarship programme and ensure that no talented musician is denied an RCM education for want of funds. In the 2018/19 academic year the RCM gave £3million in scholarships to over half the student body and it aims to offer financial support to 75% of students by 2020.

RCM Director Professor Colin Lawson comments:

*“We are extremely grateful to the Andrea Bocelli Foundation and Community Jameel for their strong commitment to the Royal College of Music’s More Music Campaign. This new scholarship will give young singers each year the remarkable opportunity to study at the RCM without financial burden. One of the More Music Campaign’s key aims is to make musical education available to all; philanthropic partnerships such as this are vital to this vision.”*

Representatives present at the launch of the new initiative included Stefano Aversa (ABF Chairman), Veronica Berti (ABF Vice Chairman), Laura Biancalani (ABF President) as well as Fady Jameel (Chairman of Art Jameel and President, International of Community Jameel), and Hassan Jameel (President, Saudi Arabia of Community Jameel).

**[IMAGES](#) of Andrea Bocelli and participants of the launch during visit to RCM can be downloaded [here](#).**

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## **Notes to editors**

### **Royal College of Music**

Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music (RCM) is a world leading music conservatoire with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. Its 800 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 60 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future.

For the fourth consecutive year in 2019, the RCM was ranked as the top conservatoire in the UK for the Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings. RCM was also ranked the top UK conservatoire for music in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and top music conservatoire for overall student satisfaction in the 2018 National Student Satisfaction (NSS) Survey according to the Times Higher Education.

RCM professors are leaders in their fields and, under such expert guidance, RCM students regularly achieve remarkable success around the globe.

Among its alumni are composers and performers such as Sir Hubert Parry, Benjamin Britten, Gustav Holst, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Lord Lloyd Webber, Rebecca Clarke, Dame Joan Sutherland, Dame Sarah Connolly, Gerald Finley, Sophie Bevan, Louise Alder, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Sir Thomas Allen.

Regular visitors to the RCM include Bernard Haitink, Sir Thomas Allen, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alina Ibragimova and Lang Lang. Our most recent honorary doctorates include Vladimir Jurowski, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Bryn Terfel, Steve Reich and Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin).

### **Andrea Bocelli Foundation**

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation (ABF) was established in July 2011 by Maestro Andrea Bocelli and his family to “give back” after being inspired by the affection and positivity received from fans and partners around the world. ABF has since grown into an independent non-profit led by world-class professionals that oversee the strategic development of projects in Italy and abroad.

The Foundation’s core mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, distress due to illness and social exclusion by promoting and supporting national and international projects that promote the overcoming of these barriers and the expression of their full potential.

Since 2011, ABF has raised over 30 million Euros in fundraising efforts resulting in key initiatives such as the construction of 8 schools in Italy and Haiti that offer daily access to a world-class education to over 3,000 students. Additionally, ABF has created projects that guarantee the welfare assistance for almost 409,000 people through various initiatives including providing access to clean water and HIV treatment.

For more information, visit: [www.andreabocellifoundation.org](http://www.andreabocellifoundation.org)

### **Community Jameel**

Driven by a commitment to creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation, and youth, Community Jameel works across six major fields of development: livelihoods, the arts, education, health, climate, and evidence. Community Jameel is active worldwide, by directly implementing programmes and by collaborating with major international institutions and grassroots organisations.

Community Jameel was established in 2003 to continue the Jameel family's tradition of supporting the community, a tradition started in the 1940s by the late Abdul Latif Jameel, founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel business, who throughout his life helped tens of thousands of disadvantaged people improve their lives.

The term "Community Jameel" refers broadly to several distinct, separate and independent legal entities. Community Jameel is not itself a corporate entity, association or conglomerate run by an overarching parent company but merely refers to a group of distinct and wholly independent separate legal entities that are collectively referred to as "Community Jameel".