



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*

## HRH The Prince of Wales meets young musicians and confers honours at the Royal College of Music



CAPTION: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales with honorands at his annual President's Visit to the Royal College of Music, recently announced as global top institution for performing arts (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022).

**His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales today [03 May 2022] conferred honours to musicians, music industry professionals and Royal College of Music (RCM) students at a ceremony held at the RCM's iconic South Kensington campus.**

In his 29th year as President of the Royal College of Music, The Prince of Wales met students studying at the RCM's Junior Department and even younger musicians who learn instruments through RCM Sparks, the College's outreach programme. The RCM has recently been ranked the global top institution for performing arts in the 2022 QS World University Rankings by Subject, and, as part of the ceremony, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales heard a musical performance featuring some of the RCM's exceptional students.

Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the Royal College of Music, said: 'The President's visit is always a significant moment in the Royal College of Music's calendar and this year we honour the contribution made by exceptional musicians from across the world, many of whom are Royal College of Music alumni. To produce world-leading musicians there needs to be better access to high-quality music education for all, and ongoing support for young people as they progress.'



CAPTION: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales confers honours upon celebrated musicians including Faafetai Jonathan Lemalu (pictured) at the Royal College of Music.



CAPTION: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales confers honours on celebrated musicians including composer Anna Meredith MBE (pictured) at the Royal College of Music.

Those made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music include two-time Grammy-nominated saxophonist Amy Dickson; composer Anna Meredith MBE; founder of the Purcell Quartet, Richard Boothby; violinist and RCM Professor Gabrielle Lester who has led orchestras for recordings of numerous film and television scores including Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings and Doctor Who; and Thomas Trotter, Resident Organist at Birmingham Symphony Hall, and a recent recipient of the Queen's Medal for Music.

Following the ceremony, The Prince of Wales met young musicians from the RCM Junior Department students – siblings Imaan and Jamaal Kashim – who play the violin and the harp, respectively.

Imaan, aged 18, who has been offered a place to study at the Royal College of Music from September, said of the occasion: 'The RCM is like a musical springboard to me. We are a very close-knit family of

young musicians, and the strong sense of community between staff, students, teachers and parents alike makes the RCM a very fulfilling place to spend my Saturdays.'

Speaking of his experience at the RCM's Junior Department Jamaal, 14, said: 'The Royal College of Music has been my music-making home for the past six years, and it is such a happy place of musical curiosity, friendship and opportunity. My time at RCM Junior Department has shown me how all those differences can be brought together through music to make something unified and very beautiful without letting go of who we are, embracing the diversity of each other and building a community. I feel incredibly lucky indeed to be part of that world.'

The siblings continued: 'We are delighted to have the incredibly exciting honour of performing for His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and we truly hope His Royal Highness enjoys the music we prepared for this special occasion.'

The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) offers talented young musicians between eight and 18 an advanced musical education. Every Saturday the Junior Department welcomes students from across the UK for a tailor-made programme of individual lessons and ensemble training and the principles of musicianship. This, along with over 100 opportunities to perform at venues across London and encouragement to enter competitions helps prepare young musicians for musical life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



CAPTION: His Royal Highness meets 12-year-old twins Sami and Mehdi, students involved in the Royal College of Music Sparks engagement programme.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales also met 12-year-old twins Sami and Mehdi Uwahemu who have been engaged with RCM Sparks – the College's learning and participation programme – since 2016. They have attended over 26 events to date and were accepted onto the Sparks Juniors pathway in Spring 2019. This fully funded programme of musicianship includes lessons taught by experienced RCMJD teachers and supported by trained RCM undergraduate students. This pathway also allows pupils to audition for the main RCMJD programme which both Sami and Mehdi have done. In September 2021 Mehdi achieved a full place at RCMJD, studying the bassoon with Susanne Simma. Sami achieved an associate member place (supported by a Future Talent bursary) in 2021 and has successfully auditioned for a full RCMJD place starting in September 2022.

Speaking of RCM Sparks, Sami and Mehdi's mother, Fouzia Radi said: 'I am grateful to the Royal College of Music for giving both my boys the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument with amazing teachers. They enjoy music a great deal and thanks to this opportunity, they have been given the chance

to get into a good local secondary school with a specialism in music. It gives me great pleasure to see them both flourish.'

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**For further information, please contact Victoria Bevan**

**[victoria.bevan@premiercomms.com](mailto:victoria.bevan@premiercomms.com) | 07917 764 318**

**\*\*\* IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM [HERE](#) \*\*\***

**Please credit RCM/Chris Christodoulou**

### **About the 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. More than 900 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 50 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future.

In 2022, the RCM was ranked as the global top institution for performing arts in the prestigious QS World University Rankings by Subject. In a recent Higher Education Statistics Agency survey (2021), of the RCM alumni who graduated in 2019, 86% of survey respondents had moved into employment or further study 15 months after graduating.

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

Among over 9,500 alumni are composers and performers such as Louise Alder, Sir Thomas Allen, Sophie Bevan, Benjamin Britten, Clemency Burton-Hill, Rebecca Clarke, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Dame Sarah Connolly, Gerald Finley, Gustav Holst, Lord Lloyd Webber, Anna Meredith MBE, Sir Hubert Parry, Mark-Anthony Turnage, and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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

