

## PRESS RELEASE

### Royal College of Music announces new String Quartet Fellowship



The Royal College of Music (RCM) is delighted to announce a new String Quartet Fellowship, funded by generous support from the late Albert Frost. The one year fellowship will provide high level artists with a creative environment in which to grow, explore and establish a global network of professional contacts. The quartet chosen to receive the fellowship will have access to ensemble coaching and mentoring from the RCM's world-class professors and a significant performance profile at the College.

Members of the successful quartet will have full use of RCM resources including practice and rehearsal rooms, use of the RCM Library with its wealth of material and other research facilities. They will also enjoy access to the RCM's renowned Creative Careers Centre, which provides an unparalleled professional development service. Playing a full and active part in the musical life of the RCM, the quartet will also be ambassadors for the College in the wider musical world.

The RCM String Quartet Fellowship will enable the successful quartet to gain experience, confidence and connections of the kind which will help to establish a professional profile, as well as developing musical understanding and artistic individuality. A flourishing string quartet will be offered the space and time to delve into the extensive repertoire and to examine the ever-changing dynamic of playing and performing in a small chamber ensemble.

Mark Messenger, RCM Head of Strings, said: 'I am delighted to announce this initiative, which provides an inspirational and creative home for the next generation of string quartets. They will greatly benefit from the Royal College of Music's world-renowned coaching, mentoring and performance opportunities. The quartet will also enjoy membership of the RCM's global community of musicians, which offers the chance to engage with diverse interpretations and experiences of the repertoire.'

The Royal College of Music awards several fellowships each year, offered competitively to experienced musicians who aspire to take their performing careers further. They provide talented artists with the means and time to refine their artistic skills and to gain experience, confidence and connections that will help them establish themselves professionally.

The closing date for applications to the RCM String Quartet Fellowship is Monday 4 February 2019. Full information about all of the fellowships offered by the Royal College of Music can be found at [www.rcm.ac.uk/fellowships](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/fellowships).

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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 is also 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, Bryn Terfel and Steve Reich.