

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



HRH The Prince of Wales honours Sir Antonio Pappano, Jonas Kaufmann and other celebrated musicians at Royal College of Music ceremony

- Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano and tenor Jonas Kaufmann both awarded honorary doctorates from the Royal College of Music, conferred by HRH The Prince of Wales
- Composers Debbie Wiseman OBE and Rachel Portman OBE, conductor Martyn Brabbins and violinist Alina Ibragimova MBE also among those honoured
- HRH The Prince of Wales enjoyed a 'sneak peek' of the latest developments in the Royal College of Music's multi-million-pound redevelopment project

HRH The Prince of Wales today [03 March 2020] conferred honours to leading names in the international music world at a ceremony held in the Royal College of Music's (RCM) historic Blomfield Building in South Kensington. In his 27th year as President of the Royal College of Music, the Prince also explored some of the latest developments in the RCM's transformational development project as part of his annual visit to the College.

Those honoured today include internationally acclaimed conductor and Music Director of the Royal Opera House Sir Antonio Pappano, who received an honorary doctorate from the College for his remarkable contribution to music. Pappano has nurtured many former students as they progress from the RCM Opera Studio on to the professional stage, with numerous students having been accepted onto the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in recent years. Next week, Pappano conducts the RCM Symphony Orchestra in a concert of Ravel and Saint-Saëns in the RCM's Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall. The sold-out concert, which takes place on Sunday 8 March, will be broadcast live on the RCM's website.

Sir Antonio Pappano said: *'I never would have thought from taking my Grade 1 music exam as a youngster, that I'd one day be receiving a doctorate from a world-renowned institution such as the Royal College of Music. Having this honour bestowed on me is humbling yet brings me such joy. Thank you.'*

Tenor Jonas Kaufmann also received an honorary doctorate from the RCM today. Described by the New York Times as 'the most important, versatile tenor of his generation', Kaufmann rose to fame through his spinto roles, most notably at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He has won four Gramophone Awards for his operatic albums, of which Pappano conducted *Verismo Arias*, winning the Recital Award in 2011.

Among the individuals made Fellows of the RCM today were Music Director of English National Opera Martyn Brabbins, Grammy-nominated composer, Classic FM's Composer in Residence and RCM Visiting Professor Debbie Wiseman OBE and Academy-Award-winning composer Rachel Portman OBE. Portman was the first female composer to win an Academy Award in the category of Best Musical or Comedy Score (for *Emma* in 1996). She was also the first woman to receive the Richard Kirk Award at the BMI Film & TV Awards for her contributions to film and television music.

Rachel Portman said: *'I feel extremely humbled to be receiving this honour from the Royal College of Music. To be included alongside such esteemed giants of composers and musicians whose ranks I could only dream of aspiring to join is a very great honour.'*

Debbie Wiseman said: *'As a young musician I held this conservatoire in high esteem, and now I have been privileged to work here as a Visiting Professor. First-class music education is the bedrock of any classical musician's career, and I'm so proud to be associated with a college that offers the very best music education a young musician could possibly hope for. I feel extremely humbled to receive this honour from the Royal College of Music.'*

Honoured alongside the high-profile musicians this year was 88-year-old Ken Goodwin, a devoted supporter of the Royal College of Music who has attended hundreds of RCM events. Ken discovered the RCM by happy accident in 2011 when exploring the South Kensington area and soon becoming so enamoured with the music, building and people that he never stopped coming back. Raised as a herdsman, Ken later became an engineer working for British Aerospace. He is an ardent lover of music and travels into London regularly from his home in Hertfordshire to attend RCM concerts.

Other notable honorands included jazz trumpeter Mark Armstrong, pianist Elizabeth Burley, harpsichord player Terry Charlston, horn player Simon Raynor and acclaimed international pianist Kathryn Stott.

As part of the ceremony, HRH The Prince of Wales heard a musical performance featuring some of the RCM's exceptional students. Mezzo-soprano Emily Sierra performed, having won the President's Award, as did prize-winners harpist Bethan Griffiths, pianist Roelof Temmingh and percussionist Jess Wood.

Professor Colin Lawson CBE, 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 some exceptional musicians, including some of the biggest names in the world of opera, and two of the foremost film and TV composers of our generation. I hope our talented students continue to be inspired by the wonderful musicians we honour each year and aspire to reach similar heights of musical success.'*

After the ceremony, HRH The Prince of Wales was given the opportunity to explore the latest developments in the multi-million-pound project to transform the RCM's Grade II listed South Kensington home. He is Patron of the RCM's More Music development campaign, which aims to strengthen the Royal College of Music as a cultural venue of international significance; maintain the College's status as a world leader in music education; and create a greatly enhanced environment for students, professors, visiting musicians and the tens of thousands of visitors the RCM attracts each year.

The Prince had a 'sneak peek' of the newly-built Royal College of Music Museum, a new permanent home for the RCM's internationally significant collection of musical instruments and

music-related art, opening to the public in summer 2020. Here HRH heard Augustin Cornwall-
Irving, a David Laing Scholar studying with Jakob Lindberg, perform from the original
autographed manuscript of the Welde Lute Book, an important 17th century collection of English
lute works on long-term loan to the RCM Library.

-ENDS-

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For further information about HRH The Prince of Wales please visit www.princeofwales.gov.uk

Sir Antonio Pappano's concert at the RCM on 8 March will be livestreamed here:
www.rcm.ac.uk/live

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Royal College of Music

Founded in 1883, 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 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 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 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, Gerald Finley, Sophie Bevan, Louise Alder, Anna Meredith,
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).