

BENNY GREB HEADLINES THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC FESTIVAL OF PERCUSSION 2022

For immediate release

- Benny Greb tops an impressive list of performers including percussionists from the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Owen Gunnell and Toby Kearny's O Duo.
- Benny Greb joins Ronnie Scott's Big Band musical director Pete Long and the RCM Jazz Orchestra in concert.

Internationally renowned session drummer, composer and producer Benny Greb will headline the RCM Festival of Percussion on Sunday 8 May 2022. Admired across the industry, Greb is one of the most respected drummers in the world today. His playing style spans rock, pop, jazz, classical and beyond and has taken him to numerous international festivals including the Montreal Drum Festival in Canada, Ultimate Drummers Weekend in Australia and the World Drum Festival in Germany. He is also a passionate educator, regularly giving masterclasses across the world and will share his vast experience in a special clinic at this year's Festival of Percussion. Greb will also join **Pete Long**, musical director of Ronnie Scott's Big Band, and the **RCM Jazz Orchestra** in concert in a spectacular end to the festival.

The RCM Festival of Percussion has become an established highlight of the UK percussion calendar and this year's event is the tenth festival in 12 years.

This year's day-long celebration of percussion features an interactive exploration of the orchestral repertoire and the music-making process with the Percussion and Timpani section of the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**. Other highlights include Benny Greb's Drum Clinic with the winner of the **2022 Young Drummer of the Year - Jeremie Animan** - and the lunchtime concert hosted by RCM alumnus, and current percussion professor, Owen Gunnell. Gunnell's percussion group '**O Duo**', described by The Daily Telegraph as 'brimming with style and panache', will also perform. Performances by Junior Ensembles, RCM musicians and experienced professionals such as Anders Åstrand, Anna Mylee and alumna Kizzy Brooks will further illustrate the breadth a career in percussion can offer.

Activities for families, presented by **RCM Sparks** the College's learning and participation programme, include a chance to try out Gamelan instruments and drum kits, and the opportunity to get creative with craft activities running in our newly opened **Museum**.

This year's festival will also showcase the state-of-the-art technology used by RCM researchers in the **Centre for Performance Science**. Visitors can experience playing to an audition panel or audience in the performance simulator or find themselves in one of several iconic performance venues thanks to virtual reality glasses.

There will also be an all-day trade fair featuring representatives from some of the world's leading percussion companies.

Full details of the 2022 festival line-up can be found at www.rcm.ac.uk/percussionfestival

Whole Festival Tickets, including entry to all daytime events and the evening Jazz Orchestra concert are just £20 with £10 tickets available for under 35s. Day tickets and Jazz Orchestra concert tickets are available for £12 or £8 for under 35s. Entry to individual events is on a first-come-first-served basis. Sparks tickets are £15 for a pair (one adult and one child) and £5 for additional tickets (adult or child). Tickets are available from the RCM Box Office online at www.rcm.ac.uk/events

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Notes to Editors

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. Our 900 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 55 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future.

For the sixth consecutive year, the RCM was ranked as the top institution in the UK for Performing Arts in the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2021, and top in Europe for the second year running. 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 our over 9,500 alumni are composers and performers such as Sir Hubert Parry, Benjamin Britten, Gustav Holst, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Lord Lloyd Webber, Rebecca Clarke, Anna Meredith, Clemency Burton-Hill, 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 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).