



His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales unveils new Royal College of Music campus

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal College of Music, today formally opened the newly transformed building during a special visit to the institution.

This afternoon [Thursday 2 December], the Royal College of Music welcomed His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales as he officially opened the new facilities created by the More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music development. His Royal Highness, President of the Royal College of Music, saw some of the exceptional new facilities for the very first time and cut a ceremonial ribbon in front of a specially invited audience. The RCM's More Music development was funded by a £40 million philanthropic campaign, of which HRH The Prince of Wales was Patron. Whilst visiting the

RCM's iconic South Kensington campus, His Royal Highness was given a tour of some of the new spaces designed by architect John Simpson and met some of the key personnel who delivered this momentous project. His Royal Highness also toured the new Royal College of Music Museum designed by ZMMA and listened to performances by some of the RCM's current students.

Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the Royal College of Music comments: 'We are delighted that close Royal connections have continued to illuminate our work ever since our foundation in 1883 by the then Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII. We were delighted that our President played such an active role in the initial approval of architect John Simpson's visionary plans, and we fully anticipate that these additional resources will further enhance our reputation as a natural first choice for students from around the globe.'

The landmark redevelopment made possible through the More Music campaign has almost doubled the footprint of the iconic South Kensington site, enhancing opportunities for students and visitors alike. Additions to the campus include the creation of two new performance spaces, a brand-new home for the Royal College of Music Museum, practice rooms for students and a new courtyard and café for students, staff and visitors to enjoy. Each of these additions contributes to an inspirational environment in which students can create, research and perform for generations to come.

The More Music development has touched all aspects of the RCM. It has also provided for an expanded scholarship programme to support the most talented students, regardless of means; improved research and digital capabilities; provided innovative academic initiatives; and offers more opportunities to widen access to classical music through a flourishing community engagement programme.

The More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music building development was possible thanks to the generosity of many supporters. In particular, the RCM would like to thank the campaign's founding patrons including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Kingdom Music Education Group, Rena Lavery HonRCM and Sandro Lavery, Ruth West HonRCM and the late Dr Michael West and the Garfield Weston Foundation for their significant contributions.

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More images from the Royal College of Music More Music Grand Opening can be found [HERE](#):

Notes to Editors

About the Royal College of Music

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).