

URBEAT

  
ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*

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**SUMMER  
2016**

NEWS FROM  
INSIDE THE ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

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REHEARSALS WITH  
VLADIMIR JUROWSKI

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**YOUNG AT HEART  
RCMJD TURNS 90**

# OPEN DAY 2016 AT THE RCM



**The Royal College of Music was delighted to welcome more visitors than ever before for Open Day 2016. On 20 April, prospective students, parents and teachers explored the RCM's home in South Kensington, discovered the opportunities on offer and spoke directly to current students about their experiences.**

Photos: Chris Christodoulou

Front cover: RCMJD students in rehearsals © Chris Christodoulou

# WELCOME TO *UPBEAT*



Our summer issue of *Upbeat* has a distinctly commemorative feel, with a number of landmark birthdays being celebrated.

Our Junior Department turns 90 this year and, on page 12, Miranda Francis, Head of Junior Programmes, tells us more about the RCMJD and its exciting achievements. We mark the occasion with a gala concert at Cadogan Hall on 10 July, which will include Malcolm Arnold's homage to Her Majesty The Queen, who also celebrates her 90th birthday this year. I was delighted to be able to record a birthday message for our Patron with *The Telegraph* recently to honour this wonderful anniversary.

Another 90th birthday this year is that of our very own composition professor, Joseph Horowitz. We celebrate his distinguished career at the RCM with a concert in November; find out more on page six. Further anniversaries include our Ensemble in Association, Florilegium's 25th anniversary, and I was happy to celebrate my own ten-year anniversary at the RCM as well.

There's one more reason to celebrate; the RCM Symphony Orchestra will be performing at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday 26 June as part of the Philharmonia Orchestra's *Stravinsky: Myths & Rituals* series. I do hope you will be able to join us.

Tell us about your own recent achievements by emailing [news@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:news@rcm.ac.uk). The deadline for the autumn issue of *Upbeat* is Monday 26 September.

Professor Colin Lawson, Director

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# IN THE NEWS

## Below

RCM violinist Anna Waszak playing the Gagliano violin

## Opposite

HRH The Prince of Wales with those honoured at the RCM's annual awards ceremony 2016

## Far Right

RCM Mills Williams Junior Fellow, Magdalena Loth-Hill

## BBC PROMS DEBUT FOR RCM MUSICIANS

Two current RCM students will enjoy their BBC Proms debut in the popular series of concerts at the Royal Albert Hall this summer.

RCM pianist and Benjamin Britten Piano Fellow, Pavel Kolesnikov, will perform Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto no 2 with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and conductor Ilan Volkov in Prom 30. RCM baritone Huw Montague-Rendall will sing the role of Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville* with Glyndebourne Festival Opera and RCM vocal professor Janis Kelly, in Prom 14.

RCM alumni will also feature in Proms throughout the season, with performances by conductors John Wilson, Andrew Gourlay and Sir Roger Norrington, organist Wayne Marshall and singers Sarah Connolly, Elizabeth Watts, Louise Alder, Tim Mead, Jeremy Ovenden and John Graham-Hall.

Works by recent RCM composition graduates Helen Grime and Charlotte Bray will be heard, as well as music by RCM alumni Britten, Holst, Tippett and Vaughan Williams.

## RCM RECEIVES RARE GAGLIANO VIOLIN

An original 1758 Nicolò Gagliano violin, possibly the only remaining violin in its original Baroque set up, has been donated to the Royal College of Music on generous long-term permanent loan.

Made available by an anonymous charitable benefactor, the violin will be available to students from the Historical Performance Faculty who will benefit from being able to play this rare instrument and learn from its rich historical heritage.

Head of Historical Performance, Professor Ashley Solomon, says 'this tremendous gesture will allow our students to engage with a remarkable and unique instrument. It will be a source of inspiration for talented RCM violinists for years to come.'

The Gagliano violin is an exceptional addition to an already significant stringed instrument collection at the RCM, which students can use to enhance their studies.





## HRH PRINCE CHARLES BESTOWS HONOURS

President of the Royal College of Music, HRH The Prince of Wales, attended the RCM's annual awards ceremony on 10 March to honour those who have made significant contributions to musical life.

Composer Steve Reich and leading conductors Vladimir Jurowski and Sir Roger Norrington received Honorary Doctorates at the ceremony, which also included a short concert featuring performances by recent and current RCM students.

His Royal Highness also admitted to Honorary Membership of the Royal College of Music: Chief Executive of Arts Council England Darren Henley OBE, supporters of young musical talent Susan Harbour and Dr Leonard Polonsky CBE, international oboist Zheng Huang, co-director of the Centre for Performance Science Professor Roger Kneebone, RCM Head of Postgraduate Programmes Dr Natasha Loges and RCM Junior Department Administrator Gill Redfern.

Admitted to Fellowship of the Royal College of Music were composer and RCM alumnus Barrington Pheloung, musicologist Professor Richard Langham Smith, RCM professors Ieuan Jones, Melissa Phelps and Timothy Lines, RCMJD harpsichord teacher Elizabeth de la Porte and former RCM Council member Nicholas Ward.

Recent RCM graduates were also awarded major prizes during the ceremony. Percussionist Louise Goodwin received the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl, composer Michael Ladouceur and violinist Naoka Aoki received Tagore Gold Medals and bassoonist Pedro Merchán Correas was the winner of the President's Award.

RCM Director, Professor Colin Lawson, said 'the annual visit by our President, HRH The Prince of Wales, is a highlight of the Royal College of Music's calendar of events and I am delighted that he joins us again to honour an illustrious array of world-renowned musicians and leading figures from across arts and education. The recipients of today's honours and prizes have all made important contributions to the RCM and to the wider international music community.'

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### RCM WELCOMES NEW CONDUCTORS

Internationally renowned conductor Martyn Brabbins takes up the position of Visiting Professor of Conducting and Jacques Cohen has joined the RCM Junior Department as conductor of the RCMJD Symphony Orchestra.

### FLORILEGIUM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Period instrument ensemble and RCM Ensemble in Association Florilegium celebrated its 25th anniversary with a concert at Wigmore Hall on 3 June.

### KATHLEEN FERRIER AWARDS

RCM alumni sopranos Anna Rajah and He Wu and pianist Paul McKenzie were finalists in the Kathleen Ferrier Awards on Friday 29 April.

### MILLS WILLIAMS MEDAL

Current Mills Williams Junior Fellow, Magdalena Loth-Hill, was presented with the Mills Williams Medal by Chair of Trustees Nigel Woolner on 1 March.



### NEW CHAIR OF HISTORICAL KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

The RCM has appointed Professor Terence Charlston as Chair of Historical Keyboard Instruments, a newly created position in the Historical Performance Faculty.

### HEFCE FUNDING

The RCM has been recognised as delivering 'world-leading teaching' and received increased specialist institution funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 2016/17, and until at least 2020.

**Below**

Joseph Horowitz  
conducting RCM  
musicians

**Opposite**

Seven Seeds performance  
at the Royal Albert Hall

## RCM TOPS UK RANKINGS FOR PERFORMING ARTS

The Royal College of Music has been named the top conservatoire for Performing Arts in the United Kingdom and joint third across all Performing Arts institutions worldwide in the 2016 QS World University Rankings.

The QS World University Rankings assessment of leading universities is based on the strength and quality of institutions' teaching, research activities, graduate employability and international profile. The rankings are compiled from the opinions of academics and employers and from analysis of research output and impact.

The RCM has also been named top UK conservatoire in the Complete University Guide's Arts/Music Institution League Table 2017. The league table ranks arts and music institutions by ten quality measures important to students, including entry standards, student satisfaction, research assessment and graduate prospects.

These announcements follow the RCM's placement as the top place to study music in the UK in the 2016 Guardian University Guide.

## JOSEPH HOROVITZ CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

Composition professor Joseph Horowitz celebrated his 90th birthday in May and the musical world marked the occasion with a range of performances in the UK and internationally.

The RCM Students' Film Orchestra performed the *Rumpole of the Bailey* theme in its 5 May concert at the RCM, soprano Susanna Fairbairn and pianist Matthew Schellhorn performed a selection of Joseph's vocal music at Wigmore Hall on 13 June and the oratorio *Samson* will be performed by the Addison Singers and East London Brass at Cadogan Hall, on 9 July. Tickets are now available for a concert at the RCM on 29 November celebrating Joseph's music and career. See [www.rcm.ac.uk/events](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/events) for full details.

Joseph's well-known Clarinet Sonatina features in the BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert on 27 June at Wigmore Hall, played by Daniel Ottensamer with Christoph Traxler, and it was also performed by RCM alumni Jonathan Parkin and Sebastian Stanley at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 10 June.

International performances include *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo* in Sweden, Germany, New Zealand and the USA this summer, while the ballet *Alice in Wonderland* was staged by Imagine Ballet Theatre in Utah and is scheduled for Texas Ballet Theater's 2017 season.





## EMILY SUN WINS ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

**R**CM violinist Emily Sun has won gold medal at the Royal Over-Seas League final, held at Cadogan Hall on Wednesday 1 June.

The Australian violinist performed a programme of Debussy and Henryk Wieniawski to win the coveted prize. RCM Junior Fellow Chad Vindin was also successful, winning the ROSL Accompanist's Award.

More than half of all performers in the final were students or alumni of the Royal College of Music, with saxophonist Philip Attard also competing in the prestigious Competition Final.

The event also included performances from the Consone Quartet and the Jacquin Trio, winners of the Ensemble Sections of the competition.

The Consone Quartet, featuring Magdalena Loth-Hill, Agata Daraskaite and George Ross, is the first period string group to win the competition, following the success of RCM period recorder ensemble BLOCK4 in 2014.

The Jacquin Trio, winner of the Ensemble B Section, includes RCM alumna and Junior Department clarinet teacher Jessie Grimes and pianist Charis Hanning.

## SEVEN SEEDS WINS RPS AWARD

**T**he RCM is delighted to announce that the Seven Seeds project has won the Learning and Participation category of the 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards.

The three-year project coordinated by the Tri-borough Music Hub and its strategic partners – the RCM, Royal Albert Hall and Aurora Orchestra – saw a new work created by RCM alumnus John Barber and librettist Hazel Gould in collaboration with the young participants and professional arts organisations. The *Seven Seeds* premiere at the Royal Albert Hall on 23 June 2015 saw RCM students perform alongside more than 1,200 young people from schools across the Tri-borough area (Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham) and professional musicians conducted by Nicholas Collon.

Hayley Clements, Head of Learning and Participation, said: 'The RCM was delighted to be part of the ambitious Seven Seeds project. Our talented students worked with many of the children from the Tri-borough, learnt from school teachers and performed alongside professional players. This wonderful community of musicians was so excited to present a musically enriching, high-quality performance.'

Seven Seeds received generous funding support from the John Lyon's Charity, the Mercer's Company and the Golsoncott Foundation.

## LANDMARK SUPPORT FOR RESTORE-A-SCORE

**T**he RCM's Restore-A-Score appeal has reached the landmark sum of £100,000.

Running for 12 years, Restore-A-Score has supported work on more than 300 volumes of music from the RCM's collections. The appeal has enabled conservation of first editions by Handel and Beethoven and manuscript copies of 17th and 18th-century works, as well as supporting the binding of 20th-century compositions by Howells, Parry and Coates. Items from the George Grove Archive and Library and volumes of letters sent to Charles Villiers Stanford and the conductor August Manns have also been conserved.

The 2016 annual Restore-A-Score event took place in March, with musical entertainment provided by baroque violinist and Mills Williams Junior Fellow, Magdalena Loth-Hill, and Linda Hill Junior Fellow harpsichordist Nathaniel Mander. Guests also enjoyed a drinks reception in the Donaldson Room where previously restored scores and those awaiting restoration were on display.

It is still possible to donate to Restore-A-Score. For more information, contact Rachel Bowden on **020 7591 4331** or [rachel.bowden@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.bowden@rcm.ac.uk)

## MUSIC CAN IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

Researchers at the RCM involved in two projects have found that musical activity can have a positive impact on mental and physical health.

A study carried out by the Centre for Performance Science, a partnership of the Royal College of Music and Imperial College London, found that drumming has a positive impact on mental health. A ten-week programme of group drumming was found to reduce depression by as much as 38% and anxiety by 20%. The benefits were still evident three months later, suggesting that drumming could be an economical intervention for mental health service users.

Researchers have also worked with Tenovus Cancer Care in Wales to investigate the impact of singing on those suffering from cancer. The Sing with Us project found that singing in a choir for just one hour boosts levels of immune proteins in those affected by cancer, reduces stress and improves mood.

'An activity as simple as singing could reduce some of this stress-induced suppression, helping to improve wellbeing and quality of life amongst patients,' said Dr Daisy Fancourt, co-author of the research and Research Associate at the Centre for Performance Science. This raises the possibility that singing in choir rehearsals could help to put people in the best possible position to receive treatment and maintain remission.

The CPS is now launching the next phase of research which will look in more depth at the effect of choir singing over several months and is looking for participants.

Find out more at

[www.rcm.ac.uk/cps/singwithus](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/cps/singwithus)



## RCM DIRECTOR CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

Supporters, friends and students gathered for an intimate evening celebrating Professor Colin Lawson's tenth anniversary as Director of the Royal College of Music.

Held on 21 April, the event featured performances by RCM musicians past and present, as well as a special tribute from Lord Black of Brentwood, an RCM Council member and long-standing supporter of the College. Lord Black praised Professor Lawson's vision and commitment to innovation, citing as evidence the many projects, both completed and ongoing, that will equip staff and students with the best possible facilities for the 21st century.

The short concert featured a number of works by Mozart, on whom Professor Lawson has written extensively, including a surprise performance of his favourite song *Das Veilchen* by RCM soprano Josephine Goddard. Professor Lawson also joined in performances of works by Stanford and Howells, both of whom have close connections to the RCM, with the Alke Quartet, while winner of BBC Young Musician 2014, Martin James Bartlett, delighted guests with Schubert's sparkling Impromptu op 90 no 3.

## RCMJD FINALIST IN BBC YOUNG MUSICIAN

RCM Junior Department horn player Ben Goldscheider has competed in the Final of the prestigious BBC Young Musician 2016 competition.

Ben opened the Final at the Barbican on Sunday 16 May with an impressive performance of Strauss' Horn Concerto no 2 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and conductor Mark Wigglesworth. He was followed by saxophonist Jess Gillam and winner, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason. Ben had secured his place as one of the three finalists with an extraordinary programme of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Saint-Saëns and York Bowen during the Semi Final.

The talented young horn player continues a growing tradition of RCMJD students competing in the BBC Young Musician Final. Berlin Philharmonic horn player Sarah Willis, who was one of the judges for the Brass category final, called Ben 'a true ambassador for our instrument'.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF RCM VIOLINIST EMMANUEL BACH

Second year Master of Performance violinist **Emmanuel Bach** takes us behind the scenes of the RCM Symphony Orchestra rehearsals with Vladimir Jurowski.

**S**itting as number two violin in the RCM Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski, performing Strauss' *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*, was an invaluable learning experience. It was also a hot seat! I had to know my part inside out which in this case meant knowing the leader's tricky solos as well. So for some weeks this work became the focus of individual study, sessions with rehearsal conductor Marius Stravinsky – who already had a close relationship with Jurowski – and sectionals, culminating in three days of music with Jurowski.

## Concert Day: Morning

In the morning, I practised my part. Two of the slow movements require mutes. In the first rehearsal, however, Jurowski had ordered in wooden mutes for the strings, to use instead of our normal rubber ones. Wooden mutes, which Strauss would have been used to, tend to offer a more resonant sound, muting the volume but letting out more of the natural tone colours of string instruments. They require greater sensitivity in blending with other players, so I went over these movements, imagining how the various voices partner each other.

## Concert Day: Rehearsal

In our final rehearsal, we ran through the whole work. Then Jurowski chose to refine the balance, directing our attention to all the musical conversations, where instruments share or exchange themes, or transform the texture. He also reminded us of the story behind the work, based on a drama by Molière, about a man's attempts to become a 'middle-class' gentleman. Jurowski's explanations really helped me to become more aware of the humour and elements of theatricality suggested by the music.

## The Concert

From the *Overture* to the *Finale*, the orchestra had to maintain consistent focus while changing character between 'numbers'. During the concert, Jurowski guided us with lightning clarity of gesture (and the odd smile), helping us to communicate Strauss' poker-face wit, in a very warmly received performance of this sparkling work.

Working with Vladimir Jurowski was a fantastic experience. It also taught me that really trusting the musicians around you is as vital to excellent orchestral playing as responding effectively to your conductor.

## Opposite

Benjamin Goldscheider

## Below

Emmanuel Bach in rehearsals with Vladimir Jurowski.

Emmanuel Bach is an RCM Scholar supported by an HR Taylor Trust Award.

The RCM Symphony Orchestra performed R Strauss' *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with Vladimir Jurowski on 28 April 2016.

For upcoming concerts visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/events](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/events)

**Working with the future generation of musicians from the RCM is an exceptionally rewarding experience; encouraging their commitment and guiding their musical development is of extreme importance to me. The students of the RCM Symphony Orchestra showed top-level musicianship throughout, with great promise for taking this with them to even higher levels.**

Vladimir Jurowski



# RCM JUNIOR DEPARTMENT AT 90

## Below

Vladimir Ashkenazy conducting the RCMJD Symphony Orchestra

## Opposite Top

Lang Lang giving a masterclass to RCMJD student Anthony Tat

## Opposite Bottom

Mark Anthony-Turnage working with RCMJD student Sam Gale

This summer the Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) celebrates its 90th anniversary with a series of masterclasses and musical events that will culminate in a prestigious Gala Concert at London's Cadogan Hall on 10 July.

Founded in 1926, the RCMJD is the UK's oldest junior conservatoire and has nurtured distinguished alumni including Julian Lloyd Webber, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Levon Chilingirian, Gabriel Jackson, Michael Collins and John Lill.

We asked Head of Junior Programmes **Miranda Francis** to tell us more about the Junior Department and its birthday celebrations.

## What is the RCM Junior Department?

The 'JD', as it is affectionately known, offers advanced training to talented young musicians aged 8–18. Students travel to the RCM each Saturday from all over Britain for a tailor-made programme of individual instrument, voice or composition lessons, chamber music, orchestral and choral training and general musicianship. Our teachers are all professional performers or composers and we offer the highest standards of tuition and coaching. Over 75% of our students go on to read music, many choosing to pursue their undergraduate studies at the RCM, including JD alumnus Martin James Bartlett, winner of BBC Young Musician 2014.

## How has the JD developed over the past 90 years?

Since its inception, the RCMJD has evolved to meet the needs of our students and adapted to the changing educational and musical landscape. We provide a programme designed to prepare students for musical life in the 21st century, producing happy, successful, healthy and flexible young musicians who can meet the ever-changing demands of the profession.

We have created and developed the Sparks Juniors programme, which offers eight pupils per year a free three-year programme of high-level tuition led by RCMJD staff and RCM student mentors. Aimed at young people from local schools who would not normally be able to access such an opportunity, our current Sparks Juniors students are flourishing.

JD students continue to enjoy significant successes in both national and international competitions. Michael Collins, JD alumnus, was a finalist in the very first BBC Young Musician Competition back in 1978, and RCMJD students have dominated the competition in recent years. Three of the last four winners of the competition have all been RCMJD students, and we are all so proud of horn player Ben Goldscheider, 2016 finalist.



**I've been coming to the RCMJD since the age of 15 and it is still the highlight of my week. As a student I found myself amongst like-minded musicians with opportunities far beyond anything I could get at school. The feeling of belonging to something extremely special remains with me to this day.**

**John Mitchell**

RCMJD Performance Manager and RCMJD alumnus

Our students regularly enjoy the opportunity to perform new music, thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the RCMJD, who regularly commission new works from leading composers. This collaboration began with an RCMJD Big Band performance of Laurence Cottle's *Bard Bird Suite* at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, and this year RCMJD alumnus Gabriel Jackson has been commissioned to write a choral arrangement of three Shakespeare songs for the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, which will be premiered at the RCM on 9 July. Later in the year we will be performing some recently discovered music by William Lloyd Webber, written for JD students in 1936.

We have also developed fruitful partnerships with leading musical organisations including the ABRSM, Tri-borough Music Hub and the Royal Albert Hall, where JD students lead six recitals in the Elgar Room each year.

### What have been the highlights for you over the past few years?

There have been so many wonderful musical moments and exciting new projects and initiatives that it's difficult to choose!

Watching JD pianists participate in an inspiring masterclass with Lang Lang was very special, and Vladimir Ashkenazy's visit to conduct our Symphony Orchestra last year was truly unforgettable.

I always enjoy attending National Youth Orchestra concerts as well. We have the largest cohort of students in the NYO of any junior conservatoire, including three section principals, and JD students also swell the ranks of the National Children's Orchestras and the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

### How will the RCMJD be celebrating its 90th birthday?

We have a host of JD alumni working with our students in a variety of projects. In the spring, we held our inaugural Barbara Boissard Concerto Competition, named in honour of the former RCMJD Director, and adjudicated by RCM clarinet professor Michael Collins. JD alumnus and RCM Research Fellow in Composition, Mark-Anthony Turnage, also worked with students on a composition project based on his chamber work *This Silence*.

Our 90th celebrations will culminate in a Cadogan Hall Gala Concert on Sunday 10 July. The concert will feature a performance of Stravinsky's thrilling and revolutionary ballet score *The Rite of Spring* by the RCMJD Symphony Orchestra directed by Peter Stark. To open the concert, we mark another significant 90-year milestone with a performance of RCM alumnus Malcolm Arnold's coronation homage to Queen Elizabeth II. For more information visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/events](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/events)

**I absolutely loved my time at JD and it was essentially the main reason why I am a professional musician today. Aside from my superb individual lessons, the solid grounding I was offered in history, theory, choir and ensemble playing has stood me in good stead in my life in the profession. Thank you JD... and happy 90th birthday!**

**Emily Beynon**

Principal Flute of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and RCMJD alumna



**It's such a wonderful place to learn, make new friends and to be totally immersed with people who are passionate about music.**

**Martin James Bartlett**  
Pianist and RCMJD alumnus



# SUPPORTING THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Music has the power to transform lives. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, generations of gifted students from around the world have been guided and inspired at the RCM. We would like to thank in particular those who have made donations of £1,000 or more in the last 12 months. Supporters are listed in alphabetical order.

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

From becoming an RCM Friend, through to leaving a gift in your will, there are many ways you can support the Royal College of Music.

For more information, please visit [www.rcm.ac.uk/supportus](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/supportus)

Alternatively, contact the Development team on **020 7591 4331** or [development@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:development@rcm.ac.uk)

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## SOIRÉE D'OR 2016

The RCM's annual fundraising gala, the Soirée d'Or, will take place on Thursday 8 December in the magnificent setting of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

To find out more or to reserve your place, please contact Mary Cosgrave on [mary.cosgrave@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:mary.cosgrave@rcm.ac.uk) or **020 7591 4764**.

## NEW FRIENDS

We are delighted to welcome the following individuals who have joined the RCM Friends between January 2016 and April 2016.

Amanda Bolt  
Gillian R Broome  
Nigel Davies  
Lindy Foord  
Heather Freeman

Noelle Irvine  
Christine Nicolaou  
Richard Redding  
Tom Rivers  
Griselda Roupell

Michael Shen  
Samantha Tilling  
Verena Wilson  
Flurry Wright  
Richard Young

# STUDENT UPDATES

## Right

Matt Gallagher

## Below

BLOCK4

Photo: Marcus Maschwitz

## Opposite Top

RCM musicians rehearsing in Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
Photo: Kate Agostino

## Opposite Bottom

Kristiana Ignatjeva

## COMPOSITION CONGRATULATIONS

Amy Bryce and Benjamin Ashby have been selected for the London Symphony Orchestra's Panufnik Composers Scheme... Composer **Matt Gallagher** has released his first independent EP on iTunes and Spotify. *Building an Ark EP* comprises four tracks and follows Matt's recent debut on *BBC Introducing* where he performed two songs live on BBC Radio... **Hyunjo Kim** and **Joanne Sy** worked with composer Unsu Chin in the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra Masterclass series in March and April... Composer **Lillie Harris** has had her work *remiscipate* performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Edinburgh and Glasgow after it won the RSNO's Composers Hub competition. Lillie has also been selected for the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme for composers.



**Katie Cowling** also travelled to Bolivia in April with ten students from the Historical Performance Faculty. During their two-week tour, they worked with the Arakaendar choir and Bolivian baroque musicians, visited parts of the Bolivian jungle and performed in the XI Festival Internacional de Música Renacentista y Barocca Americana 'Misiones de Chiquitos'. Katie said that 'sharing the music that we love with some of the most humbling people was a life-changing experience'.

## WOODWIND AWARDS

Recorder player **Fatima Lahham** completed the London Marathon in April, running with her instrument and even playing en route to raise money for Save the Children's Syria Appeal... **BLOCK4** – **Katie Cowling** and **Rosie Land** and alumni **Emily Bannister** and **Lucy Carr** – has won the gold medal at the Seventh Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition in Easton, America. The ensemble won \$10,000 and the opportunity to perform at the Chesapeake Music Festival in June...

## RCMJD RESULTS

Pianist **Vincent Ling** has won the Beethoven Junior Intercollegiate Piano Competition.

## BRASS TRIUMPHS

Trombonist **Alec Coles-Aldridge** has taken part in Dublin Brass Week, where he participated in masterclasses and one-to-one lessons with Jürgen van Rijen, Zoltán Kiss and Peter Gane.

## STRING SUCCESSES

Violinist **Carolina Blaskovic** has won First Prize at the American Protégé International Competition. Her prize includes a performance in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in November... Violinists **Emily Sun** and **Jens Lynen**, violist **Lowri Thomas**, cellist **Timothée Botbol** and flautist **Catherine Hare** performed in St Moritz with Andrea Bocelli in February... **Emily Sun** has



also been announced as a member of the 2016 Tillett Trust Young Artists Platform, which will see her perform in The Monday Platform concerts at Wigmore Hall... Cellist **Kristiana Ignatjeva** has won the Muriel Taylor Scholarship of £5,000... Violinist **Aleksandra Li** won Third Prize at Poland's Toruń International Violin Competition in February. She has also won the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe scholarship and performed with the Milton Keynes City Orchestra in April... Violinist **Elisabeth Turmo** has performed at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London for the opening of Nikolai Astrup's 'Painting Norway' exhibition. She was also featured in the spring issue of Den Norske Klub's *Northern Lights* magazine and will perform at the 20th Grieg in Bergen festival in July.



## VOCAL ACCOLADES

Sopranos **Sofia Larsson** and **Galina Averina** and tenor **Peter Aisher** performed arias from Handel's *Ariodante* on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* with conductor and RCM alumnus **Laurence Cummings** ahead of the London Handel Festival's production at the RCM in March... **Peter Aisher** also sang in Euphonia's production of *La traviata* in April... In March, baritone **Kieran Rayner** was one of only two professional adult principals in *The Glass Knight*, an education outreach project in Saffron Walden, featuring more than 300 primary and secondary students. Written and conducted by RCM vocal coach **Philip Sunderland** and poet Gareth Prior, the contemporary opera also featured RCM alumna soprano **Monica McGhee**... Bass baritone **Simon Shibambu** has won the South African Chamber of Commerce Rising Star of the Year Award 2016... Soprano **Galina Averina** has won Second Prize at the Handel Singing Competition. In the same competition, soprano **Marie Lys** won the Audience Prize and a Selma D and Leon Fishbach Memorial Prize. Marie will also perform the role of Asteria in Handel's *Tamerlano* at the Buxton Festival in July... Soprano **Turiya Haudenhuyse** has sung the title role in Euphonia's *Iphigénie en Tauride* at The Drayton Arms Theatre with baritone **Samuel Oram**.

create a multi-disciplinary Malay Arts production entitled *bhumi*... Pianist **Konstantinos Destounis** was awarded Second Prize at the Liszt Society Piano Competition of London, held at Goldsmiths College, University of London, as part of the Liszt Society's Annual Day on 21 November 2015. He was also selected to participate in the Queen Elisabeth International Competition in Brussels, in May... Pianist **Ilya Kondratiev** will give a recital at the Beethoven Festival in Altaussee on 18 August, following his success at the Senior Intercollegiate Competition of the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe.

## DOCTORAL ACTIVITIES

**Isobel Clarke** has been awarded a placement at the British Library in European Print Culture in the 16th and 17th centuries where she will join the team of curators responsible for the Library's collection of printed music... **David Ho-Yi Chan** will give a paper on the linguistic parameters in contemporary choral music at the History, Analysis, Pedagogy – Music Analysis Conference, co-organised by the University of Nottingham and Society of Music Analysis. His choral work *Gods on the Magpie Bridge* will receive its premiere in July, at the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival, Hungary... **Tihamér Hlavacsek** has read a paper on and performed a programme of Karl Goldmark's piano works at the Institute for Musicology in Budapest. He also performed Goldmark's chamber music at the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, in February.



## KEYBOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pianist **Luka Okros** has won the First Grand Jury Prize at the Concours Internationale de Musique de l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Maroc in Rabat... Pianist **Sten Heinoja** has been named Classic Star 2016 (Klassikatahed) on Estonian TV following a televised competition broadcast live on ETV and on the internet. Sten's prize includes concert opportunities in major concert halls and on television... Pianist **Nabillah Jalal** will take on the role of music director, working with Singaporean Malay-Muslim arts students studying in the UK to

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## STAFF UPDATES

Deputy Head of Undergraduate Programmes, **Dr Anastasia Belina-Johnson**, has presented a paper on 'German Operetta in Warsaw: Cultural Transfer and Exchange' at the Fourth Sibelius Academy Symposium on Music History, in Helsinki. She has also joined Euphonia opera company as Associate Producer.

Professor of harpsichord **Jane Chapman** was an adjudicator for the eighth Mae and Irving Jurow International Harpsichord Competition, which took place in March 2016 at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA. Jane also performed pieces from her recent disc of 18th-century transcriptions of Indian music, *The Oriental Miscellany*, at the event organised by the Historical Keyboard Society of North America.

Piano professor **Norma Fisher**, founder and Artistic Director of London Master Classes, will be taking the popular educational series to Manchester in July. In addition to masterclasses with Norma, the summer course will feature violinist György Pauk, soprano Nelly Miricioiu, cellist Ralph Kirshbaum and conductor Benjamin Zander.

Bassoon professor **Martin Gatt** has recorded a trio CD with RCM alumni **Colin Parr**, former Principal Clarinet with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and pianist **Margaret Lynn**. The recording will feature Glinka's *Trio Pathétique* and Beethoven's Piano Trio op 11.

House Manager **Melissa Gerber-Venter** has enrolled for her PhD in Musicology at the Odeion School of Music, University of the Free State, in South Africa, under the guidance of Dr Matildie Thom Wium (UFS) and **Dr Anastasia Belina-**

**Johnson** (RCM). Melissa's research will focus on the chamber operas of Hendrik Hofmeyr.

Head of Undergraduate Programmes, **Dr Christina Guillaumier**, has shared her research on Prokofiev and Virtuosity at the Liszt Academy in Budapest and presented a paper on the music of Alexander Tcherepnin at Cambridge University. She was also a guest on BBC Radio 3's *Music Matters* with Petroc Trelawny in April.

Conductor and opera coach **Philip Headlam** conducted the world premiere of Luke Stoneham's *Lost in Music*, with libretto by Rose English, at the Camden Arts Centre, in March. The performance also featured RCM alumni **Rose Stachniewska** and **James Hall** and RCM bass baritone **Julien Van Mellaerts**.

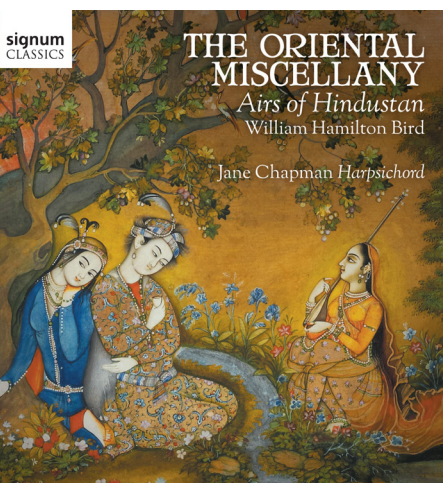
Composition professor **Kenneth Hesketh** will be a guest lecturer at the Cheltenham Composer Academy and will have some of his works performed by pianist Clare Hammond during the Cheltenham Festival this summer. He will also co-direct a new ten-day composition course at the MusicFest Aberystwyth summer school in July.

Deputy Librarian (Reference & Research) **Dr Peter Horton** has been featured on each of BBC Radio 3's five *Composer of the Week* programmes devoted to William Sterndale Bennett, on whom Peter is an expert. The programmes commemorated the bicentenary of the composer's birth in April.

Baroque viola professor **Annette Isserlis** is putting together a book on the life of **Francis Baines**, former RCM professor, composer, double bass player and RCM alumnus. 2017 marks the centenary of Francis' birth and the book will serve as a memorial to him. If you have any memories of Francis that you would like to suggest for inclusion, please send them to [annette.isserlis@gmail.com](mailto:annette.isserlis@gmail.com)

Piano professor **Julian Jacobson** has visited China for a masterclass at Steinway Hall in Guangzhou and a recital in Foshan. Over the summer, he will be in residence at the Beethoven Festival in Altaussee, Austria. He will lead masterclasses and give four recitals where he will perform the remaining 15 Beethoven piano sonatas, having played 17 of them in 2015.

*Joyce & Tony – Live From Wigmore Hall*, produced by Artistic Director **Stephen Johns**, was named Best Classical Solo Vocal Album at the 58th Annual Grammy Awards, in February. The album captures Joyce DiDonato and Sir Antonio Pappano's 2014–15 Wigmore Hall season-opening recital and marks Stephen's fourth Grammy-winning album.





Harp professor **Ieuan Jones** has released a new solo CD on the Claudio label. *Schubert by Ieuan Jones*, features a selection of Schubert's piano works, including Scherzos and Impromptus, transcribed for the harp by Ieuan.

Tutor in Alexander Technique **Judith Kleinman** has represented the RCM at the Music Education Expo 2016 at London Olympia. Judith and the RCM's Alexander Technique department have also been asked to teach in Malta and Brussels this year and visit Estonia in early 2017.

Faculty Officer & Faculty Performance Coordinator **Emer Landers** has been selected by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts to be part of their BAFTA Crew Games programme for 2016–17. The BAFTA Crew professional network offers access to top industry talent and an exclusive programme of masterclasses and Q&As featuring BAFTA nominees. RCM alumni composers **Chris Green** and **Benjamin Woodgates** have also been selected for the scheme.

Vocal professor **Justin Lavender** has founded a new opera company with stage director Alison Marshall. Arcadian Opera, based in the Roxburgh Theatre at Stowe, near Buckingham, presented a sell-out gala concert in March. The company's first full production will be *La bohème* in November.

Violin professor **Madeleine Mitchell** has performed as soloist with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in the violin concerto written for her by Guto Puw at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival in May. This summer she will return to the Dartington International Summer School and Festival and to LMFL courses in Florence and Llandoverly.

Vocal coach and conductor **Natalie Murray Beale** has represented the UK at Dallas Opera's Institute for Women Conductors, which included conducting opportunities with the Dallas Opera Orchestra and masterclasses with international conductors, including Marin Alsop. She has also recently made her conducting debuts with the



Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and Croatian National Opera.

Organ professor **Margaret Phillips** performed at the Royal Festival Hall on 6 June in the Pull Out All the Stops international organ series. Margaret and her recordings were also featured on American Public Media's *Pipedreams* in a two-hour programme called *The Phillips Factor*.

Director of Opera **Michael Rosewell**, in his role as Music Director of English Touring Opera, has conducted performances of *Don Giovanni* at the Hackney Empire. The performances in March received rave reviews from *The Sunday Times* and *The Telegraph* and also featured RCM alumni **Robyn Lyn Evans**, **Bradley Travis**, **Tim Dawkins** and **Samantha Hay**.

RCM Quartet in Association, the **Sacconi Quartet**, has released two volumes of 'Sacconi Strings' with Spitfire Audio. The four-year project aims to create a set of recordings that can be used as a definitive set of writing-for-quartet tools. Volume 1 features first violin **Ben Hancox** and Volume 2 showcases cellist **Cara Berridge**, with each set including more than 12,500 audio samples.

Percussion professor **Serge Vuille**'s Kammer Klang, the monthly new-music series he directs at Cafe Oto, East London, has had concerts recorded and broadcast for BBC Radio 3's *Hear and Now* programme. The 2015–16 season included performances from Serge's own group *We Spoke*, as well as RCM students **Ruaidhri Mannion** and **Katarzyna Ziminska** under the series' Fresh Klang young artist and emerging composer initiative.

The third volume of harpsichord professor **Robert Woolley**'s collection of the complete keyboard music of Sweelinck has been released on Chandos Records. The recording, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in London and the RCM, was made on harpsichord and virginal at Glynde Church, East Sussex.

#### Above

Judith Kleinman

#### Below

Serge Vuille

#### Opposite Top

Jane Chapman's *The Oriental Miscellany*

#### Opposite Bottom

Natalie Murray Beale

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## ALUMNI UPDATES

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Mezzo soprano **Rosie Aldridge** will make her Royal Opera debut in the 2016–17 season as Osipovna/Pretzel Seller in Shostakovich's *The Nose*. Rosie will also join the ensemble of Vienna State Opera from the 2016–17 season.

Cellist **Alexander (Sandy) Baillie** has celebrated his 35-year duo-partnership with pianist John Thwaites at a concert at LSO St Luke's. The concert on 7 May also marked Sandy's 60th birthday and featured John Ireland's Cello Sonata and two Brahms cello sonatas.

Violist **Ann Beilby** and former RCM Junior Department violinist **Stephanie Childress** were finalists in the Strings Section of the Royal Overseas League Competition in February. Trumpeter **Ryan Linham** performed in the Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Final.

Baritone **Oscar Dom Victor Castellino** has performed with pianist Nadine Jo Crasto in India. The 'Operawala-Tosti Tour of India' commemorated the centenary of Italian composer Francesco Paolo Tosti's death, and was performed in Mumbai, Benaulim, Mysuru and Pune.

Sopranos **Katherine Crompton** and **Robyn Allegra Parton**, tenor **William Morgan** and bass baritone **Edward Grint** performed in the world premiere of Sir Nicholas Jackson's opera *The Rose and The Ring*, in May. The performance with Concertante of London also featured current RCM singers tenor **Peter Aisher** and mezzo soprano **Katie Coventry**.

Tenor **Joseph Doody** and baritone **Jerome Knox** have performed in Euphonia's *Iphigénie en Tauride* at The Drayton Arms Theatre in South Kensington. The April production alternated with *La traviata* which featured RCM alumni **Rannveig Káradóttir** and **Christopher Jacklin**.

Composer **Andrew Downes** has seen his Symphonies nos 1–4 and overtures *Towards a New Age* and *In the Cotswolds* recorded by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. The UK launch took place in April at the National Film Theatre, London, and the recording was voted 'CD of the Month' by Czech Music Direct in March.

Composer **Dr Aaron Einbond** has joined the Department of Music at City University London. Aaron will be teaching Composition, Materials of Music, Multidisciplinary, Critical Listening and Sound Design as well as supervising students in music composition and technology.

Composer **Arne Gieshoff** has been appointed the new Hans Werner Henze Foundation Fellow. Taking up the position for the next two years, Arne will benefit from a scholarship designed to help a young composer follow Henze's vision of musicians expressing themselves with an individual and independent musical language.

Soprano **Susanna Hurrell** has made her main stage debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in the role of Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*. Later this season, she will join the Royal Opera again for the world premiere of Philip Venables' *4.48 Psychosis*, and will sing Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* for Opera Holland Park this summer.

Violinists **Jeremy Isaac** and **John Mills** and their ensemble the Tippett Quartet will lead a residential programme for chamber and orchestral string players in Oxford. The chamber music course will run 5–10 August and will also feature members of the English Chamber Orchestra.

Pianist **Courtney Kenny** has recorded two CDs of revue and cabaret songs by **Madeleine Dring**. Also featuring soprano Wanda Brister and mezzo soprano Nuala Willis, the recordings will be released later this year on Cambria Records.

Pianist **Sally Mays** has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the New Year's Honours List for the Commonwealth. Published on Australia Day, 26 January, Sally was commended for her 'significant contribution to the performing arts as a leading solo pianist and composer, to music education and as an editor'.





**Left**

Tippett Quartet

**Below**

Jenna Sung and Merel Vercammen

**Opposite Top**

Dr Aaron Einbond  
Photo: Soili Mustapää

**Opposite Bottom**

Brook Street Band

Former RCM Opera School Administrator **Andrew Page** has compiled a book celebrating the 125-year history of successful opera productions at the Royal College of Music. The book includes press reviews, photographs and full cast lists, and Andrew is seeking orders to support production. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact Andrew at [aapage458@googlemail.com](mailto:aapage458@googlemail.com)

Contemporary chamber group *raescale* – featuring alumni **Carla Rees**, **David Black**, **Rosie Coad**, **Paul Goodey** and **Claes Biehl** and RCM Area Leader for Electroacoustic Music **Michael Oliva** – has performed at the Forge in Camden. Their concert on 11 May included the London premiere of Katharine Norman's *A Walk I Do* for alto flute and electronics.

Clarinetist **John Reynolds** and cellist **Peter Esswood** have recorded *Cuatro Canciones* by Morten Lauridsen with tenor Jeremy Huw-Williams and pianist Paula Fan. The song cycle and other art songs by the American composer will feature on a CD entitled *Prayer*, to be released in September.

Duo Schaffer-Jegunova – violinist **Susanne Schaffer** and pianist **Olga Jegunova** – has won Fourth Prize at the International Chamber Music Competition 'Città di Pinerolo e Torino – Città Metropolitana'. Olga also gave a solo recital of sonatas by Beethoven, Chopin and Bartók at London's Regent Hall in May.

Pianist **Jenna Sung** and violinist **Merel Vercammen** have won Second Prize in the chamber music category of the London Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition. They were invited to perform at the Prize Winners Concert at the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room on 29 March.

Pianist **Georgina Sutton**'s AthElite Musician has been shortlisted for a DBACE Award for Creative Enterprise. AthElite Musician is an innovative prevention model that aims to eliminate, or at least significantly reduce, the effects of injury that can occur when playing a classical instrument.

Cellist **Tatty Theo** and her ensemble the Brook Street Band will celebrate the band's 20th anniversary at Wigmore Hall on 17 July. The all-Handel programme will include the 'Oxford' Water Music, trio sonata op 5 no 4 and *Saul*. The Band will be joined by soprano **Nicki Kennedy** and bass baritone **Matthew Brook** for *Apollo e Dafne*.

**Gareth Valentine** is currently Musical Supervisor, Musical Director and Dance Arranger for *Guys and Dolls*, a West End production which was nominated for six Olivier Awards, including Best Musical Revival. Gareth also conducted the ballet *Strictly Gershwin* with Queensland Ballet in May.

Artistic Director of Jackdaws Music Education Trust, **Saffron van Zwanenberg**, has had her work recognised at the 2016 Music Teacher Awards for Excellence. The Jackdaws OperaPLUS project won 'Best Classical Music Education Initiative' for its work introducing children to high-quality opera.

*ArchiPol* – singer **Paul Vialard** – has presented an evening of French chanson at the Loft at Brasserie and Wine Bar Toulouse Lautrec in Kennington. He was accompanied by keyboard player **James Burrows**, cellist **Romain Malan**, drummer Rob Hervais-Adelman and guest singer Judith Charron.

Tenor **William Wallace** has won First Prize at the 2016 Handel Singing Competition. William sang recitatives and arias from *Judas Maccabaeus*, *Jephtha* and *Rodelinda* in the final held at St George's, Hanover Square, on 4 April.

Cellist and conductor **Stanley Yeung** conducted mezzo soprano **Louise Kwong** and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Students' Union Orchestra in a performance of Elgar's *Sea Pictures* in February. The programme also saw Stanley conduct Wagner's *Meistersinger* Overture and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no 5.

**CONNECT**

Connect with fellow RCM alumni in our LinkedIn group or contact Elinor Hatt, Alumni Relations Officer, on [alumni@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@rcm.ac.uk) or **020 7591 4353**.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday 25 September:  
1985–90 alumni reunion.  
See [www.rcm.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/alumni/events) for more details.



# IN MEMORY

**Dr Mary Ash** trained at the Royal College of Music under piano professor Cyril Smith. She later took up the position of church organist at St Francis De Sales in Hampton Hill, where she was a member of the parish for more than 40 years. She worked at Brentford School for Girls (1968–90) where she was a much-loved teacher and colleague. Dr Ash died on 16 February, aged 85.

British composer **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** was born in Salford on 8 September 1934. Interested in music from an early age, Sir Peter gained places at the Royal Manchester College of Music and Manchester University, and developed a reputation for unpredictable and controversial compositions. As his style developed he became one of the country's leading cultural figures. He moved to Orkney in 1971 and co-founded the island's popular St Magnus Festival in 1977. He was knighted in 1986, awarded Fellowship of the RCM in 1994 and, in 2004, he was appointed Master of the Queen's Music, a position he held until 2014. Sir Peter died on 14 March 2016.

Conductor **Nikolaus Harnoncourt** was born in Berlin and grew up in Graz, Austria. He studied cello at the Vienna Academy of Music and joined the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in 1952, performing with them for 17 years. He was a key proponent of Baroque music and formed the *Concentus Musicus Wien* with his wife, Alice, in 1953. He began conducting both opera and orchestras in the 1970s. One of the most recorded early music conductors, he also worked with the world's most respected orchestras, including the Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras. Harnoncourt was awarded Fellowship of the RCM in 1996. He died in Vienna on 5 March, aged 86.

Cellist **Gwyneth George** was born on 27 May 1920, and grew up in Swansea before studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and with Ivor James at the RCM. She continued her studies with Enrico Mainardi and Paul Tortelier. Gwyneth made her Wigmore Hall debut in 1950 and later formed a successful partnership with Argentinian pianist Alberto Portugheis, with whom she recorded her only commercial disc. She taught music in Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1960s before returning to the UK where she taught at Trinity College of Music, London. She died on 16 February 2016.

**Rosalind Leney** studied piano, viola and piano accompaniment at the RCM in the 1940s. After leaving, she played with the Schubert Trio, and taught in schools and privately. She organised regular concerts for the annual Bedford Park Festival and, in 1987, she founded the Blenheim Music Circle which arranged six concerts a year in the Catholic Hall in Chiswick, involving over 500 musicians. She helped raise funds for the RCM's Britten Theatre and was always proud of her RCM connection. When the Blenheim Music Circle was closed in 2015, the members resolved to use the balance of its funds to found an RCM piano scholarship in her name. She died on 7 April 2016, aged 92.

Organist **Richard Popplewell** was born on 18 October 1935 and received his first organ lessons from Sir David Willcocks when he was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge. He later became Organ Scholar at King's and went on to hold the posts of Assistant Organist at St Paul's Cathedral, Director of Music at St Michael's Cornhill, Accompanist to The Bach Choir and Organist, Choirmaster and Composer to HM Chapels Royal. He was a distinguished organ professor at the RCM from the mid-1960s until his retirement and was awarded Fellowship of the RCM in 1982. Richard died on 22 March 2016, aged 80. A memorial service will be held at St Michael's Cornhill, London, on Monday 10 October at 1pm.

**Gary Purkiss** was Strategic Planning Accountant at the RCM for ten years. A much-valued member of staff, his contribution to the RCM was recognised in 2012 when he was made an Honorary Member of the RCM. Gary took part in the 2014 Student Union's popular Staff Grade 1 Challenge, where he learnt the piano for charity, with all proceeds going to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. Gary's brother continues this tradition with a Just Giving page dedicated to Gary's memory [www.justgiving.com/GaryPurkiss](http://www.justgiving.com/GaryPurkiss)

**Grace Smith**, née Alderson, was born on 28 October 1930 in Silsden, West Yorkshire. She was awarded a scholarship by West Riding County Council to study at the RCM in 1948, where she gained an ARCM and a GRSM. Grace studied piano, organ and harmony, and later taught piano and organ. She also accompanied choirs and played the organ for many church services. Grace died on 12 November 2015.

## LEAVING A LEGACY

The RCM would like to thank all those who have remembered the College in their will and left a musical legacy for future generations to enjoy.

For more information on leaving a legacy to the RCM, please contact Louise Birrell on **020 7591 4743** or [louise.birrell@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:louise.birrell@rcm.ac.uk)

**CORRECTION:** In the spring issue of *Upbeat*, Jasper Thorogood was incorrectly identified as being Music Director at Chingford Girls' School. He was Music Director at Chigwell School.

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