

PRESS RELEASE

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Tommy Igoe headlines the Royal College of Music Festival of Percussion 2019



The Royal College of Music (RCM) Festival of Percussion 2019 returns on Sunday 5 May. Internationally-renowned drummer Tommy Igoe headlines a full day of performances, talks and workshops for audiences of all ages. Now in its ninth year, the RCM Festival of Percussion is an established highlight of the UK percussion calendar. Alongside Ronnie Scott's Big Band musical director Pete Long, Tommy will close the festival with the ever-popular RCM Big Band concert.

Tommy Igoe's eclectic career has seen him serve as the principal drummer and conductor for *The Lion King* on Broadway, appear on three Grammy Award-winning albums and become an acclaimed teacher, speaker and author. He currently runs two music residencies in San Francisco and New York and is President of Deep Rhythm Music LLC.

This year the lunchtime concert brings together The Royal Marines Band Service and RCM alumnus Owen Gunnell. Other highlights include performances from Neal Wilkinson and the 2019 Young Drummer of the Year winner Nathan Shingler, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra timpani and percussion section will showcase iconic moments from their repertoire.

Through talks and workshops, visitors will gain insight from experts such as Patrick King, Principal Timpanist for the Welsh National Opera. As a percussionist for film soundtracks, including *All the Money in the World* and *Jason Bourne*, Rob Farrer will further illustrate the breadth a career in percussion can offer. Many will also know Rob as drummer of cult pop band The Divine Comedy.

Activities for families will include Gamelan, Taiko drumming, drum kit and tuned percussion sessions presented by RCM Sparks, the College's learning and participation programme.

Representatives from the world's leading percussion companies and distributors will also be present at an all-day trade fair.

David Hockings, Head of Percussion at the RCM and founder of the festival, commented: 'With our annual celebration of percussion we take pride in delivering a distinctive programme to engage and inspire. A career in percussion can take many forms and we are excited to present a world-class line-up featuring experts from all areas of the industry'

Details of the 2019 festival can be found at www.rcm.ac.uk/percfest

Whole Festival Tickets are just £15 with 50% concessions available to under 18s and students. Entry to individual events in the Festival is on a first-come-first-served basis. Tickets are available from the RCM Box Office on 020 7591 4314 or online at www.rcm.ac.uk/events

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For press tickets and image requests please contact Tessa Deterding at Premier:
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Notes to Editors

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.