

Wednesday 7th August



Royal College of Music launches autumn season with More Music concert series

Season highlights

- More Music concert series showcases talent of students who will benefit from the RCM's transformation, with repertoire featuring Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw* narrated by RCM alumnus Sir Thomas Allen.
- More international collaborations than ever, including visits from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Orchestre du Conservatoire du Paris, Royal Conservatoire The Hague, Codarts Rotterdam and Universität der Künste Berlin.
- Public masterclasses from internationally-acclaimed artists including Bernard Haitink, Maxim Rysanov and Alina Ibragimova, giving exceptional insight into the working methods of some of the world's most successful musicians.
- Fully-staged new production of Haydn's rarely performed opera *Il mondo della luna* led by director William Renton.

The Royal College of Music (RCM) has launched its autumn season with a concert series designed to showcase the exceptional talent of RCM musicians. In support of the More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music Campaign, the series offers audiences the opportunity to experience some of the nation's favourite repertoire performed by the musical stars of the future. The major enhancements coming to the RCM's facilities, scholarship programme, research and digital capabilities through More Music are set to transform the RCM experience for all and safeguard world-class musical training for generations to come.

Highlights of the More Music concert series include Beethoven's *Symphony No 5* on 3 October, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* on 25 October and Prokofiev's epic score to Sergei Eisenstein's 1938 war film *Alexander Nevsky* on 14 and 15 November. Two great ballet scores are performed: Stravinsky's *Orpheus* and Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. On 17 October, Sir Thomas Allen, the RCM's Artist in Residence, joins the RCM Symphony Orchestra to narrate Schoenberg's deeply moving *A Survivor from Warsaw*, a tribute to victims of the Holocaust. On 28 October audiences will be taken on a whistle-stop tour through classical music's greatest patrons, discovering the often remarkable relationships they shared with their talented beneficiaries.

Elsewhere, the season celebrates the RCM's international outlook. On 28 November, members of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe (COE) return to the College to perform Schubert's *Symphony No 9 'The Great'* alongside RCM musicians. Described by the BBC as 'the finest chamber orchestra in the world', the COE consists of international soloists from around Europe who share the RCM's ethos of diversity and internationalism. On 22 October, the RCM Wind Orchestra collaborates with the Orchestre du Conservatoire du Paris to perform Stravinsky and the world premiere of Laurent Durupt's *No Border Concerto* for Oboe. Later in the season, esteemed American conductor Steven Sloane leads RCM string players in a collaborative performance with musicians from the Royal Conservatoire The Hague, Codarts Rotterdam and the Universität der Künste Berlin.

The RCM welcomes many renowned musicians from around the globe this season to give public masterclasses, offering audiences a rare opportunity to witness some of the world's best musicians at work. Conductor Bernard Haitink leads current and past RCM conductors through challenging symphonies by Haydn and Mahler on 11 October, while Maxim Vengerov, the RCM's Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin, works with talented RCM string players in an orchestral masterclass on 8 November. Masterclasses are also given by John Lill, Alina Ibragimova, Stefan Dohr and Maxim Rysanov. The Harlem Quartet, the RCM's Quartet in Residence, return with their unique fusion of classical and jazz on 9 December and Peter Beets joins the RCM Big Band on 28 September for an evening of colourful jazz piano.

The annual RCM International Festival of Viols returns this season, offering two days of masterclasses and lectures plus two evening concerts. This year's special guests include Sarah Cunningham, international soloist and viola da gamba teacher at The Juilliard School in New York, and Chicago-based viol consort The Spirit of Gambo. The ensemble performs a programme of works from John Jenkins on 18 November and Sarah Cunningham closes the festival with a rare, unaccompanied programme.

In the 50th anniversary year of the first man on the moon, the RCM Opera Studio stages Haydn's entertaining comedy *Il mondo della luna*. Written in 1750 with a libretto by Venetian playwright Carlo Goldini, this opera buffa boasts some of Haydn's finest writing, including a grand romantic aria, highly evocative flight song and an elegant lunar ballet. The story centres on wannabe space cadet Buonafede, who longs for a lunar lifestyle like his peers long for love, eventually swallowing an elixir to transport him to the moon. Directing this season's opera is William Renton, who has 25 years of experience directing opera all over Europe.

General booking for the Royal College of Music's autumn season opens on Wednesday 14 August 2019.

For full details of what's on this autumn visit www.rcm.ac.uk/events, call the RCM Box Office on 020 7591 4314, or visit the RCM in person on Prince Consort Road, SW7.

For further information, please contact Tessa Deterding at Premier: 0207 292 7355 / Tessa.deterding@premiercomms.com

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 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, Elizabeth Watts, 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).

More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music

The More Music: Reimagining the Royal College of Music Campaign represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the Royal College of Music's facilities for the future. The RCM's new building will enable

the College to welcome more visitors than ever before, whilst expansion of its scholarship programme, research and digital capabilities will greatly improve access and enhance the RCM experience for all.

The More Music Campaign has a fundraising target of £40 million to fund the creation of dynamic new spaces and facilities, alongside enhanced scholarship support, innovative academic initiatives, enhanced community engagement and a new home for the Royal College of Music Museum. Two new performance spaces are being built at the heart of the RCM campus in South Kensington, along with vital new practice rooms and social spaces which will complement the RCM's existing Grade II listed Blomfield Building.