

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
PROSPECTUS



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC

London





RCM JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
PROSPECTUS

WELCOME

The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) offers advanced musical training to talented young musicians between the ages of 8 and 18. Founded in 1926, the RCMJD has nurtured distinguished alumni including Julian Lloyd Webber, Michael Collins, Clemency Burton-Hill and John Lill.



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

Students travel to the Royal College of Music each Saturday from all over the UK for a tailor-made programme of individual instrumental, vocal or composition lessons; chamber music, orchestral and choral training; and general musicianship. Our teachers are all professional performers or composers who offer the highest standards of tuition and coaching.

Every Saturday the RCM buzzes with musical energy and purpose. Our students take part in more than 100 internal and external concerts per year at major venues including Cadogan Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Southbank Centre's Purcell Room and Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Our young musicians enjoy significant success in national and international competitions and many are members of leading ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestras and National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Michael Collins, RCMJD alumnus, was a finalist in the very first BBC Young Musician Competition in 1978, and RCMJD students have dominated the competition in recent years.

If you want to make the most of your musical ability, we are here to help you. We are committed to nurturing potential and offering a warm, creative yet disciplined environment in which you will flourish. Please read through the following prospectus to find out how you could be a part of the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

Miranda Francis
Head of Junior Programmes

FIND OUT MORE
www.rcm.ac.uk/junior

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6 My time at the RCM Junior Department was a crucial part of my training as a young musician. I loved having the opportunity to make music at a high level with other young people and my collaboration with such fellow students as John Lill played a large part in shaping my musical future. 6

Julian Lloyd Webber, RCMJD alumnus



WHAT WE OFFER

The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMD) is a specialist, term-time only, Saturday school offering advanced training to musicians aged 8–18. You will combine your studies here with your general education at your chosen weekday school.

We offer tuition in the following:

- Bass trombone
- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Composition
- Conducting
- Double bass
- Flute
- French horn
- Guitar
- Harp
- Harpsichord
- Jazz piano
- Jazz saxophone
- Mini-bass
- Oboe
- Organ
- Percussion
- Piano
- Recorder
- Saxophone
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Voice

CURRICULUM

Our core curriculum consists of the following:

- First study lesson (45 minutes minimum)
- Chamber music (60 minutes)
- Musicianship (60 minutes)
- Orchestra (60–120 minutes)
- Choir (60 minutes)

Unless otherwise explicitly agreed with the Head of Junior Programmes in advance, you are expected to take part in all elements of the core curriculum.

In addition to the core curriculum, you may opt to take the following:

- Second and third study lessons (minimum 30 minutes per instrument)
- Alexander Technique (30 minutes paired lesson)

CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber Music is a core element of the RCM Junior Department programme. We have more than 80 chamber groups each year.

Our ensembles include:

- Baroque ensemble
- Bass groups
- Brass ensemble and dectet
- Brass quintets
- Cello groups
- Clarinet choir
- Flute group
- Guitar ensemble
- Harp ensemble
- Jazz ensembles
- Percussion ensemble
- Piano duos
- Piano trios
- Recorder ensemble
- Saxophone ensemble
- String quartets
- Violin groups
- Wind octet or dectet
- Wind quintets

Chamber groups meet for an hour or more each week. There are many performance and coaching opportunities both inside and outside the RCM.

Each ensemble receives a weekly lesson and there are opportunities to participate in workshops and masterclasses with internationally acclaimed visiting ensembles. Recent visitors include the Harlem Quartet, Onyx Brass, the New London Chamber Ensemble and the Chilingirian Quartet. The RCMJD also runs an annual Chamber Music Day and an annual Chamber Music Competition, with prizewinners performing at our yearly RCMJD Young Artists' Concert in the Purcell Room.



- RCMJD students participate in at least one chamber ensemble, with many performing in two or more. Our chamber musicians have performed at London's most prestigious venues, including the House of Lords and the Royal Albert Hall, as well as at Sandringham Estate for the RCM President, HRH The Prince of Wales.

Hilary Sturt, Head of Chamber Music



JAZZ

We offer a wide variety of classes and encourage our younger students to combine both jazz and classical elements in their curriculum to give a thorough grounding in each style. We hope that this will enable you to make an informed decision if you wish to specialise in jazz at a later point.

INDIVIDUAL JAZZ LESSONS

We currently have two specialist jazz musicians teaching at the Royal College of Music Junior Department and they offer lessons in jazz improvisation to students on any instrument and of any age.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION CLASSES

These classes are designed for students who would like to try their hand at jazz improvisation but who have little or no previous experience. Classes are configured depending on age and experience.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

We currently have two jazz ensembles at the RCMJD. Our Junior Jazz Ensemble, run by Sara Dhillon, is formed of students who have some experience of jazz improvisation. Our Senior Jazz Ensemble, a big band conducted by Mornington Lockett, is one of our flagship ensembles for our most advanced players. Both ensembles have had the opportunity to perform at world-famous venues such as Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, the 606 Jazz Club and as part of the Late Night Jazz series at the Royal Albert Hall.



• The RCMJD offers countless opportunities to explore jazz in a nurturing and encouraging environment. The wider musical skills a developing musician can gain from studying this marvellous music are invaluable. Not only will jazz equip you with the ability to improvise, it will help you develop empathy and musical rapport with your fellow musicians. •

Sara Dhillon, jazz piano teacher





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HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Our baroque and recorder ensemble teachers are among the UK's leading players and teachers of historical music. We cover a vast, varied repertoire from the 17th and 18th centuries, including Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Rameau and Castello, as well as works by lesser-known composers.

ENSEMBLES

Most baroque ensembles consist of two or more melody instruments with basso continuo – usually harpsichord or chamber organ and cello or bassoon. We also encourage larger scale projects and recently explored Bach's Brandenburg Concertos.

All groups gain a real insight into different European styles, making historically informed decisions on bowing, ornamentation, phrasing and vibrato. There are also opportunities to take part in baroque dance workshops.

BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS

Players of recorder, flute, oboe, bassoon, violin, viola, cello, harpsichord and organ can all take part in historical performance sessions. Pianists can play the harpsichord and learn the necessary skills. Projects have also included works with singers and brass players.

String players are given a baroque bow to borrow and take home. Recorder ensemble participants, in addition to the baroque classes, have the use of a wide range of instruments, electronic equipment and the opportunity to work with RCMJD composers and to collaborate in senior college recorder events.

You will work in a mature, informal and supportive environment. Historical performance ensembles offer a chance for real personal input and individual expression, as well as the opportunity to make stimulating and exciting chamber music at a very high level.

- I love Baroque Ensemble because I have been able to explore an entirely new musical genre with a group of incredibly talented students and a teacher who is a baroque specialist. It has encouraged me to listen to my sound in a collaborative manner, and I have felt my playing grow as a result. ●

Theo, violin

MUSICIANSHIP

All students take part in musicianship classes, which help to increase perception and knowledge of music and encourage creative responses to it. Musicianship classes provide a thorough grounding in listening skills, aural, harmony, contextual awareness and active performance, and they support all other elements of the programme.

On entry, students follow the RCMJD core musicianship curriculum, devised by Head of Musicianship Andrew Williams. This interdisciplinary programme encourages young musicians to explore the inherent connections between aural, theory and practical skills, enabling them to further their understanding of musical styles and individual works. There are also opportunities to take foundation classes in areas such as composition and improvisation, or to prepare for a Grade 6 level exam in either Theory or Practical Musicianship.

On completing the core musicianship programme, students have the opportunity to choose from a range of advanced level option classes. Here, they can focus on specific areas of interest and prepare for degree level courses in music.



Advanced level options include:

- Advanced Music Theory (ABRSM Grades 7 and 8)
- Advanced Practical Musicianship (ABRSM Grades 7 and 8)
- Keyboard skills
- Composition class
- Improvisation class
- Conducting class
- Musicology and Aesthetics
- Pre-conservatoire class (for students in Year 13 intending to continue their musical studies as undergraduates at the Royal College of Music)

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

The Alexander Technique works by helping you to identify and prevent the harmful postural habits (how you stand, sit or move) that cause, or may contribute to, stress or pain. Paired classes are offered free of charge but demand is high, so there may be a waiting list.



COMPOSITION & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

At the Royal College of Music Junior Department we believe composition helps to provide vital insights into music-making of all kinds. We offer a unique environment in which composers are surrounded by instrumentalists and singers of the highest quality and are mentored by teachers who are professional composers in their own right.

You are encouraged to perform your own and others' new pieces in a series of well-attended concerts in the RCM's concert halls and at external venues such as the National Portrait Gallery.

New partnerships are being forged with senior college students and staff and we have developed opportunities for selected RCM Postgraduate Fellows to play through and perform RCMJD student pieces, providing valuable experience in the contemporary music workshop environment. Recordings of these top-quality performances have helped our composition students when applying for competitions, courses and grants.

The vocal ensemble, Juice, and the renowned brass quintet, Onyx Brass, have recently taken part in workshops and performances of student work, and future collaborative projects are planned with London Sinfonietta and Contemporary Music for All (CoMA).

Visits from eminent contemporary composers are an exciting part of our programme. RCMJD alumnus Mark-Anthony Turnage worked with young composers on a project based on his work *This Silence*, which was performed alongside the resulting student compositions in a memorable concert with the composer present. Our young composers regularly win the BBC Proms Inspire competition and many have gone on to study composition at leading universities and conservatoires.

- The most vital experience for a young composer is to hear their work rehearsed and performed. The RCMJD provides rich opportunities for this to happen under expert guidance. •

Simon Speare, Head of Composition and Contemporary Music

• The RCMJD is an amazing community to be part of. The building always has a bubbly atmosphere and I wouldn't choose any other way to spend my Saturday. The RCMJD has always supported me and it has prepared me for a future in the music industry. I've had the opportunity to perform in venues such as Cadogan Hall, and had my pieces performed by professional ensembles such as the BBC Singers. •

Chelsea, oboe and composition





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ORCHESTRAS

The Royal College of Music Junior Department has six orchestras which perform in concerts throughout the year in both the RCM's wonderful performance spaces and at external venues including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre.

Places are allocated according to the student's age, orchestral ability and progress. All orchestras have a team of tutors who are leading professional orchestral musicians to assist in full rehearsals and sectionals.

The RCMJD orchestras are:

- Chamber Orchestra
- Sinfonia Orchestra
- Sinfonietta
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Wind Orchestra
- Symphony Orchestra



“When I came to the RCMJD Open Day I remember hearing students say that Saturday was the best day of the week. I’ve now been here two years and this has definitely been the case! My timetable is so varied. I aspire to be a musician in the future and I can’t think of a better way to prepare for that than by attending the RCMJD.”

Alice, French horn, composition and conducting

CHOIRS

Choral singing is an integral part of the Royal College of Music Junior Department curriculum for all students. It develops aural awareness, vocal technique and general musical perception, as well as being an important part of the social fabric of the RCMJD.

We have a wide range of choirs catering for varying ages, voices and abilities:

- Training Choir
- Treble Choir
- Concert Choir (boys' and girls' choir)
- Senior Choir
- Girls' Choir
- Chamber Choir
- Parry Voices

Our choirs have performed alongside senior college musicians in the RCM's Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall and Britten Theatre, the Purcell Room, St James's Piccadilly and at the Royal Albert Hall in the Music for Youth Schools Prom, as well as in the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room.



• Saturdays at the RCMJD are my favourite day of the week. I really enjoy taking part in the weekly Singers Repertoire Class and in Parry Voices, and I love the technical work I do with my singing teacher. The RCMJD has given me opportunities beyond my hopes. Last year I played in the Proms Youth Ensemble and I also took part in a recording for English National Ballet. I've made a great set of friends too, who feel the same passion for music that I do. •

Sebastian, voice and trombone

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

You are encouraged to make the most of the many performance opportunities on offer to you at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

PERFORMERS' PLATFORM

Each week a Performers' Platform provides opportunities for you to perform solo or ensemble works in front of an informal audience, with an accompanist if required. Experienced tutors give performance feedback as well as tips and advice on techniques. This is a very valuable experience, particularly if you are preparing for an exam or competition.

INTERNAL CONCERTS

We hold more than 20 concerts at the Royal College of Music each year where all students have the chance to perform. These concerts include our orchestras, choirs and ensembles, as well as several contemporary music concerts featuring compositions by RCMJD students.

EXTERNAL CONCERTS

There are performance opportunities in some of London's most exceptional venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and St John's Smith Square. We also hold an annual Young Artists' Concert at Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, which features some of our leading solo performers and the winners of our Chamber Music Competition.



INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

We have a wide range of competitions which are available for you to take part in from Year 7 upwards, including:

- Angela Bull Competition
- Barbara Boissard Junior Concerto Competition
- Chamber Music Competition
- Gordon Turner Competition
- Gordon Turner Harp Competition
- Hugh Bean Violin Competition
- Joan Weller Composition Competition
- John Wills Writing Competition
- Marjorie Humby Competition
- Peter Morrison Concerto Competition
- Teresa Carreno Piano Competition

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

You are encouraged to take part in external competitions, subject to the agreement of your teacher and with prior permission from the RCM Junior Department.

In recent years, our students have enjoyed success in many high-profile external competitions, including:

- BBC Inspire Competition
- BBC Young Musician
- Beethoven Junior Intercollegiate Piano Competition
- Rotary Young Musician Competition
- Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition
- RPS-Duet Prize Young Instrumentalist Prize



MINI-BASS COURSE

The mini-bass course is our pioneering scheme for double bass beginners aged 8–10. Established in 1985 by Caroline Emery, in association with the Yorke Trust, this exciting initiative allows you to learn the double bass on specially designed instruments in individual lessons and small groups.

The mini-bass course consists of the following:

- Mini-bass lesson (30 minutes minimum)
- Bass Group (60 minutes)
- Choir (60 minutes)
- Orchestra (60 minutes, once required level has been achieved)

In addition, mini-bass students may opt to take the following:

- Second study lesson (30 minutes minimum)
- Musicianship (60 minutes)

Like the rest of the RCM Junior Department, the mini-bass course takes place between 9am and 5pm on Saturdays during term time. The mini-bass course will not fill all those hours and timetables will be kept as compact as possible for our youngest students.

A fully insured instrument is provided for practice at home.





• When I first stepped into the RCMJD I knew I was going to have loads of fun here. I really enjoy my lessons with Caroline and I love my double bass because it is called The Grizzly! Waking up at 6am every Saturday feels easy because it is my college day. Bass Group is brilliant and it is exciting to play with my friends in an ensemble. •

Thommy, mini-bass

APPLYING TO THE RCMJD



● I HAVE BEEN AT THE RCMJD FOR FIVE YEARS, AND IT HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED MY SELF-ESTEEM AND DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED. THIS YEAR I GAINED A PLACE IN THE FIRST VIOLIN SECTION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND I HAVE ALSO PLAYED WITH THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA, PRO CORDA, THE CHINEKE! JUNIOR ORCHESTRA AND THE SOUTH LONDON YOUTH ORCHESTRA. MY TEACHERS HAVE BEEN SO INSIGHTFUL AND ENCOURAGING IN HELPING ME ACHIEVE MY PERSONAL GOALS. ●

Betania, violin and piano

VISIT DAYS

Visiting the Royal College of Music Junior Department is a friendly and informal way to get to know more about what we do before applying for a place.

Joining us on one of our Visit Days will give you the opportunity to observe rehearsals, classes and informal performances, tour the building and speak to current students and parents.

Visit Days are scheduled during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Booking is essential as there are a limited number of spaces available for each day.

Doors open at 9am and booked students can dip into the various activities that interest them. A timetable of activities will be sent to you a few days before the visit. Visit Days finish at 5pm.

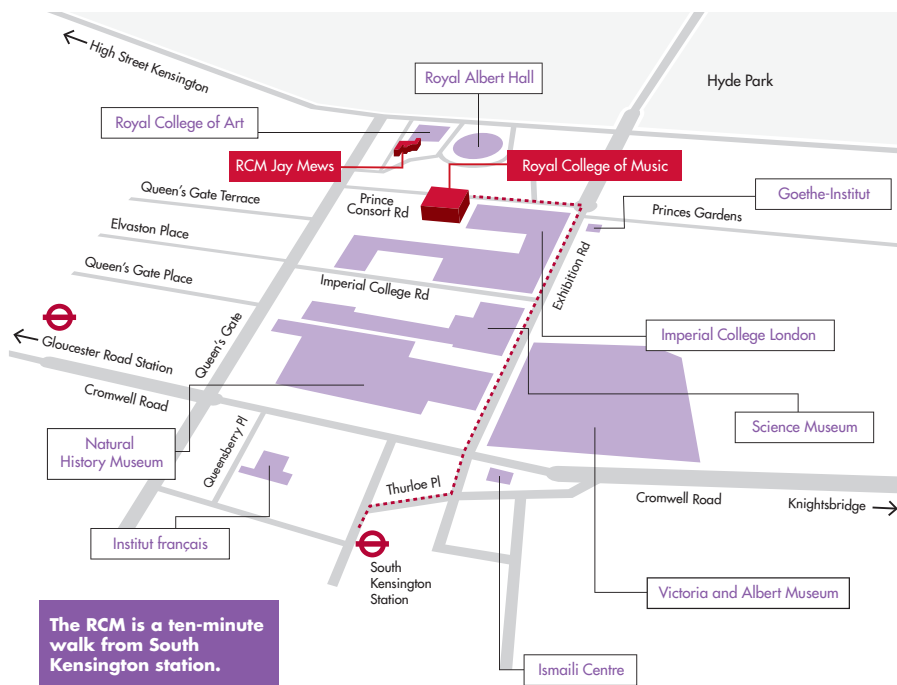
Dates for our Visit Days are published on our website in September each year.

Find out more at
www.rcm.ac.uk/juniorvisitdays



HOW TO FIND US

The Royal College of Music's location is the envy of the musical world. We are situated directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall in one of London's most attractive and vibrant areas – just a ten-minute walk from South Kensington tube station. For details on how to find us, please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/visit



APPLYING

Entry is by audition between February and April for entry in September the same year. This is our only audition period, though we may offer auditions outside this period in exceptional circumstances.

The closing date for applications is 1 March for entry in September of the same year.

Applications open in January and can be made using our online application form, a link to which can be found on our website. An audition fee will be required. For further information visit www.rcm.ac.uk/juniorapplications

APPLICATIONS FOR THE MINI-BASS COURSE

Applications for the mini-bass course should be made in the same way as the full programme, putting mini-bass in the first study field. If you currently play an instrument, note this in the second study field.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All elements of the curriculum as well as all written and spoken correspondence are delivered in English. It is therefore essential that all students and parents have a good grasp of both written and spoken English.

ACCESS

We do not wish for the cost of the audition to prevent anyone from auditioning for the RCM Junior Department. We welcome applications from everyone and aim to provide as much support where necessary to make this possible. If you have any concerns about this, or have any specific requirements, please email jd@rcm.ac.uk and we will be happy to help. For information about financial support see page 32.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The audition may be a one or two-stage process. You will be advised of specific requirements at the time of application.

You should be prepared for:

- First study*: two short contrasting pieces
- Second and third study* (if relevant): one short piece per instrument
- Sight reading on your first study instrument only
- Aural tests
- Musical and general discussion

*Composers will be required to submit scores in advance, and will also be asked to complete a short composition exercise at audition.

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

AUDITIONS FOR THE MINI-BASS COURSE

For those applying for the mini-bass course, we will schedule an audition in the same way as those applying for the full RCMJD programme, however, the audition will be more informal. You will be given musical awareness tests to assess your sense of pitch and rhythm and those who already play an instrument will be asked to play something to the audition panel.

AUDITION RESULTS

The decision of the audition panel is final and we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results.

Results are sent directly to your parents as soon as possible after the audition period.



FEES & BURSARIES

FEES

Fees are payable in advance and may be paid annually or termly. A full term's notice is required if a student wishes to leave the RCM Junior Department. Current fees are available online at www.rcm.ac.uk/juniorfees

At extra charge, individual lessons may be extended in 15-minute blocks. Alexander Technique and aural classes are offered free of charge, subject to availability.

BURSARIES

It is our intention that students who are successful at audition should not be prevented from attending through financial hardship. Those needing support may apply for a bursary from the RCM Junior Department.

Bursaries are means-tested and allocated according to financial need by an independent committee. Parents wishing to apply should request more information by ticking the appropriate box on the application form.

A list of supporters of our bursaries can be found at www.rcm.ac.uk/juniorbursaries





FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS**How amazing do I have to be to join the Royal College of Music Junior Department?**

Entry is subject to audition. Your current ability and potential, the number of places available for each instrument and suitability for the course are all taken into consideration. You don't need to have taken exams, but as a general rule, if you are age 11 or younger your first study should be at least Grade 5 level and if you are older than 11 we will expect you to be more advanced. Our sixth formers are usually post-Grade 8 standard.

On instruments often started at a later age, particularly viola, bassoon, horn, trombone, tuba, harp, organ and double bass, a lower level of attainment may be acceptable. On our most popular instruments (currently violin and piano) the students to whom we offer places are often at a significantly more advanced level. Your current teacher or a professional musician who has seen and heard you perform is the best person to advise you as to whether you are ready.

I don't play the piano either as a first or second instrument. Does that matter?

No, though we'd encourage you to take it up as keyboard skills are always useful to every musician. We'd advise you to have lessons locally before moving your lessons to the RCMJD when you've become more advanced.

I'm great at my first instrument but I've only just started my second instrument, will this disadvantage me at audition?

Not at all. It is potential we're looking for, and it's the first instrument that we care the most about so don't let that worry you. Well done for being adventurous and trying something new.

I only play one instrument. Can I still come to the RCMJD?

Of course! We might encourage you to play an additional instrument if you want to but it is not a requirement and will not compromise you at audition if you do not. Situations in which we might encourage a second instrument (depending on age and development) are:

- Piano – first study pianists may be encouraged to play an orchestral instrument so that they may take part in orchestras.
- Composition – first study composers may be encouraged to play an instrument to allow them to take part in ensemble activities.
- Singers – first study singers are particularly encouraged to learn piano.

I don't read music and only play, sing and compose by ear. Can I still come to the RCMJD?

Reading music is a very important skill for musicians of every style and level. If your playing, singing or composing is exciting and musical then it shouldn't be a problem at audition, but we would expect you to learn to read music at the earliest opportunity and be keen and hard-working enough to do so.

Is the RCMJD only for people who want to go on to study at a conservatoire?

Absolutely not. Whilst the majority of our students do go on to study music at conservatoires or university, recent graduates of the RCMJD go on to study a wide range of subjects. Our aim is that by the time you leave at age 18, you will be of a standard that allows you to apply successfully to a conservatoire if you want to.

The Royal College of Music Junior Department has been nurturing young musicians for more than 90 years and many of our students have gone on to have successful international careers in music.

RCMJD ALUMNI INCLUDE:

- **Henry Baldwin** Co-Principal Percussionist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra
- **Martin James Bartlett** pianist
- **Emily Beynon** Principal Flute of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
- **Clemency Burton-Hill** violinist, broadcaster, journalist and presenter on BBC Young Musician
- **Michael Collins** clarinettist
- **Ben Goldscheider** horn player
- **John Lill** pianist
- **Mark-Anthony Turnage** composer
- **Julian Lloyd Webber** cellist

“RCM Junior Department was something I really loved doing because it’s such a wonderful place to learn, make new friends and be totally immersed with people who are passionate about music.”

Martin James Bartlett, RCMJD alumnus and winner of BBC Young Musician 2014

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

President His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Chairman Lord Black of Brentwood

Director Professor Colin Lawson CBE, MA (Oxon), MA, PhD, DMus, FRCM, FRNCM, FLCM, HonRAM

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is fair and accurate at the time of going to print. Information on programmes, fees and services contained within this publication are subject to occasional changes, and no guarantee can be given that these will not be made following publication.

For the most up-to-date information on our programmes visit www.rcm.ac.uk/junior

Any complaints concerning the fairness or accuracy of this publication should be addressed to prospectus@rcm.ac.uk

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