

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT AUDITION INFORMATION FOR 2026 APPLICANTS

Our 2026 audition process will be in two stages. First round auditions will be online, candidates from these initial auditions will then be offered a second round in-person on campus in South Kensington.

The deadline for completing our online application form will be the end of Sunday 1 March 2026. We have done everything we can to ensure the form is straightforward to navigate, but we strongly encourage you to access the form well before deadline, to allow time for us to respond to any issues that you might have (please send queries to jd@rcm.ac.uk).

In addition to completing the online application form, candidates will need to **upload video recordings of their performances** or **PDFs of their composition portfolios** to our secure online portal. First round audition panels will convene digitally, reviewing the video recordings or composition portfolios submitted from January onwards so early submission is encouraged. All submissions should be received by the end of Friday 6 March 2026. Outline details of online submission requirements are below.

Our expected audition timeline is below. Please let us know via your online application form of pre-existing clashes you have with any of the dates during the live audition period below (NB it is not possible for candidates to request/select a specific audition date). We will do what we can to work with candidates' declared availability, but we cannot guarantee to accommodate applicants with very limited availability. It is expected that auditionees will be excused from school to attend a live audition if offered. If you are unable to attend all of the live audition dates, please get in touch (jd@rcm.ac.uk) and note this in your application.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

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| Sun 1 March | Online application form submission deadline |
| Fri 6 March | Recording/portfolio upload deadline (see next page for further details) |
| Sat 14 March | Live audition invitations emailed from RCMJD (by end of day) |
| Mon 23 March – Fri 18 April | Live auditions period (<i>NB percussion auditions will be on Sat 28 March</i>) |
| Mon 20 April | Live audition results emailed from RCMJD (by end of day) |
| Sat 25 April | Offer holder visit sessions (optional) |
| Fri 1 May | Offer responses deadline |

(continued below)

APPLICATION/AUDITION FEES

We do not wish for the cost of the audition to prevent anyone from auditioning for the Junior Department; if you have any concerns about making payment, please contact us via jd@rcm.ac.uk.

Please note that any audition fee waivers must be agreed in writing by a member of RCMJD staff before the online application is submitted. The audition fee is a contribution towards costs of the overall audition process and is non-refundable, even if a candidate is not selected for an in-person second round audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

FIRST ROUND ONLINE/DIGITAL AUDITIONS

First round audition panels will convene digitally, reviewing the video recordings or composition portfolios that candidates have provided. Requirements for online submissions are as follows:

First study instrumental/vocal candidates

- A short (2-3 minute) introductory video of the candidate explaining a bit about themselves, including musical background/aspirations, other interests, and why they wish to study at RCMJD
- Recordings of two short, contrasting pieces on first study instrument/voice (maximum 10 mins total)

First study composition candidates

- A short (2-3 minute) introductory video of the student explaining a bit about themselves, including favourite composers/styles of music, creative inspirations, other interests, and why they wish to study at RCMJD
- A portfolio of recent compositions (see our 'special audition requirements' document below for further details)

Second study (optional)

If the candidate wishes to be considered for second study instrumental/vocal lessons at RCMJD, please also submit a separate recording of one short piece. Second study composers should submit a portfolio of recent compositions (see our 'special audition requirements' document below for further details)

Making your recording(s)

The setup of the recording for each performed piece is your discretion (whether it be filmed at a live concert or at home, school etc). In all cases, our audition panels will appreciate it if the video and audio are as high quality as possible (reasonable-quality recordings can be made on most mobile phones). The camera should remain static during each recording, and the applicant should be on screen throughout. When considering your camera angle, please bear in mind that the audition panel will need to look at the candidate's posture and technique. Finally, please don't edit recordings – each piece must be presented in one continuous shot.

It's preferable that pieces that have accompaniment are performed in this way (either with a live pianist or pre-recorded backing track). This gives our panel insight into how the applicant interacts with another musical line. However, if circumstances dictate that this isn't possible, performances of just the solo part are acceptable. Recordings should be as recent as practical.

Detailed instructions about how to upload recordings to our online portal will be distributed to candidates' parents/guardians once we have reviewed each application, which may take a few days. Early submissions are warmly encouraged!

(continued below)

SECOND ROUND AUDITIONS

Second round auditions will be held in person at the RCM campus (South Kensington).

For live auditions, individual study requirements are the same as for first round online auditions (see above). Unless otherwise agreed in advance, candidates should present performances of the same pieces that they have submitted for their initial video auditions. In addition, candidates will be asked to undertake aural tests, first study sight reading and a discussion with the audition panel.

Candidates will need to use our official accompanist and will have time to rehearse with them before the audition.

Please ensure that you also read our ***special audition requirements*** document, available from our website: www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/rcmjddapply/rcmjdauditions/

AUDITION RESULTS

Results will be sent directly to parents/guardians by email as soon as possible after the audition period. If you are being offered a place then you will have a little time to decide whether you wish to accept the offer. There will be an opportunity to visit the Department before decisions are required.

If you decide to accept you will need to decide (by the acceptance deadline) on which instruments you wish to have individual tuition, and whether you require standard length or extended lessons (for which there is an extra cost). You must familiarise yourself with what the RCMJD offers and what is expected of students and parents before accepting your place; you will be asked to sign your agreement to our Regulations and Code of Conduct.

The decision of the audition panel is final. Owing to the large volume of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results.

LATE APPLICATIONS

We may offer auditions outside our main audition period and/or accept late applications in exceptional circumstances – please contact the Junior Department office via jd@rcm.ac.uk if this is relevant to you.

December 2025