

RCM VOCAL & OPERA OPEN DOOR

10.00 – 4.00

Sunday 5 October 2025



RCM VOCAL & OPERA

OPEN DOOR 2025

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Royal College of Music and find your experience useful and informative. All our stewards are vocal students, so please ask them any questions you might have on the day.

Arrival at RCM

Our address is:

Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2BS

The closest London Underground station to the RCM is South Kensington which is about a ten minute walk from the College. Other nearby underground stations are Gloucester Road and High Street Kensington. For further details about getting to the RCM, please visit our website www.rcm.ac.uk/visit

You should ideally arrive at the RCM 30-40 minutes before your time slot.

The Royal College of Music is not open until 10.00am on Sundays, so if you are the very first participant of the day please do not arrive before this time.

Your Open Door experience

On arrival at the RCM please give your name (the participant's name) to our staff on the door, who will grant you access, and follow the signs to the Cafe, for you to sit and relax before your warmup. Here you will be greeted by a member of staff who will check you in. You will be given a slip to write your repertoire down for the panel, please hand this to them when you enter your performance venue.

A steward will then direct you to your warm up room – you will have roughly 20 minutes to warm up here if you have arrived in good time. Your accompanist will join you in this warm up room for a few minutes just before your slot – please see the next page for full information about accompanists. When it is time for your slot, a steward will collect you from your warm up room and direct you to one of the two performance rooms. Here you will meet your panel of two Vocal and Opera professors and hand over your questionnaire. Then you will be invited to sing.



Your slot will consist of five minutes singing, five minutes conversation with the panel, and two minutes either side for entering and exiting the room. It may be helpful to time your programme at home, including gaps between pieces and entering and exiting the stage, just to make sure you have left enough time for conversation and feedback from the panel.

Please do not be offended if the panel are forced to cut short your singing – this will be due to time restrictions, not a judgement on your performance.

Only you, your accompanist and panel members will be in the room. No form of audience will be present. If you have been accompanied by friends or family, they are warmly invited to wait for you in the welcome room – they do not need to book or notify us in advance if they wish to do so.

The panels

You will be heard by two senior vocal professors of which one may be the Head of Vocal and Opera.

Offering a wealth of experience and expertise, your panellists will hear you sing in a friendly and non-judgemental environment, giving feedback on your performance and advising you on what your options might be for the future.

Repertoire

You should ideally present two contrasting pieces. It would be preferable if these were classical pieces, as this is the type of training we offer at the RCM. The most important thing is that you feel relaxed and enjoy your performance. Remember, this is not an audition!

Accompanists

A pianist will be available to accompany you free of charge, although you are very welcome to bring your own accompanist should you so wish. If you have brought your own accompanist, please let us know when you arrive on the day.

Please bring along a copy of your music for your accompanist. The panel will not require a copy.

Please note that accompanists provided by the RCM will not be able to join you in a warm-up, as they will be playing for back-to-back sessions. However, you will have time for a chat and a very quick look through your pieces with your accompanist a few minutes before you go in to sing.



Dress code

The dress code for this event is smart casual.

Important – eligibility criteria for free place

To be considered for a free place for this event, participants should meet one of the following criteria:

- receives means tested Free School Meals
- has Special Educational needs
- lives in social housing
- is eligible for Universal Credit
- is a young Carer
- has a household income of less than £31,139
- is a child looked after by the local authority/foster care
- is eligible for disability benefits
- has a parent/care in the armed forces
- has refugee/migrant status

If you wish to discuss your eligibility further, please contact Amy.vanWalsum@rcm.ac.uk

If you have any other questions about your visit, please contact our Vocal and Opera Faculty Officer, Amy van Walsum: Amy.vanWalsum@rcm.ac.uk

We look forward to welcoming you on your visit to the RCM!

FIND OUT MORE

www.rcm.ac.uk/vocal
www.rcm.ac.uk/operaschool

GET IN TOUCH

vocalstudies@rcm.ac.uk

Find other events at www.rcm.ac.uk/events

X: @RCMLondon

Facebook: RoyalCollegeofMusic

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