

## PRESS RELEASE

### His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales explores the Royal College of Music building development and hears the first performance in one of the new spaces

- The Prince of Wales today toured the Royal College of Music's building development and listens to a special performance in one of the new spaces
- Maxim Vengerov awarded an Honorary Doctorate conferred by The Prince of Wales

\*\*\* SELECTION OF IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)\*\*\*

\*\*\* PICTURE ATTACHED SHOWS xxxxx \*\*\*

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales today visited the Royal College of Music's new building development during an annual visit to the institution, of which he is President. The President's Visit to the RCM is always a significant occasion, but this year The Prince witnessed the physical transformation taking place at the heart of the RCM's iconic home in South Kensington. The More Music development aims to maintain the college's status as a world leader in music education; strengthen the RCM as a cultural venue of national and international significance; and create a greatly enhanced environment that inspires students, professors, visiting musicians and the tens of thousands of visitors who come to the RCM building each year. It will create two new performance spaces, a new home for the Royal College of Music Museum and additional practice rooms and social spaces.

Entering the space that will become the new 150-seat Performance Hall, The Prince of Wales was greeted by a performance from RCM musicians, including RCM Director, Professor Colin Lawson. The Prince of Wales stood with the Royal College of Music's Chairman, Lord Black of Brentwood, as Royal College of Music musicians performed Haydn's *March for the Prince of Wales* (March in E flat major HobVIII:3bis). The piece was composed in 1792 as a tribute to the heir to the British throne, the future King George IV who was an admirer of the composer.

Professor Colin Lawson CBE, Director of the Royal College of Music, said: *'The Prince of Wales has been our President for over 25 years and it was a great privilege to show him the new facilities taking shape at the heart of our iconic campus. It was also a great pleasure to perform with RCM students in what will soon become a state-of-the-art performance venue. The RCM is safeguarding the future of music for generations to come with our More Music development.'*

In January 2019 the new building development reached the milestone of 'topping out' and the project has an exciting year ahead as the structure is fitted out and continues to evolve. The More Music Campaign will also expand the RCM's scholarships and bursaries programme.

As well as touring the new building development, The Prince of Wales conferred honours to some leading names in music during a ceremony held in the RCM's historic Blomfield Building. Those honoured included internationally acclaimed violinist Maxim Vengerov, who has been the Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin at the Royal College of Music since 2016. Vengerov is one of the world's most in-demand solo violinists and is tireless in his search for new means of creative expression. He visits the RCM regularly to give masterclasses which reach a global audience via the RCM's YouTube channel and website. Vengerov was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (HonDMus) in today's ceremony.

Pianist Dina Parakhina, violinist Ani Schnarch and baroque flute virtuoso Wilbert Hazelzet were amongst those made Fellows of the RCM (FRCM). As part of the ceremony, The Prince of Wales heard a performance featuring some of the RCM's exceptional talent: soprano and President's Award winner Julieth Lozano Rolong, flautist Sirius Chau Kei Lok and violinist Emily Sun, both Tagore Gold Medal recipients, and pianist Martin James Bartlett who was awarded the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl.

Award-winning Columbian vocalist Julieth Lozano Rolong has performed many leading roles with the RCM Opera Studio, including Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* directed by Sir Thomas Allen. Sirius Chau Kei Lok performed Chaminade's Flute Concertino op 107 with the RCM Philharmonic in February, and won the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra Young Soloists Competition in 2018. Violinist Emily Sun was the 2018 ABC Australian Young Performer of the Year and is a prize-winner of many international competitions. Pianist Martin James Bartlett won BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2014 and has since performed internationally with many top orchestras. He has been invited by Sir Andrés Schiff to participate in a public masterclass at the Salzburg Mozartwoche this year.

The More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music building development has been made possible through the generosity of many supporters. In particular, the RCM would like to thank Founding Patrons including the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Kingdom Music Education Group, Rena Lavery HonRCM & Sandro Lavery, Ruth West HonRCM & Dr Michael West and the Garfield Weston Foundation for their significant contributions.

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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 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 third consecutive year in 2018, the RCM was ranked as the top conservatoire in the UK for the Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings. It was also ranked top in Europe and second in the world. In 2017, the RCM achieved an overall rating of gold for its outstanding teaching and learning provision for undergraduates in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The RCM was the top UK conservatoire in the Complete University Guide's Arts/Music Institution League Table 2017.

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

Among our 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, Elizabeth Watts, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Sir Thomas Allen.

Regular visitors to the RCM include Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin), 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 and Steve Reich