



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

A woman with long braids, wearing a red top, is singing on stage. She is illuminated by a bright spotlight from the right, creating a lens flare effect. The background is dark.

A C H I E V E
T H E
E X T R A O R D I N A R Y

Birmingham City University

WE ARE IN THE
TOP 5
UK UNIVERSITIES
FOR MUSIC
AND ACTING
GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY
GUIDE 2018.

OUR ACTING COURSES
HAVE BEEN RANKED
FOURTH IN THE DRAMA
AND DANCE CATEGORY,
WHILST OUR MUSIC
COURSES ARE RANKED
FIFTH IN THE MUSIC
CATEGORY, AND THIRD
PLACED OUT OF ALL THE
UK CONSERVATOIRES.

AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM SPECIALIST, INDIVIDUAL TRAINING, AND BE TREATED WITH THE CARE AND ATTENTION YOU NEED AS WE INSPIRE YOU TO REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

From the moment you arrive in Birmingham you will be at the centre of the United Kingdom in a major international city which is home to some of the country's finest concert halls, theatres and performance venues, and within easy reach of so many more. The opportunities for you to develop your career will be endless – especially if you take advantage of our long-established professional connections with major organisations throughout the city, and the unique experiences we are able to offer as part of a major university.

We are arriving at the most exciting period in our history – during the most extraordinary year in which we were honoured to have been awarded a Royal title by Her Majesty The Queen, to become Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. This was preceded by the announcement in 2016 that we have our very first Royal Patron - HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

To add to the events of recent times our music and acting schools have joined forces to become a

multidisciplinary conservatoire offering an impressive range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Our bright future as a combined institution will see us playing a key part in moulding the performance industry professionals of the future across music, acting, applied performance and stage management.

The facilities we have to offer, particularly since the opening of our brand new £57 million music building, are exceptional and give our students access to technology and creative spaces that are unrivalled in their carefully considered, state-of-the-art design; ideal for the next generation poised to make their mark in this challenging industry.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is on the verge of extraordinary things, and I look forward to sharing the journey with you.

Professor Julian Lloyd Webber
Principal, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

WELCOME

DISCLAIMERS

This brochure was printed in October 2017. We have taken every effort to ensure that the information contained within it is accurate at the time of going to press. However, some changes – for example to courses, facilities or fees – may become necessary due to legitimate staffing, financial, regulatory and academic reasons as described more fully at www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/the-legal-bits. You should check the website for updates or contact us using the details contained within this document. We regularly review our courses to ensure that they are of the highest quality and as relevant to the workplace as possible. Applicants for 2019/20 entry and beyond may therefore find some alterations and enhancements to the programmes described in this prospectus.

Any offer of a place on a course at the University is made on the basis of our terms

and conditions, applicable at the time you accept your offer, which are located at www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/the-legal-bits.

It is important that you have read and understood these terms before accepting your offer. If you are unclear about anything please ask the Admissions Team for clarification before you confirm your acceptance. By accepting a place at the University, you are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of the University as set out in the terms and conditions. No liability to parents, sponsors or other third parties Birmingham City University's dealings and contracts with students and prospective students do not create a contract or other legally binding relationship between the University and anyone else, for example parents, guardians or sponsors.

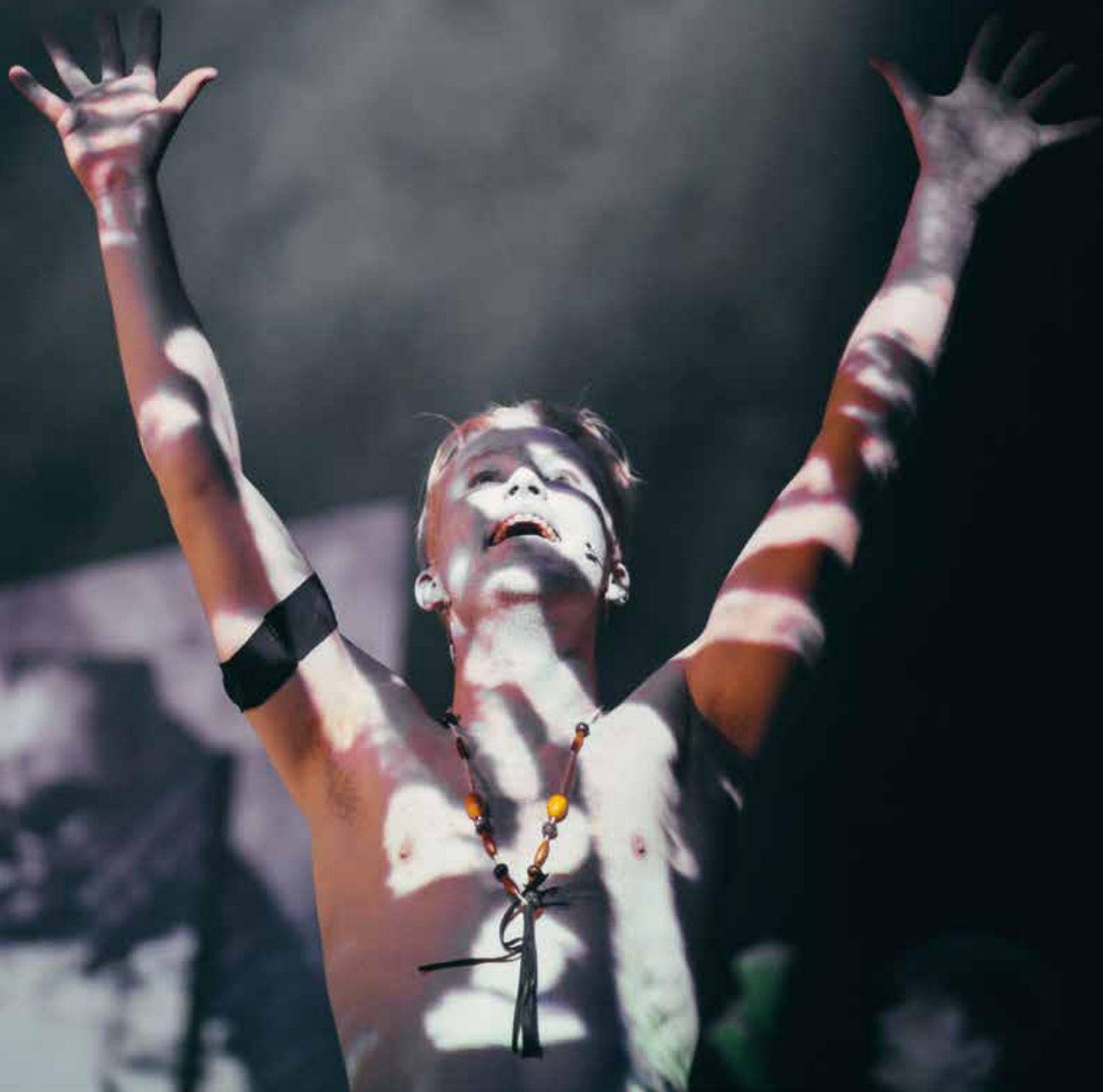
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Photography: Greg Milner, Tom Bird, Graeme Braidwood and Craig Holmes

WHOWEARE

THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY
EXCITING TIME FOR
ROYAL BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE AS
AN INSTITUTION



From 2017 our school of music has combined with colleagues at Birmingham School of Acting, also a school of Birmingham City University, to create an impressive multidisciplinary institution offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Music, Acting, Applied Performance and Stage Management.

Both institutions have long-established international reputations for providing the highest standard of professional training and excellent performance opportunities for students. Bringing these two schools together under the name Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is a positive move from both sides, creating a vibrant community where collaboration and creative opportunities are more abundant and available than ever before. As we look ahead to our bright future as a multidisciplinary institution, we will continue to pride ourselves on a vibrant creative environment that is encouraging and supportive. Our main aim is to thoroughly prepare you for a future in the performance industry, and enable you to be the best that you can be. Our students are no strangers to hard work; we provide the rigorous training and attention to detail that challenges our graduates and readies them for such a challenging and competitive industry.

Our impressive facilities are hives of activity, buzzing with the creativity and hard work of students committed to succeeding in their chosen field. You will benefit from the individual care and attention of our highly qualified professional team of tutors, teachers, directors and support staff, who are dedicated to helping develop and support the talent and potential of each student.

We have strong links with the performance industry, giving you the opportunity to learn from professionals in external organisations, and a chance to forge connections and gain work experience in the industry. Our focus is on making sure each student reaches their full potential and achieves the extraordinary; we're passionate about helping you accomplish your ambitions.

DIGITAL AGE

A CONSERVATOIRE FOR THE



“A music conservatoire is a very special place. Like living organisms, conservatoires continually change... they are simultaneously both performing arts venues and higher music institutions. Every element of the complex jigsaw reinforces and celebrates its dual nature.”

Lamberto Coccioli,
Associate Principal,
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.



IT WON'T SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT, AS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONSERVATOIRE, WE PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE QUALITY OF THE FACILITIES WE PROVIDE FOR OUR STUDENTS. OUR PURPOSE-DESIGNED BUILDINGS ARE NOT ONLY INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING, PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE SPACES, BUT MANY ALSO SERVE A DUAL PURPOSE AS PUBLIC PERFORMANCE VENUES, ALLOWING US TO SHARE OUR TALENTS WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY.

MUSIC

Our state-of-the-art music building is the first of its kind in the digital age. We have invested £57 million into 9,000 sq m of the most impressive teaching and performance facilities in the UK, with the aim of achieving the perfect balance of functionality, aesthetic impact and acoustical engineering. Given the pressure on arts education funding, this could be the last time a new music education facility on this scale is built, giving us a unique opportunity to advance how music is taught and performed in the digital age.

The new music building houses five public performance spaces, known as the 'Eastside Venues', including a new 500-seat concert hall and intimate 150-seat Recital Hall. It also features a black box experimental performance space called The Lab, an organ studio, seven industry-standard recording studios, a mastering suite and the Eastside Jazz Club.

ACTING AND APPLIED PERFORMANCE

Our specialised acting facilities comprise 11 studios including our in-house black box performance theatre – The Patricia Yardley Studio – which features variable acoustics, a fully operational lighting rig and a quadraphonic sound system. We use professional venues for all public performances, which means you will benefit from regular opportunities to perform in theatres around the city, including the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, The Old Rep Theatre and mac Birmingham.

You can also take advantage of the facilities we enjoy through being part of a major university – for example Birmingham School of Media houses TV and radio studios and a giant green screen, giving our actors varied experience that covers stage, screen and radio techniques, all of which make up their intensive professional training.

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Our Stage Management course is distinctive, partly because we make sure our students get hands-on industry experience from the moment they arrive. You will benefit from a dedicated facility close to the City Centre Campus which includes a large main workshop, wardrobe department and prop store, as well as dedicated classrooms.

WHY BIRMINGHAM?



Based at Birmingham City University's City Centre Campus, we are within easy reach of all the major concert venues and theatres in the city, including Symphony Hall, Town Hall, Birmingham Hippodrome, The Crescent Theatre and The Rep.

Being in the centre of the UK makes us easily accessible by road, rail and air, and allows our students effortless transport links to all major towns and cities in the UK, which opens up even more opportunities to find work. We are within easy reach of London (90 minutes by train)



Symphony Hall © Craig Holmes

and Stratford-upon-Avon (30 minutes by car).

Birmingham is the UK's second largest city and offers our students the chance to live in a diverse, forward-looking city with exciting food and entertainment at a lower living cost than London. The city is home to people from a range

of different cultures and ethnic groups, including the UK's largest student population outside London. The friendly population is what makes Birmingham the dynamic, multicultural city that it is – and also the youngest cities in Europe – offering a heady mix of galleries, music, restaurants and bars.

B E I N G

A

P A R T

O F BIRMINGHAM
CITY
UNIVERSITY

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EDUCATION OF THE CITIZENS OF BIRMINGHAM AND BEYOND STRETCHES BACK THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF PREDECESSOR INSTITUTIONS FOR OVER 160 YEARS. WE HAVE PRIDE IN, AND COMMITMENT TO, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is part of the University's Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, which is the largest provider of creative training and education in the UK outside London.

The Faculty also houses students in Media, Visual

Communication, Art, English, Architecture and Design, Jewellery, Fashion and Textiles. Altogether the University is home to around 5,500 students in the creative and cultural arts, and has an enviable and growing reputation for excellence. From music to media and film to fashion, our students

regularly win awards and gain national recognition for their achievements. You'll see them on television and on stage, hear them in concert halls, jazz clubs and online, and see their works in galleries and exhibitions.

Conservatoire students benefit hugely from being

part of a major university – the opportunities available are much wider than offered by most conservatoires and drama schools. For example, our students have access to the huge variety of clubs and societies on offer at the University, as well as excellent support and information services.

OUR CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Having excellent connections is one of the best ways to be successful in the performance industry, and we as an institution take this very seriously. We have countless partnerships and long-established professional relationships that we have nurtured in order to benefit our students and prepare them for success when they graduate.

For example, our Music Department enjoys a close relationship with one of the most highly regarded orchestras in the world – the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. This partnership includes opportunities such as the CBSO Orchestral Training Scheme,

which allows selected students to gain first-hand professional experience through observing and playing in CBSO rehearsals. Students on the Scheme also have the opportunity to perform in CBSO masterclasses and receive orchestral audition training and mentoring from CBSO principals.

In addition, we have forged close links with professional musical organisations such as Town Hall Symphony Hall, the Welsh National Opera, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG), Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, among many more.

We are one of 20 member institutions of the Federation of Drama Schools – a professional organisation established to enable prospective students to identify high quality, intensive, vocational training for performers, directors, designers and technicians.

We also have close relationships with many of the theatres in Birmingham, including The Old Rep, Birmingham Hippodrome and The Crescent - all venues where our students have had opportunities to perform. We're a short journey away from the famous theatres of

Stratford-upon-Avon and within easy travelling distance to London, which has allowed students on our Stage Management course to gain work experience in venues such as the Royal Opera House and theatres in the West End.

Birmingham is a vibrant cultural hub, and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is a key part of this ever-developing creative scene, continually looking for ways in which to establish further links with the performance industry in order to provide opportunities for you, both in the city and further afield.



INNOVATION AND HERITAGE

ACTING DEPARTMENT

BIRMINGHAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN EXCITING, CONTEMPORARY PLACE TO TRAIN – NOT ONLY AS AN ACTOR, BUT ALSO IN THE ASSOCIATED DISCIPLINES OF STAGE MANAGEMENT AND APPLIED PERFORMANCE. FROM 2017 WE HAVE THE ADDED STATUS OF BEING PART OF ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, WHICH IS A HUGELY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT MORE WE CAN ACHIEVE AS PART OF SUCH A WONDERFUL MULTIDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTION.

At Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, students training across all of the disciplines we offer will have abundant opportunities to collaborate and share ideas – it promises to be a vibrant creative environment that will provide an excellent standard of professional training for all.

As part of our Acting Department you'll benefit from intensive training at a specialist, vocational drama school, and the individual care and attention we offer to inspire each person who joins us. The quality of our training is something we take very seriously across all our courses. You will benefit from our committed, professional staff and exceptional programmes that will ensure you are well-equipped for your future in the industry.

We have strong links with the performance industry, giving you not only the opportunity to learn from professionals in external

organisations, but also a chance to forge connections and gain work experience where appropriate.

We produce entrepreneurial students; creativity and resourcefulness is built into our philosophy of training. Our students' ability to not only create original work, but also collaborate and work together, is part of what makes us special and leads our students to success after they graduate. Many of our students end up working together in the industry, having built such significant relationships during their time in training!

I look forward to telling you more and giving you a warm welcome at one of our Open Days. To see more of what we have to offer in the Acting Department, including some of our recent productions, please visit www.bcu.ac.uk/acting.

Professor Stephen Simms
Vice Principal - Acting



OUR OPEN DAYS

COME TO ONE OF OUR DEPARTMENT OPEN DAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STUDYING ACTING, APPLIED PERFORMANCE OR STAGE MANAGEMENT AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE:

www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/acting/open-days

P APPLY YOUR A S S I O N



IF YOU WANT PRACTICAL TRAINING TO A PROFESSIONAL STANDARD, TRAINING AT A CONSERVATOIRE OR DRAMA SCHOOL COULD BE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU.

While we are part of a university, meaning that you will leave with a recognised qualification, we provide the style and quality of training expected of a specialist conservatoire, giving you exceptional vocational practice and professional development, together with established links directly to the industry.

Fundamentally, the difference between conservatoire (and drama school) training and traditional university courses is that we focus on professional, vocational training, preparing you for the industry in which you want to work. Traditional university courses tend to apportion more time to academic study and theory, with less time spent on practice.

Another distinguishing feature is that the training we offer is intensive. All of the courses in our Acting Department are demanding and energetic, allowing you to explore your potential and apply your passion in a challenging and encouraging environment, paving the way for a successful career.

Getting accepted onto a course at any conservatoire or drama school is challenging, and ours is no different. Places on all courses are limited and you will be required to go through a process of auditions or interviews before you are offered a place.

OUR PRODUCTIONS

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE'S ACTORS PERFORM A RANGE OF THEATRE PRODUCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EXPLORING A GREAT VARIETY OF PERFORMANCE METHODS, TECHNIQUES AND REPERTOIRE.

We stage productions in our own theatre, professional venues and public spaces, in front of diverse audiences. Recently, one of our productions, 'The Cabinet of Dr Caligari', was taken on tour to Serbia, Hungary and Croatia. Away from the stage, our courses introduce actors to radio and screen techniques, and to working with classical and contemporary texts, including musical theatre.

Our Stage Management students are integral to the Department, working on every internal and external production, with increasing responsibility as the course progresses. You also undertake at least one professional work placement during your training – recent destinations have included the Royal Opera House and West End theatres, and you will complete an impressive installation made entirely from paper at the end of your first year to showcase the skills you have learned.

Applied Performance students are immediately immersed in one of the most exciting areas of contemporary theatre practice through frequent project work. You will regularly work away from the Conservatoire with young people, community groups and a wide range of participants. We believe the best way of developing skills to craft your future is to be out there using them to make a difference.





OUR GRADUATES - ACTING

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF WHAT OUR ACTING, APPLIED PERFORMANCE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT GRADUATES GO ON TO ACHIEVE IN THE INDUSTRY. YOU'LL FIND THEM ON STAGE, SCREEN AND RADIO, AS WELL AS RUNNING THEIR OWN THEATRE COMPANIES AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS. HERE'S JUST A FEW OF OUR HIGH-PROFILE ALUMNI AND WHAT THEY ARE UP TO IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF THE INDUSTRY:

1. Nicola Coughlan (2011)

Nicola has recently been cast as one of the lead roles in *Derry Girls*, a new Channel 4 comedy from the producers of *Father Ted* – her latest role in a successful career since graduation.

2. Charlene James (2003)

Playwright Charlene James was awarded the Alfred Fagan Award and the George Devine Award for her play *Cuttin' It*, as well as winning a BBC Audio Drama award for the radio adaptation of the same play. She was then awarded the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2016. She is a Jerwood New Playwright 2016 and is currently under commission from RADA, Royal Court and Royal Exchange Manchester.

3. Rob Mallard (2014)

Rob is currently playing Daniel Osbourne in ITV's *Coronation Street*. Rob was awarded the Best Newcomer Award at the British Soap Awards in 2017.

4. Lewis Howard (2012)

From September 2017 Lewis has been playing the role of the Heart of Joey in *War Horse*, the National Theatre play based on the award-winning novel by Michael Morpurgo. The play will embark on a national tour, visiting UK cities such as Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Nottingham and Plymouth, before closing in Glasgow in February 2019.

5. Jordan Goff (2011)

Since graduating from the BA (Hons) Stage Management course, Jordan has constantly been in demand for large-scale musicals. He has toured China as Stage Manager with the West End production of *The Bodyguard*, and has also toured with big shows in the UK, such as *Sister Act*, *Hairspray* and *Singin' in the Rain*. He has been part of the original company for two West End productions – opening on *White Christmas* and *Beautiful – the Carole King Musical*.

6. Dominic Hartley Harris (2015)

Dom had not long finished with *Beautiful – the Carole King Musical* before landing a leading role as Jagwire in *Bat out of Hell*, a musical based on the music of Meatloaf.

7. Philip Morris

Philip is Youth Theatre Director at Birmingham Rep, and played the lead this year at the Rep in *To Sir with Love*.
(© image Graeme Braidwood.)

8. Nick Furlong and Gemma Hextall (2015)

Nick Furlong and Gemma Hextall are Joint Principals and franchisees of Razzamataz in Sutton Coldfield. Together they have grown the size of the theatre school by over 400% since they took over, winning awards along the way including Best New Franchisees and Best Marketing Campaign.

9. Theatre 63

Theatre 63 was formed in 2016 by three of our graduates and went on to be nominated for the National Student Drama Festival (NSDF) Edinburgh Award. The NSDF award recognises the most exciting emerging theatre companies, and shortlisted 20 performances from the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme including Theatre 63's *Cockroached*. The company now boasts eight of our graduates, including founding members Ruby Etches, George Alex Pollard, William Proudler and Kirsten Banks from our BA (Hons) Stage Management course.

FOUNDATION COURSE IN ACTING



Learn the secrets of a successful audition, alongside voice, movement, dance and acting classes through this course.

The Foundation Course in Acting at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will give you a broad foundation in performance techniques and methods, and will be invaluable to anyone wanting to go to drama school or take up a place on a performance course at university. It is aimed at committed and enthusiastic people who have a passion for acting, and want to improve their level of experience.

This course is available to study on either a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students will enjoy professional workshops at Shakespeare's Globe, plus theatre visits and backstage tours, giving a valuable insight into a challenging but exciting profession. The part-time option of this course involves less contact time than the full-time course, and concentrates on the core skills of acting, voice and text. All Foundation students, both full and part-time, will receive audition preparation for acting and singing in small tutorial groups, and a Level 3 qualification.

While many students will want to move on to train for careers in performance, the course offers a unique experience and transferable skills that will be useful in many walks of life. Some students have gone on to gain places at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to continue their training, while others have gone on to a host of other UK and American drama schools.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/foundation-acting

UCAS CODE:
N/A – please apply to the Conservatoire directly using our online application form.

DURATION:
20 weeks full-time
34 weeks part-time



“It’s such a modern school, full of life, varied and contemporary. The course has helped me to choose my places, think about where I want to go and why I want to do it, prepare for auditions and get the recalls I need.”

REBECCA WITHERINGTON
Foundation course in Acting

BA (HONS) ACTING



Prepare for an exciting and creative career in front of a live, screen or radio audience through our contemporary Acting course.

Based in professional studios, a team of experienced staff will teach you a range of acting skills, voice, movement and singing techniques, and the ability to interpret text to an advanced level.

There are opportunities to compete in various industry competitions and, in your final year, you will appear in live stage performances, industry showcases, a filmed performance and a radio play. You will also have the opportunity to showcase your talents to invited agents and casting directors.

This course prepares you to be a professional actor, stretching you physically, personally and professionally. As a vocational actor training course, full attendance for a minimum of 30 contact hours a week, for a minimum of 30 weeks would be expected.

Graduates of the BA (Hons) Acting course have gone on to enjoy successful careers on stage and screen. They can be found working on hit TV programmes such as *Peaky Blinders*, *Coronation Street* and *Call the Midwife*, and on stage at prestigious theatres such as Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the National Theatre in productions of *War Horse* and *The Kite Runner*. We are particularly proud of the entrepreneurial skills they leave us with; for example Theatre 63 is a company made up entirely of our graduates, and was recently nominated for an award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for a brand new, original piece of theatre.

The course is demanding and energetic, allowing you to explore your potential in a fun, exciting but challenging environment. From the start you will be applying your passion and paving the way for an exciting and successful career.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/ba-acting

UCAS CODE:
W410

DURATION:
3 years full-time

100%
overall satisfaction,
National Student
Survey 2017

**RANKED
4TH**
best conservatoire
in the UK (5th for
music overall) in the
Guardian University
Guide rankings 2018
(Music category)

96%
of undergraduate
students were in
employment or
further study within
six months of
graduating



BA (HONS) APPLIED PERFORMANCE

Create new performances and projects with a purpose, and become part of the next generation of passionate and skilled theatre-makers.

You will work in schools, communities, prisons and hospitals, and with the thriving independent theatre scene in the Midlands. Through the BA (Hons) Applied Performance (Community and Education) course, you will have the opportunity to develop your own skills and artistic practice, as well as learning about the theories that underpin applied theatre.

Through experience and a range of projects you will transform yourself from student to practitioner, undertaking the roles of performer, deviser, performance maker and facilitator. You will also collaborate with your course mates by forming a professional company in which you will work collectively.

You will also benefit from a high level of contact with many industry partners, providing you with fantastic opportunities to engage with other professionals and networks. These include Birmingham REP Theatre, Playhouse Theatre Company, Women and Theatre, Big Brum, mac Birmingham and The Old Rep.

Recent students have included spoken word artists, musicians/singers, dancers and those with interests as diverse as puppetry and arts administration. If you are passionate about the power of theatre, and you want to make your voice heard, this is definitely a course to consider.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/applied-performance

UCAS CODE:
W490

DURATION:
3 years full-time



"I found out things about myself and the world around me that I really wasn't expecting, lenses to view the world through that would later inform my practice."

TARA BUCKLEY



BA (HONS) STAGE MANAGEMENT

Prepare yourself for a successful career in Stage Management through in-depth, practical training. Turn your interest in stage management into authentic industry experience and develop the vital skills needed in each role of a stage management team.

We aim to produce confident graduates who are ready for employment in the industry as soon as they leave us. You will gain practical hands-on experience in all stage management skills including lighting, sound, costume, prop and stage design, as well as widening your knowledge and ability to work in the fast-paced, demanding environment of stage management and further afield.

You will progress, as you would in industry, from an Assistant Manager to a Deputy Manager and finally to a Stage Manager, working on our professional productions as part of the team. At Royal Birmingham Conservatoire we have a vibrant, energetic and stimulating environment and you will be supported by our team of highly skilled and experienced staff, who also continue to work with industry.

Your final year includes a six-to-eight week industry placement, where you experience the rigours and responsibilities of a busy stage management job. Recent placements have included the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House, the West Yorkshire Playhouse and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Working in a variety of professional venues enables you to build an industry network as you train.

Previous graduates have gone on to work on West End theatre shows, national and international tours, and many other exciting productions, in technician and stage manager roles.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/stage-management

UCAS CODE:
W450

DURATION:
3 years full-time



"The broad set of skills I gained gave me the perfect foundation and drive to explore as many different areas of stage management as possible. Without the knowledge, encouragement and guidance I received, I know I wouldn't be where I am today."

JORDAN GOFF

MA ACTING



Image credit (c) Graeme Braidwood

MA PROFESSIONAL VOICE PRACTICE

Designed to advance your practical and professional progress, our MA Acting course provides intense training from staff with rich industry experience.

Previous graduates of this course have gone on to succeed as established performers, including in roles at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

You will be taught to maintain a high standard of skill and knowledge and how to transform into an independently-minded performer and practitioner. We will enhance your ability to reflect and analyse, through a range of concepts and ideas. You will enhance your technical skills through practice-based study, learning and developing flexibility to confront issues that you may experience within your profession.

Your classes will mainly be practical studio-based sessions, focusing on the practical application of acting, voice, movement and singing. You will also have time assigned for self-directed study, where you will further develop your work from practical classes.

Your studies will help to influence and shape your career. Previous graduates have been commended by industry for their innovative, challenging project work.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/ma-acting

UCAS CODE:

N/A – please apply to School directly using our online application form.

DURATION:

1 year full-time



“The school really prepared me for the industry. I now have a solid work ethic and training that I will keep with me for the rest of my life.”

DANIELLE PINNOCK

Realise your potential as a creative practitioner and train to be a professional voice coach at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

You will gain highly specialised knowledge in a range of professional contexts and develop advanced expertise as a voice coach, teacher or performer.

Our Professional Voice Practice course has been developed with the support of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Graduates have gone on to fulfil very exciting careers, working professionally at prestigious organisations such as the RSC, The Royal Court, the Minack Theatre, The Cambridge Theatre, LAMDA, Mountview Theatre Academy, ALRA and Manchester School of Theatre (MMU).

If you aspire to learn in-depth, specialist knowledge in professional voice practice then this programme will not only teach you the skills, but broaden your industry networks. We will help you establish links to industry through our strong connections with leading companies such as the RSC, Birmingham REP Theatre and Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre.

We have a working relationship with Ian Nicholas of ‘How the Voice Works’ and contact with the Voice Clinic of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. We frequently host guest lecturers, including renowned voice teachers, laryngologists, speech therapists and other voice professionals. With regular masterclasses and a compulsory placement module you will gain excellent insight and experience of working professional practice. Your course will be led by a mixture of visiting and in-house tutors, all of which have extensive industry experience.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/professional-voice-practice

UCAS CODE:

N/A – please apply to School directly using our online application form.

DURATION:

1 year full-time
2 years part-time



“I’ve learned that it’s so important to get Shakespeare into your body and to do it from a practical and physical point of view.”

VICTORIA WILLIAMS

MFA ACTING

(THE BRITISH TRADITION)



This two-year Master of Fine Arts is rooted in practice and designed with international graduates in mind.

Studying here will help you develop a deeper understanding of the processes of acting through an exploration of play texts from the British and European traditions, providing you with a progression route to an acting career or to further study at MPhil or PhD level.

This conservatoire-level actor training is entirely concerned with acting practice. In addition, it includes a research focus, enabling graduates to develop high-level, innovative approaches to practice. The programme cultivates originality of thinking and opportunities for self-directed work in order to tackle technical, interpretive and scholarly problems within the field of acting and performance.

The British tradition of acting is long-admired and internationally renowned. Studying on the MFA programme at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will advance your knowledge of the non-naturalistic forms of theatre that form the bedrock of the British tradition. Throughout this course you will explore style in relation to theatre performance, drawing your focus towards understanding the world of the play. You will gain significant experience of acting in classical forms of theatre, and modern and contemporary forms that make specific stylistic demands.

The MFA course often attracts international applicants but is also open to Home and EU applicants who feel they would benefit from an intensive two years of training focused on British acting and its European influences. Home students will be able to access an industry showcase in the UK and eligible students from the USA may take part in the Federation of Drama Schools USA showcase.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/mfa-acting

UCAS CODE:
N/A – please apply to School directly using our online application form.

DURATION:
2 years full-time



"This course has allowed me to advance my knowledge of theatre as well as my passion for performance."

MARY-KATE ARNOLD



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

WE HAVE BEEN INSPIRING MUSICIANS SINCE 1886, AND ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF OUR LONG-STANDING SUCCESS THAT FILLS US WITH MOST PRIDE IS OUR REPUTATION AS A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING PLACE TO STUDY MUSIC.

We are a close-knit community, all working together to create something different and special to the best of our abilities. We listen to you, encourage you, and above all prepare you to graduate equipped to take your place in the music profession.

Our Acting Department joined us in 2017, and we are delighted that we are now a multidisciplinary conservatoire, meaning our creative community is livelier and more stimulating than ever before. We feel that this new incarnation of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has considerably boosted our standing as one of the most influential creative arts institutions in the UK.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire attracts some of the most internationally respected musicians to work with our students. In addition to the high-profile names giving masterclasses and taking roles as visiting tutors or International Chairs, our permanent staff – many of whom are active in the music profession themselves – share a determination to ensure each and every student they teach reaches their full potential.

I look forward to warmly welcoming you to one of our Open Days, and helping you to experience some of what makes the atmosphere we have created here so special, and discover what makes our students rate us so highly!

Paul Bambrough
Vice Principal - Music

OUR OPEN DAYS

COME TO ONE OF OUR DEPARTMENT OPEN DAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STUDYING MUSIC AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE:

www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/music/open-days

EXPERIENCE OF PLAYING IN ORCHESTRAS AND OTHER LARGE ENSEMBLES REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF YOUR TRAINING, HELPING YOU TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE MODERN PORTFOLIO MUSICIAN.

These opportunities are plentiful at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where as well as the performance activities you might expect to find – such as playing in our Symphony Orchestra, perhaps in one of our pre-concert showcases before the CBSO at Symphony Hall – you'll also find slightly more unusual ways to gain experience, like the famous Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk ensemble, which is a popular elective available on our BMus course.

"Being in the Folk Ensemble has really helped with building my confidence as a musician. I also love the fact that I'm reaching different audiences than I would do with classical violin. Joining the group and learning more about different music styles gives me a greater scope of what the violin is capable of."

**Mahaliah Edwards,
3rd year BMus**

We also run the successful Book a Musician programme, which takes bookings for student performers at private functions such as weddings and parties, and for public events; for example, our students' performance at a mass vow renewal ceremony at New Street station organised by BBC West Midlands for Valentine's Day, and at the official opening of the Mailbox. These opportunities provide valuable paid work experience for our students, and allow us to show a wider audience the breadth of talent we have available.

The breadth and scope of the music you will encounter will be enhanced further by the opportunity to work with the many great artists that regularly visit the Conservatoire. Each artist, whether they are conductors, soloists or professional orchestral members bring their own style to their teaching, and provide an invaluable learning experience for maturing musicians. Many of our students also benefit from hands-on experience in education and community settings, through supporting our learning and participation programme.

LAST YEAR ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE MUSIC STUDENTS COLLECTIVELY EARNED £24,133 BY BEING HIRED TO PLAY AT CORPORATE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EVENTS THROUGH OUR 'BOOK A MUSICIAN' SERVICE

P E R F O R M

OUR GRADUATES - MUSIC

Simon Barford, 2005

Simon graduated from the BSc (Hons) Music Technology course, moving straight into a job at Blitz Games Studios as a Junior Audio Designer. He rose to Senior Audio Designer, and in his time there worked on over 30 games titles. He is now Head of Audio for NaturalMotion (Zynga), where he tries to push the technical boundaries of sound capabilities on iOS and Android phones and tablets, trying to get results comparable to games consoles. He produces and directs the sound and music for a wide range of games.

Tom Dunnett, 2013 (image 4)

Tom is a freelance trombonist in London and holds a chair in the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, as well as a show in the West End. Other work includes big bands, jazz projects and recordings, and some light classical concerts. He also has a sextet and a quartet that he writes for as an ongoing project with views to finding gigs along with recording and performing original music.

Tim Thornton, 2010 (image 10)

Since graduating Tim has been touring the world as a jazz double bassist performing in many different settings; from playing in the house band at Ronnie Scott's to performing with a double big band at the Royal Albert Hall at The Proms. He has also been leading his own band for the past seven years, releasing two albums and organising two nationwide tours, using funding support from the Arts Council of England. In 2013 he won the Rising Star category at the British Jazz Awards and in 2017 was a finalist for the Worshipful Company of Musicians Young Jazz Musician of the Year Award.

David Chadwick, 2005

Violinist David Chadwick moved to Glasgow after graduation to join the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and later moved to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He left Scotland in 2014 to work as a freelance musician based in London.

Emma Chilton, 2008 (image 6)

Since graduating from the Music Technology department in 2008, Emma has been working as a Freelance Sound Assistant in the TV and film industry. Her credits include *Poldark*, *Call the Midwife*, *Marcella*, *Father Brown*, *Doctors* and *Sherlock*.

Luke Deane, 2015

Luke graduated with a BMus (Hons) in Composition and went to study in Amsterdam. An opera he composed, *We cannot sleep*, received rave reviews when it was staged in Holland and it was featured at the 2017 Gaudeamus International Muziekweek in Utrecht.

Phil James, 2016 (image 5)

Phil graduated with BMus (Hons) from our Percussion Department, and is working as a freelance musician, performing, arranging and composing. He has been Assistant Musical Director for *The Rover* at the Swan Theatre for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and has also performed in the RSC's Associate Schools Festival. He has deputised on keys for the UK tour of *The Commitments* and is official accompanist for The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Jacky Naylor, 2016 (image 1)

Jazz pianist Jacky Naylor, who gained a BMus (Hons) Jazz degree, has been awarded the Dankworth Prize for Jazz Composition in the big band category for his work 'Bilbao'.

Dorcha (image 3)

Recent graduate Anna Palmer is a superbly talented composer/singer-songwriter and recently played a set for BBC Radio 3 with her group Dorcha, which includes three band members who are fellow graduates from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire – Beth Bellis (Violin), Stella Roberts (Piano) and Euan Palmer (Drums). Dorcha also completed a set as part of the Beyond the Tracks festival which took place in September 2017 next to the Birmingham City University City Centre Campus.

Owain Jenkins, 2012 (image 2)

After graduating from the Music Technology department with a BMus (Hons), Owain set up his recording studio, StudiOwz, in the outbuildings of a working Pembrokeshire dairy farm. He has worked with many artists as an engineer and producer, including members of The Noisettes, Welsh Music Prize nominee Jodie Marie, plus fellow Conservatoire graduates Jimmy Brewer and Leo Appleyard.

Harry Lightfoot, 2007 (image 8)

BMus (Hons) Jazz graduate Harry Lightfoot's composition was selected for the latest Star Wars film trailer. Harry's track *No Retreat, No Surrender* featured over a TV spot promoting *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, ahead of its UK release.

Amy Littlewood, 2013

Amy Littlewood is the violinist in the Hepplewhite Piano Trio, and holds seat number five in the first violins with Orchestra of the Swan. She regularly works with the CBSO, and freelances across the UK.

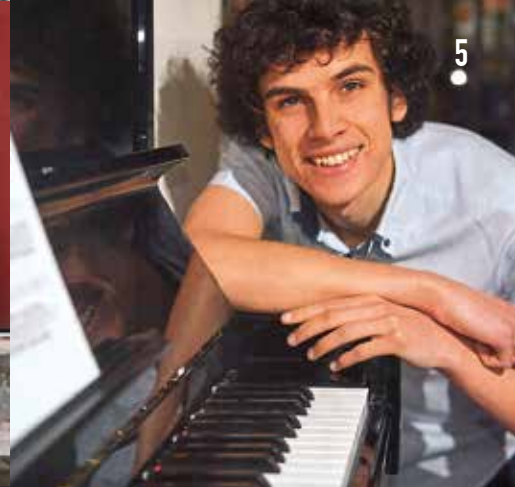
Laura Mvula, 2008 (image 7)

Singer-songwriter Laura Mvula graduated with a BMus (Hons) in Composition. Her debut album, *Sing to the Moon*, was released in 2013 and her second album *The Dreaming Room* was released in 2016. Both albums were shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize, and *The Dreaming Room* won the Album Award at the 2017 Ivor Novello awards. In 2017 Laura composed the music for the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Image credit: ©Tom Oxley

Charlotte Bray, 2005 (image 9)

Composer Charlotte Bray has emerged as a distinctive and outstanding talent of her generation. Since graduating with a BMus degree in Composition, having transferred from the instrumental performance specialism, Charlotte has written for some of the world's leading musicians. She has composed under numerous associations, including the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, CBSO Youth Orchestra, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Ensemble 360, Britten Sinfonia and Dover Quartet. Her work has featured at the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Tanglewood, Aix-en-Provence, Verbier, West Cork and the Copenhagen Summer Festival. Charlotte's debut recording on NMC Records, *At the Speed of Stillness*, was released in October 2014. She was interviewed as part of BBC Radio 3's Composers' Room series in 2015, and has spoken out about the need for more female role models for young women who want to compose. Charlotte is an Honorary Fellow of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Association.



“Studying at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire was a life changing experience for me, one which has shaped me as a musician and person. The BMus degree has given me the skill, knowledge and know-how to propel me into the beginning of my career as a musician. I chose to study at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire because the wealth of knowledge of the tutors was inspiring. Being part of the Conservatoire has allowed me to be involved with many differing projects and meet many different people from different walks of musical life.”

ALISTAIR RUTHERFORD

BMUS (PERFORMANCE) FOURTH YEAR





RECENT GUESTS

David Thornton
David Morton
Professor Edward Gregson
Frøydis Ree Wekre
Katy Woolley
Professor Eric Crees
Zoltan Kiss
Roger Argente
Gary Curtin
Harmen Vanhoorne
Luc Vertommen
Onyx Brass

BRASS DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Chris Houlding**

THE WORLD OF BRASS IS EXCEPTIONALLY DIVERSE, AND REQUIRES VERSATILE MUSICIANS THAT OFFER A BROAD RANGE OF SKILLS. OUR CAREFULLY PLANNED, PRACTICAL CURRICULUM PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH PLENTIFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO FOCUS ON A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE IN ORCHESTRAL, BRASS BAND AND JAZZ.

Alongside this focus on an excellent standard of performance, we encourage musicians to develop advantageous professional networks; allowing them to leave us prepared for careers in performance, education and administration. We take employability seriously – for example we run successful career schemes with the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, Royal Marines, Band of the King's Division and the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Besides tuition on your principal study instrument, you will be offered opportunities to study related instruments such as Early Brass, alongside an active schedule of international masterclasses and brass workshops that cover everything from practice technique to orchestral repertoire. The Conservatoire also maintains a comprehensive range of ensembles, frequently directed by guest artists and our own internationally acclaimed team of tutors. Our team of regular tutors includes members of City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Black Dyke Band.

To prepare our graduates for the realities of life as a professional musician we offer 'side by side' training opportunities with major partners including City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Welsh National Opera and the Royal Shakespeare Company. We are also proud of our professional partnerships with Brass for Africa and Symphonic Brass of London.

Our aim is to give motivation and support as you develop your own distinct yet versatile musical personality, in a friendly and professional atmosphere.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/brass



COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Dr Joe Cutler**

NOW, MORE THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY, COMPOSERS CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN ANY NUMBER OF MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC GENRES.

In contrast to most other composition courses at this level, at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire we celebrate this diversity and make it our mission to foster artists who challenge, innovate and transform notions of artistic practice today.

Through individual tuition and small classes you will develop an understanding of differing compositional styles, particularly contemporary art music, pop, jazz and fusion, experimental and conceptual music, film and theatre music, electro-acoustic and studio-based composition.

From the outset, you will be encouraged to explore your own ideas both within the context of a specific genre and using genre as a jumping-off point for the creation of new artistic concepts.

Find out more: www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/composition

BENEFIT FROM GUEST MASTERCLASSES AND DISCUSSIONS BY INTERNATIONALLY CELEBRATED COMPOSERS DURING OUR ANNUAL FRONTIERS+ FESTIVAL. PREVIOUS GUEST COMPOSERS HAVE INCLUDED HEINER GOEBBELS AND LOUIS ANDRIESSEN

CONDUCTING DEPARTMENT

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE IS CURRENTLY THE MOST EXCITING DESTINATION FOR CONDUCTORS, WITH AN ACTIVE RECORDING AND CONCERT SCHEDULE. OUR POSTGRADUATE CONDUCTING COURSES PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL TRAINING, COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND PODIUM TIME NECESSARY TO LAUNCH A CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTOR.

Our postgraduate choral and orchestral conducting courses build on the success of all our other departments, including the Vocal and Operatic Department, whose Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir regularly releases CDs to critical acclaim. You will also work with our expert staff, including renowned conductors Paul Spicer, Jeffrey Skidmore, Daniele Rosina, Michael Seal and Edwin Roxburgh.

Choral conductors benefit from a dedicated chamber choir and will enjoy regular rehearsal and performance opportunities. To build your skills in conducting, interpretation and vocal technique, your individual study will be split between conducting and singing lessons according to your needs. You will also have coaching in editing music and managerial skills.

Orchestral conductors will work with our experienced staff conductors and with many distinguished guest conductors who visit for occasional projects, as well as lead orchestral sectionals, direct new music and conduct some orchestral projects. Learning core repertoire with a pianist, along with podium time with symphony orchestra and a variety of other ensembles, encourages the development of the wide range of skills orchestral conductors need.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/conducting





EARLY MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Martin Perkins**

IT IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL MUSICIANS TO BE AWARE OF THE ISSUES SURROUNDING HISTORICALLY INFORMED PERFORMANCE AS THESE ARE EMBRACED BY THE CLASSICAL MUSIC WORLD AT LARGE.

Since the early 1990s we have maintained a strong commitment to performance practice and Early Music through an innovative programme of cross-departmental activities. All of our students have the opportunity to study a period instrument or to have stylistic awareness lessons with specialist visiting tutors.

Regular workshops and rehearsals are taken by leading specialists in the field of period performance. Our full period instrument Capelle Baroque orchestra performs on average once a term, exploring a rich variety of music, from large-scale works to smaller repertoire. Every other year Capelle joins forces with the Vocal Department to produce a full-scale baroque opera.

Early Music Studies is offered as an elective to all students, and encourages them to explore a wide range of music and performance-practice issues from Mediaeval to Classical periods, in practical and theoretical classes. Recent topics have included Baroque dance, keyboard temperament, rhetoric and Renaissance ornamentation.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/early-music

PEDAGOGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Luan Shaw**

PEDAGOGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MUSIC CURRICULUM AND PLAYS A VITAL PART IN EMPLOYABILITY.

Preparing you for a portfolio career is central to our courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Alongside your busy performing schedules, you study, observe and practise workshop-leading and instrumental/vocal/compositional teaching techniques through our pedagogy and community engagement modules.

At Royal Birmingham Conservatoire community engagement begins in the second year of undergraduate study and extends to postgraduate level. We are now into the seventh year of a thriving partnership with Services for Education (S4E) where our students engage with Birmingham's Music Service through annual lectures, workshops and teaching placements in tandem with four pedagogy modules (two undergraduate and two postgraduate).

Following an introductory course of workshop facilitation techniques in the lecture room, students have the option to further develop their skills in early years settings, primary and special schools, care homes and hospitals, where they observe and/or are mentored on their own deliveries in partnership with organisations such as Music in Hospitals, Ex Cathedra, Orchestra of the Swan, Lilliput Concerts and Calthorpe Academy, to name but a few. These partnerships provide opportunities for our students to work alongside professional practitioners in one-to-one, small group and whole class instrumental lessons, or get involved with choir, composition and ensemble training.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/pedagogy



“THE PEDAGOGY AND COMMUNITY-BASED MODULES HELPED ME TRANSLATE MY PASSION FOR PERFORMING MUSIC INTO A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OTHER PEOPLE’S LIVES AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCES. THEY SET ME ON THE PATH TO BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL VIOLIN TEACHER AND TO FURTHER SPECIALIST TRAINING IN MUSIC THERAPY.”

Rachel Roberts
Violinist, former Postgraduate student

JAZZ DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Jeremy Price**

OUR JAZZ DEPARTMENT OFFERS OUTSTANDING TUITION FROM MUSICIANS WHO ARE ACTIVE PERFORMERS, COMPOSERS, SESSION MUSICIANS AND BAND LEADERS, IN FACILITIES THAT ARE UNRIVALLED IN THE UK.

Your study will focus on developing not only your skills in improvisation, but also in small group, large ensemble performance and original composition. The bespoke nature of our courses means that you will learn among a body of highly-motivated and committed students, which is a natural result of the stimulating and inspiring culture we aim to create for you as jazz musicians.

This course is perfectly compatible with the requirements of the modern jazz musician. We focus heavily on practical work and you will greatly benefit from spending the majority of your time in dedicated one-to-one lessons. You will graduate as a versatile, professional musician who is aware of the entrepreneurial opportunities available to you. We also ensure that you know about the commercial realities for portfolio musicians joining today's jazz scene.

As well as nurturing individual development, we place a great deal of emphasis on artistic exchange between students and staff, both within the Conservatoire and on the wider public stage: from local venues to international festivals.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/jazz

OUR EASTSIDE JAZZ CLUB

With the opening of our new music building in September 2017 comes the launch of our stunning Eastside Jazz Club. Birmingham's thriving jazz scene has been established over many years; our impressive new venue will add to what promises to be an exciting future for jazz in the city.



KEYBOARD DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Professor John Thwaites**

WELCOME TO ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST DISTINGUISHED KEYBOARD DEPARTMENTS, WHERE WORLD-CLASS TUTORS AND UNRIVALLED FACILITIES ALLOW STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN A BUSY ENVIRONMENT FULL OF EVENTS, CLASSES, CONCERTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

We have separate Heads of Organ, Collaborative Piano and Early Music. This gives these areas focus and drive, but also allows also flexibility to move between them.

The early undergraduate years have certain requirements to establish breadth and rigour. For example all second year piano students, study and perform on our two Fortepianos, which is essential to an understanding of classical style. Then you might become a first study Fortepianist, keep Fortepiano lessons in your creative mix, or simply enjoy translating your experience to the modern instrument.

We foster a self-motivated approach. Pianists may choose to have more than one tutor, and all undergraduates are able to use 'student-allocated tutor hours' for related study, as well as other activities such as collaborative coaching, to further broaden the mix of their study.

Among our students are some of the finest competition-winning international talents, with impeccable work ethics. However we also place great important on ensuring our students enjoy a friendly and mutually supportive ethos that gives Birmingham arguably the best working atmosphere of any UK conservatoire.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/keyboard

RECENT MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS:

Peter Donohoe
Hamish Milne
Orit Wolf
Jeffrey Siegel
Barbara Nissman
Iain Burnside
Piers Lane
Clive Williamson
Andrew West
Håkon Austbø
Pei-Chun Liao
Mikhail Kazekevich
Ivan Yanakov
Anna Tilbrook
Martin Jones
Anna Scott
The Martinu Piano Trio
The Schubert Ensemble

as well as two day
residencies with
Robert Levin, Idil Biret,
Christian Blackshaw
and Gergely Bognanyi.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Dr Simon Hall**

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AS A FIRST STUDY SUBJECT AREA OF THE BMUS DEGREE IS AIMED AT THE CREATIVE MUSIC PRODUCER, AND ALLOWS YOU TO STUDY THIS SPECIALISM WITHIN THE RICH MUSICAL CONTEXT OF A CONSERVATOIRE ENVIRONMENT.

Studying at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire provides a unique context to the study of Music Technology. Not only do you have access to our astonishing state-of-the-art facilities, and are taught by a range of leading industry professionals, you are also surrounded by a wealth of performers, composers and researchers of the very highest quality from across an array of musical disciplines – from classical soloists, through chamber ensembles and orchestras to opera, jazz, folk, electronica and rock. There is a strong focus on the real-time interaction between performers and computers, and you will be encouraged to collaborate with performers in the creation of works to be performed in our impressive performance venues.

You will be offered tailored tuition in your specific area of interest, as well as training in core skills such as studio and sound recording techniques, electroacoustic composition for fixed media, synthesis, sampling, production and music for the moving image. A programme of masterclasses with industry professionals will supplement your individual training and you will have the chance to share ideas with your colleagues in group activities.

Music Technology is a first study discipline designed for musicians who want to specialise in creative uses of music technologies – its aim is to create graduates that are flexible and virtuosic in their use of technology as their instrument. You will be encouraged to develop your creativity and skills to a professional level, thoroughly preparing you for a successful career – our graduates shape the future of the music industry.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/music-technology

PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Adrian Spillett**

OUR UNIQUE PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT OFFERS A GROUND-BREAKING PERCUSSIVE EDUCATION, COVERING AN IMMENSELY BROAD RANGE OF DISCIPLINES, AND WITH EMPLOYABILITY BEING THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE COURSE.

We have a team of highly acclaimed specialist tutors who are all active and well-connected in the music industry throughout the UK and internationally. Our syllabus is carefully designed to celebrate variety, covering classical to commercial, contemporary to rock and pop, Cuban to folk, ballet to opera, outreach to solo percussion.

We take your tuition seriously; every student receives 35 hours of one-to-one teaching per year and these hours are allocated across the different disciplines as required.

Opportunities to really experience world music

We know that to really experience world music you need to get out there and discover it for yourself! Our students have benefitted from some amazing learning experiences as part of their education. For example in 2016 the department organised a learning exchange programme in Brazil where students visited Salvador and took part in a peer to peer learning programme with the Bahia Orchestra Project (Neojiba), a pioneer initiative modelled on the Venezuelan "El Sistema" programme. They then moved on to Rio de Janeiro, where they collaborated with the world-famous traditional Samba School, GRES Portela.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/percussion

MASTERCLASSES WITH HIGH PROFILE VISITING ARTISTS

We also host masterclasses with some of the most high profile percussion artists in the world. Most years typically include over 150 hours of classes from both the department tutors and visiting specialists. Gerassimez masterclass.



**INTERNATIONAL
CHAIRS INCLUDE:**

Oliver Wille (Violin)
Thomas Riebl (Viola)
Jian Wang (Cello)
Thomas Martin (Double Bass)
Catrin Finch (Harp)

ENSEMBLES IN RESIDENCE:

The Atea Wind Quartet
Schubert Ensemble
The Heath String Quartet
Gildas String Quartet
(Junior Fellows)

STRINGS DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Dr Louise Lansdown**

AS A STUDENT IN OUR STRINGS DEPARTMENT YOU WILL BE PART OF A DYNAMIC AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY. OUR TUTORS INCLUDE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED PERFORMERS AND TEACHERS, AND OUR STUDENT ALSO BENEFIT FROM OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH HIGH-PROFILE VISITING ARTISTS.

We foster creativity and individuality through our bold and varied performance programme offering a wide-ranging agenda of solo, chamber music and orchestral performance opportunities and many internal and external recital possibilities.

We devote much attention to the importance of preparing our students for the music profession. Above anything else – we care about the future of every one of our students and are utterly committed to helping them realise their dreams.

Tutorial staff within the department include seasoned soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians, pedagogues and educators at the forefront of Conservatoire training.

Plucked strings

Our Plucked Strings Department offers expert tuition and guidance to develop your performance skills in harp, guitar and lute. In addition, our extensive electives programme offers you to explore a variety of performing styles, while second study lessons allow you to pursue a related or complementary instrument in greater depth.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/strings

VOCAL AND OPERATIC DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Paul Wingfield**

OUR VOCAL AND OPERATIC DEPARTMENT OFFERS EXTENSIVE TUITION FOR ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL SINGERS. OUR COMPREHENSIVE COURSE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO ALLOW YOU TO FOLLOW YOUR INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES, WHILE PROVIDING YOU WITH THE BROAD BASE OF EXPERIENCE NEEDED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SINGER. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR INCLUSIVE ATMOSPHERE AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, AND OUR VOCAL DEPARTMENT IS NO EXCEPTION – OUR STAGE ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, POSTGRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE ALIKE.

We place great importance on ensuring our students develop substantial knowledge and experience of all types of repertoire, from opera and early music to performance with technology. Therefore, in addition to your individual lessons, you will have regular individual vocal coaching, as well as Baroque and contemporary music classes.

Other core activities through which you will develop your performance skills will include masterclasses with visiting professionals; repertoire and performance classes covering Lieder, French and English song, oratorio and more; and language tuition in French, Italian, German and Russian.

Audition for fully-staged public performances

All students undertake a theatrical training programme including drama and stagecraft, and, if you are interested in pursuing musical theatre, you will be able to take advantage of specialist coaching in this area. Students who have attained an appropriate level of skill are auditioned for fully staged performances of operas, Baroque operas and musicals, which involve intensive periods of musical and dramatic preparation.

Two other important departmental activities are our 'Liederabend' evenings of song – constructed around the works of particular composers or poets – and our annual Opera Scenes. These events, in which the whole department participates, are open to the public and take place once a term. Numerous other performance opportunities are offered by the Conservatoire's four choirs and full schedule of public concerts, stage works and competitions.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/vocal-operatic



WOODWIND DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Jenni Phillips**

AS A STUDENT OF THE WOODWIND DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE ATTITUDE SHARED BY OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS, MAKING FOR AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS MOTIVATIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE.

We offer a wide range of experiences for our students, as soloists, in orchestras and as chamber musicians. We also devote much attention to pedagogy – an essential and extremely rewarding asset for future employment. We take the greatest care to nurture and develop every student's skills, to create individuals with a wealth of knowledge, who are fully prepared for the profession.

The orchestral programme is full and includes several concerts in Symphony Hall, the home of CBSO, and also other external venues around Birmingham. There are regular symphony, opera, contemporary ensemble (Thallein) and baroque orchestra projects throughout the year, covering a vast tranche of standard as well as contemporary and more unusual repertoire.

Our expert teaching staff are renowned as leading performers and teachers in the UK and provide exceptional tuition. Specialist tuition is available in all orchestral instruments and also recorder and saxophone. We also have Consultant Visiting Teachers who give a whole day of tuition once a term in the form of an open lesson/masterclass.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/woodwind



RECENT MASTERCLASSES HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY:

Jonathan Kelly
Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Collins
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Celia Craig
International solo clarinettist

BMUS (HONS)

SPECIALISE IN:

PERFORMANCE (VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL)/ COMPOSITION / MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

We have invested in our impressive state-of-the-art music facilities with the aim of creating functional spaces that combine tradition with cutting-edge technology.

The focus of our undergraduate music course is to help you realise your potential and become the best musician that you can be, with the support of an encouraging creative environment.

With 30 hours of individual specialist tuition per year, increasing to 35 in the final year, you will get the individual attention you need to prepare for a successful career in the music profession.

An additional five hours a year with a Conservatoire tutor of your choice will also help to support your studies and develop your skills. Our students benefit from working with our highly qualified tutors and high-profile visiting artists, who each have current professional experience and are dedicated to the personal development and success of each individual.

Your artistry, musical fluency and personal and professional awareness will be developed through a range of activities. For example, our performance health programme – including performance coaching, physiotherapy and movement workshops and Alexander technique – allows students to develop as confident and effective performers.

Each year you will have more choice and opportunities to specialise in your studies. In your final year, you will work towards a project relevant to your own professional aspirations. This can be anything connected to music, from putting on a public performance to setting up a music business, or even running an education or community music project.

For full details on the course including entry and audition requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/bmus

UCAS CODE:
300F

DURATION:
4 years full-time
(3 years with direct
entry to the second
year, subject to ability)

92%
overall satisfaction,
National Student
Survey 2017

**RANKED
3RD**
best conservatoire
in the UK (5th for
music overall) in the
Guardian University
Guide rankings 2018
(Music category)

96%
of undergraduate
students were in
employment or
further study within
six months of
graduating

BMUS (HONS) JAZZ

Perfectly in tune with the needs of a modern jazz performer, our course is compatible with the requirements of the modern jazz musician, especially if refining your performance is a top priority.

You will emerge as a fully rounded, professional musician with an awareness of the commercial realities for musicians joining today's thriving UK jazz scene and knowledge of the entrepreneurial opportunities ahead of you.

Our course is delivered by performers, band leaders and composers, and includes one-to-one lessons, small group coaching and private practice.

We encourage you to explore in depth the relationship between improvisation and composition, which is central to developing your individual voice. In your final year you will work towards a major project of your own devising – such as a recording, performance or dissertation – which will reflect your specialist interests and career aims.

Our course benefits from a strong relationship with the region's leading jazz promoter, Jazzlines, who frequently collaborate with the Conservatoire to curate masterclasses, and visits from internationally renowned artists. Recent guest masterclasses have included Kenny Garrett, John Riley, Dave Holland, Mark Turner, Jeff Ballard, Maria Schneider and John Abercrombie.

We prepare you for a portfolio career on the contemporary music scene, with performance at its centre. Join us as we become a key part of Birmingham's jazz scene with our brand new Eastside Jazz Club.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/bmus-jazz

UCAS CODE:
310F

DURATION:
4 years full-time
(3 years with direct
entry to the second
year, subject to ability)

91%
overall satisfaction,
National Student
Survey 2017

**RANKED
3RD**
best conservatoire
in the UK (5th for
music overall) in the
Guardian University
Guide rankings 2018
(Music category)

96%
of undergraduate
students were in
employment or
further study within
six months of
graduating

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT COMPOSITION

Study as a postgraduate composer at one of the UK's most innovative composition departments. In recent years, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Composition Department has produced outstanding contemporary artists such as Laura Mvula, Raffertie and Charlotte Bray.

Unlike many composition courses at this level, the course actively celebrates the diversity of today's musical genres, and fosters artists who challenge, innovate and transform notions of artistic practice. You'll spend most of your time writing music for professional and student ensembles, whether you choose to respond to our set briefs or work on your own projects.

By studying composition within a thriving conservatoire setting, you'll have excellent opportunities to collaborate with performers and to have your works performed. Alongside your focus on composition, our course provides opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

For conservatoire study at any level, your principal study area is at the heart of your course, and advanced skills in this specialist area are a pre-requisite for a successful career in the music profession. However, we recognise that you also need to be equipped with a range of additional essential attributes – especially given that most of you will be destined for freelance, portfolio careers which will rely on self-motivation and good organisational skills.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/composition-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
810F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time



"The compositional techniques and orchestration study I achieved at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire still affect my working. In addition, the diverse aesthetics of contemporary arts I learned in Birmingham are invaluable resources for my composition."

JAE-MOON LEE

MMUS/PGDIP CHORAL CONDUCTING

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our taught Master of Music (MMus) and Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) courses in Conducting provide the technical training, collaborative opportunities and podium time necessary to launch a career as a professional choral conductor.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is currently the most exciting destination for choral conductors, with an active recording and concert schedule. Our established Choral Conducting specialism allows you to work with a dedicated chamber choir, rehearsing and performing a variety of works throughout your training. You'll be offered tailored individual tuition from our principal conducting tutor Paul Spicer (Finzi Singers), and will also come into contact with Jeffrey Skidmore (Ex Cathedra) through the Conservatoire's Chamber Choir. You'll work across the whole spectrum of the Conservatoire's musical making, from core contemporary repertoire and student composition projects, through the central romantic and classic masterpieces back to period performance techniques.

It's normal for conducting students to be proactive in presenting performances of projects that they've generated themselves. You'll receive support and professional advice in pursuing such projects, which should be viewed as an essential element of your studies. Both PgDip and MMus courses provide excellent opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/choral-conducting-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
802F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time

**EARN UP TO
£6,000
MORE**

per year with a Master's degree or PhD
(Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2016, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

91%

overall satisfaction for our postgraduate Music courses
(Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2017)

**RANKED
3RD**

best conservatoire in the UK (5th for music overall)
Guardian University Guide rankings 2018 (Music category)

96%

of undergraduate students were in employment or further study within six months of graduating

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE



Whether you're a recent graduate or returning to study after a break, this course provides you with advanced-level training in your principal study area, preparing you for a solo, chamber or orchestral career, alongside excellent opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

This course is open to students pursuing orchestral instruments, keyboard instruments and other solo instruments such as recorder, guitar and saxophone. There is also a Chamber Music route for string ensembles.

You will receive specialist tuition from leading UK and internationally-renowned performers and teachers, and will also enjoy regular performance opportunities, both within Departments and in concerts, as well as having the chance to participate in masterclasses led by distinguished guest artists. All students have full access to our superb facilities, including the new Recital Hall, customised for performance with state-of-the-art hardware and software, recording and editing studios and a specialist music library based in The Curzon Building.

For most aspiring professional performers, postgraduate study at a conservatoire is accepted as a required continuation of their training. Furthermore, if you have other specialisms – notably composition, music technology and musicology – Royal Birmingham Conservatoire offers the ideal environment in which you can hone your craft, with a multitude of opportunities both to collaborate with each other and with performers.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/inst-perf-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
800F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time



"The course, although oriented around jazz and improvisation, still gave you room to decide which avenue of the profession you wanted to move into as well as to work out how to get there."

TOM DUNNETT

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT JAZZ



Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is renowned for its Jazz courses. Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our taught postgraduate courses in Jazz provide bespoke advanced-level tuition to jazz musicians, whether as performers or instigators. There are also excellent opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

All of our tutors are professional jazz musicians, active on today's scene. You will have regular individual specialist tuition, and opportunities to rehearse and perform with small and large jazz ensembles.

While it is a characteristic of conservatoire study (at any level) that your principal study area is at the heart of your course, and that advanced skills in this specialist area are a pre-requisite for a successful career in the music profession, we recognise that you also need to be equipped with a range of additional essential attributes – especially given that most of you will be destined for freelance, portfolio careers which will rely on self-motivation and good organisational skills.

Our aim is to send you out with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in your chosen branch(es) of the music profession, giving you a head-start in meeting the challenges involved in becoming a professional musician in the 21st century.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/jazz-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
803F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time



"The course itself has a very high standard of teaching, and is quite student-led, meaning students are able to design their own study programme alongside their tutor. There are lots of professional musicians involved in the Conservatoire so it's really exciting to be able to work alongside them. It's very good experience and means you get to know people in the industry."

ARABELLA SPROT

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our postgraduate courses in Music Technology provide an opportunity for composers and composer-performers to experiment with, and develop expertise in, the creative application of established and new music technologies.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is an important international centre for performance and composition with technology, especially live electronics. An example of its work is the international Integra Live project, an application that makes it easy to use interactive audio processing to create new music.

You'll have access to cutting-edge facilities, including the new Recital Hall, customised for performance with state-of-the-art hardware and software, recording and editing studios and a specialist music library based in The Curzon Building. Alongside your focus on Music Technology, our courses provide opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

You'll receive specialist tuition from leading UK and internationally-renowned practitioners. For most aspiring professional musicians, postgraduate study at a conservatoire is accepted as a required continuation of their training. Furthermore, if you have other specialisms – notably Composition or Musicology – Royal Birmingham Conservatoire offers the ideal environment to hone your craft, with many opportunities to collaborate with each other and with performers.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/mustech-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
811F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time



“I get a lot of one-to-one sessions with the tutors which is really helpful. All the lecturers have such a huge enthusiasm for the subject; it makes it really interesting and really brings Music Technology to life.”

LUKE AZIZ

MA MUSICOLOGY

Whatever your interests, our Musicology course gives you the opportunity not only to develop your research skills, but to complement your training in musicology with studies in other areas of music. Our course is a chance for you to mould a programme of study to your own needs and aspirations, and may be approached as preparation for a research degree in music.

It is important that a musicologist develops complementary skills and/or knowledge outside their specialism which will help equip them for a future career: professional musicologists typically find themselves, among other things, teaching, managing and administering; some even maintain parallel careers as professional performers or composers.

This course provides you with a choice of professional development options alongside your musicological work. We are happy to hear from applicants considering research projects in any area of musicology (in its broadest sense), including practice-based research, using performance as research, critical editing, or any other interest you may have, but we are particularly keen to attract those interested in pursuing Master's-level research in the specialist areas covered by our large team of research-active staff.

These include Renaissance and Early Baroque Performance Practice; French Music of the 17th, 18th and 20th centuries; Italian Baroque Music; 18th and 19th century vocal, keyboard and orchestral music; Russian Music; Contemporary Film and Television Music; Late Medieval Music; Theory and Critical Editing; 20th Century Music Theory and Analysis; and Music Critics and Criticism.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/musicology

UCAS CODE:
W350

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2 years part-time



“I love the flexibility that this course offers. There are only a couple of compulsory modules that everyone on the Musicology course has to take, but after that you can choose from an extensive list of optional modules and really tailor your course to your own interests and needs.”

AKVILE SMOTAVICIUTE

MMUS/PGDIP ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our taught Master of Music (MMus) and Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) courses in Conducting provide the technical training, collaborative opportunities and podium time necessary to launch a career as a professional orchestral conductor.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is currently the most exciting destination for orchestral conductors, with an active recording and concert schedule.

As a first-study Orchestral Conductor, you'll be offered individual tuition from our staff conductors, Edwin Roxburgh and Daniele Rosina, and also from the many distinguished guest conductors who work with our ensembles and orchestras on an occasional basis throughout the year.

You'll work across the whole spectrum of the Conservatoire's musical making, from core contemporary repertoire and student composition projects, through the central romantic and classic masterpieces back to period performance techniques. Both PgDip and MMus courses provide excellent opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

Alongside regular opportunities to rehearse and perform with ensembles within the Conservatoire, you'll also have the chance to observe orchestral and ensemble rehearsals, including sectional rehearsals directed by departmental heads or specialist guest tutors. This will give you valuable professional insight into the detailed workings of the different instrumental areas of the orchestra.

You will enjoy regular sessions with pianists in orchestral repertoire as well as opportunities to join choral conducting classes. Learning will take place through bespoke support classes in musicianship and repertoire, as well as seminar sessions relating to professional development for conductors.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/orchestral-conducting-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
812F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time

**EARN UP TO
£6,000
MORE**

per year with a
Master's degree or PhD
(Graduate Labour Market
Statistics 2016, Department for
Business, Innovation and Skills)

91%

overall satisfaction
for our postgraduate
Music courses
(Postgraduate Taught
Experience Survey 2017)

**RANKED
3RD**

best conservatoire in the
UK (5th for music overall)
Guardian University Guide
rankings 2018 (Music category)

96%

of undergraduate students
were in employment or
further study within six
months of graduating

MMUS/PGDIP ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE (STRINGS)

Developed in partnership with the CBSO, our MMus and PgDip courses in Orchestral Performance enable advanced-level string players to focus on their development as orchestral musicians. You'll undertake a significant amount of playing with the CBSO, as well as enjoying additional performance activities within the Conservatoire.

Both PgDip and MMus levels also provide excellent opportunities to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession. A separate postgraduate pathway is available for Instrumental Performers, which includes both solo and chamber music routes for string players (the latter for existing ensembles).

You'll receive individual tuition from a CBSO player, and have a dedicated mentor from within the Orchestra. In addition, you'll enjoy regular performance opportunities within the Conservatoire, including the chance to participate in masterclasses led by distinguished guest artists, access to the full range of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire orchestras and large ensembles, and opportunities to play chamber music.

You'll have full access to our superb facilities, including the new Recital Hall, customised for performance with state-of-the-art hardware and software, recording and editing studios and a specialist music library based in The Curzon Building. You will also receive personal support as you make plans for your future career.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/orch-performance-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
809F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2 years part-time

**EARN UP TO
£6,000
MORE**

per year with a Master's
degree or PhD
(Graduate Labour Market
Statistics 2016, Department for
Business, Innovation and Skills)

91%

overall satisfaction
for our postgraduate
Music courses
(Postgraduate Taught
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rankings 2018 (Music category)

96%

of undergraduate students
were in employment or
further study within six
months of graduating

ADVPGDIP (POST-MASTER'S LEVEL 8) PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

SPECIALISE IN:

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE, VOCAL PERFORMANCE, COLLABORATIVE PIANO, CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE, OPERA REPETITEUR OR CHORAL CONDUCTING

Support your career as a professional performer with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's post-Master's, Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Performance. You can choose one of six specialisms: Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, Collaborative Piano, Chamber Music Performance, Opera or Choral Conducting.

Our Advanced Postgraduate Diploma is at 'post-Master's level' and is therefore for you if you're a postgraduate performer who already has a Master's degree and are beginning to accept professional level engagements. The course will help you to raise your performance standards to the next level, with highly specialised one-to-one tuition in the department most relevant to your specialism.

If you're an instrumentalist, vocalist, collaborative pianist, opera repetiteur or choral conductor, you'll have 40 hours of performance tuition with our internationally-renowned tutors during the course, with an additional 13 hours for further study, recording or other approved project. Chamber musicians will have 80 hours coaching as an ensemble during the course, and, in addition, each member of the group will have 10 hours' individual instrumental tuition.

The Professional Performance AdvPgDip allows you to take on performance engagements inside and outside Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as part of your course. If you're a Home or EU student you can even study part-time, which allows you to take the course alongside your already-developing career. Your work in performance will be supported by a 'Professional Performer's Portfolio' module, focused on providing you with practical preparation for the professional world.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/professional-performance

UCAS CODE:
602F

DURATION:
15 months full-time
2-3 years part-time



"This intensive and inspiring course gave me the confidence and experience that prepared me for international competitions and, ultimately, the stage. Thanks to the mentoring and encouragement of the Conservatoire's staff I went on to win first prize in the Brant International Piano Competition in the year I graduated."

DI XIAO

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Advance your skills as a performer with a postgraduate programme in Vocal Performance at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Whether you're a recent graduate or returning to study after a break, our postgraduate programmes in Vocal Performance provide you with advanced-level training in singing.

You're encouraged and enabled to broaden both your experience as a singer, as well as your repertoire, at the same time providing you with the chance to specialise if you wish. Alongside your vocal studies, our courses provide excellent opportunities for you to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession. A separate postgraduate pathway is available for jazz vocalists.

You'll receive specialist tuition from leading UK and internationally-renowned performers and teachers. In addition, you'll enjoy regular opportunities to sing in a variety of contexts, both as a soloist and in ensembles with other performers. These include not only classes and masterclasses (these last being led by distinguished guest performers), but also in concerts and on the operatic stage.

You will have full access to our superb facilities, including the new Recital Hall, customised for performance with state-of-the-art hardware and software, recording and editing studios and a specialist music library based in The Curzon Building.

For full details on the course including entry requirements see: www.bcu.ac.uk/vocal-perf-mmus-pgdip

UCAS CODE:
801F

DURATION:
1 year full-time
2-3 years part-time



"One of the best things about being at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire was the opportunity to perform in full-scale operas, playing Laetitia in Gianni Schicchi was probably the highlight for me. In the future I plan to audition for the festival operas and get onto a young artist programme somewhere in Europe."

SOPHIE PULLEN

Y O U N G A N D T A L E N T E D



THE ROYAL JUNIOR BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE PROVIDES SPECIALIST MUSICAL TUITION FOR TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS.

ROYAL JUNIOR BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

OUR TUTORS ARE OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE AND INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS AND SENIOR CONSERVATOIRE STAFF. WE OPERATE ON 30 SATURDAYS EACH YEAR DURING SCHOOL TERM-TIME USING THE CONSERVATOIRE'S FULL FACILITIES.

Our junior courses include:

- Classical music
- Jazz
- Chamber music
- The Young Strings Project (offers string instrument tuition to beginners as young as four years old).

Royal Junior Birmingham Conservatoire students can also, where the timetable allows, combine elements from different courses to suit individual needs. A strong emphasis is put on performance through weekly platforms and termly chamber music recitals, as well as regular concerts for the larger ensembles in our concert hall.

The Junior Royal Birmingham Conservatoire day

Your days typically start at 9am and finish at around 5pm. They are long and involving days that demand a lot of enthusiasm and commitment. The make-up and length of each timetable will vary according to which course(s) you choose, and the level you've reached. Younger students will usually begin with a shorter day.

Who should apply?

We offer specialist training to young musicians, aged between eight and 18, with exceptional potential and the ability to achieve that potential. Even absolute beginners as young as four years old can study with us through our Young Strings Project.

Where can it lead?

We train young musicians to a level where they could gain a place at a senior conservatoire or music college. We also offer preparation for the Associated Board exams to grade eight and diploma levels.

Bursaries

There are number of bursaries available, including government-funded National Grants awarded through the Music and Dance Scheme. The value of all such awards is subject to a means test.

Find out more at www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/music/juniors.

INSPIRING AND INCLUSIVE MUSIC EDUCATION

OUR LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has a long tradition of reaching out to communities and musicians of all ages and abilities, across the UK and further afield. Our extensive Learning and Participation programme has reached over 4,500 young musicians, and countless numbers of people through a variety of different musical activities.

We work regularly in partnership with music hubs, schools and community organisations to deliver a range of opportunities including instrument-specific events, workshops, side-by-side programmes, masterclasses and coaching sessions, creative curriculum projects, composition and music technology sessions,

and continuing professional development events for school and instrumental music teachers.

Our Learning and Participation programme is delivered by the professional music tutors at the Conservatoire, supported by students as part of their own professional development. Providing lots of hands-on experience in education and community settings for Conservatoire students, the programme impacts positively on young musicians by emphasising progression routes into Conservatoire education.

Widening participation in Conservatoire activities to people from all social and cultural backgrounds is key to the success of the programme.

In partnership with the Concerts and Events team, we aim to make our new building a comfortable environment for people from diverse cultural and social backgrounds. Our Conservatoire: OPEN programme delivers a series of workshops for schools, 'OPEN' Concerts with associated learning activities, Inspire workshops for community groups, and a digital hub.

If you would like further information about our Learning and Participation programme, please contact:

Richard Shrewsbury
Learning and
Participation Manager

T: 0121 331 5912
E: conlearning@bcu.ac.uk



ALL OF OUR COURSES
TREAT EMPLOYABILITY
AS A KEY PRIORITY

FIRST-CLASS SUPPORT

ACCESSING ADVICE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER. THROUGHOUT YOUR STUDENT CAREER, YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY'S FULL RANGE OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, AS WELL AS CAREERS ADVICE, MENTORING, ADVICE ON FINANCE AND ACADEMIC MATTERS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AND MORE.

www.bcu.ac.uk/student-affairs

And to make sure it is all easy to access, we have introduced a one-stop confidential student enquiry service, **Ask**. If you have a question about health and wellbeing, visas, your student record, the Students' Union, childcare, accommodation, IT or anything else, we are here to help.

Your studies

- Admissions
- Academic calendar
- Student ID cards and student status letters
- Complaints and appeals
- Erasmus – study abroad programme
- Careers and job prospects
- Graduation.

Money matters

- Scholarships and bursaries
- Personal finances
- Student Loans Company queries
- Payments.

Support services

- Healthcare
- Disability and dyslexia support
- Counselling, mental health and wellbeing
- Childcare
- Visas and immigration.

Students' Union

- Support
- Representation
- Employability skills and part-time work
- Help with finding accommodation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE

We take employability very seriously and appreciate the challenging nature of the industry we are sending our graduates into. We have a dedicated Professional Development team at the Conservatoire that run specialist modules on CV writing, audition, interview and time-management skills that are invaluable to our students before they enter employment. Our musicians also have countless opportunities to perform, including paid work through our Book a Musician scheme.

We also run an annual careers conference called 'What Next?', to which we invite high-profile names from the industry to be on a panel and answer students' and graduates' career-related questions.

Our actors gain extensive performance experience for stage, screen and radio during each year of training, and in their third year they perform in a professional external production. In their final year they also take part in industry showcases in London and Birmingham in front of agents and industry professionals.

Our Applied Performance course sends second year students on work experience placements with professional organisations such as the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Big Brum, The Playhouse, mac Birmingham, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Chickenshed, Birmingham Hippodrome, Pines Special Needs School and Greenwich Young People's Theatre.

Our Stage Management students complete a six-to-eight week work placement in their third year and recent placements have been at Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House, Birmingham Hippodrome, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Noel Coward Theatre in London's West End.

A PLACE TO CALL

H O M E



AS PART OF BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY, WE OFFER SAFE AND SECURE ACCOMMODATION THAT'S AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE. WITH VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY, OUR HALLS OF RESIDENCE ARE NEAR TO OUR CAMPUSES AS WELL AS PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS, ENSURING YOU'RE IDEALLY LOCATED FOR BOTH YOUR STUDIES AND YOUR PERSONAL LIFE.

Leaving home for university is one of the biggest moves you will ever make. And with the excitement, freedom and independence of living in halls, it is the perfect way to meet new friends.

At Birmingham City University there's safe, secure and affordable accommodation for everyone at our University-owned and private halls of residence in the city.







Full-time international students and undergraduates outside

Birmingham can guarantee University accommodation in their first year by making us their first choice and applying before the deadline.

Other students may prefer to live in private rented accommodation in the city, and our Students' Union's own lettings agency, Birmingham City Student Homes, is able to provide access to a range of safe and secure properties in the city.

www.bcu.ac.uk/accommodation

AT A GLANCE

-  Over 2,000 rooms available
-  A safe and secure home
-  CCTV coverage and 24-hour security patrols
-  Easily accessible - close to public transport links
-  Access to free wi-fi
-  Shared kitchen, living areas, laundry facilities, and common rooms



Bedroom/study at University Locks





POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH COURSES AT BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

A PHD AT BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE WILL HELP YOU DEVELOP RESEARCH SKILLS THAT SUPPORT PERFORMANCE, COMPOSITION, OR A SCHOLARLY CAREER.

Whether you are interested in music (including composition, music technology, musicology, performance and jazz) or performing arts (theatre, acting, directing, applied drama, dance and interdisciplinary performance practice), you will be supervised by leading experts in the field. Choosing to study in a conservatoire environment allows you access to top-level performers, enabling you to situate your research in an environment of practical music making and acting.

A PhD enables you to follow a programme of self-directed, independent study, supported by experienced supervisors who are themselves experts in their area. Birmingham Conservatoire operates a system whereby you are able to assign your allocated hours to a number of specialist advisors, allowing you to tailor the support you need to the requirements of your own project. Whilst you will be developing as an independent researcher, you will be supported both by your supervisors and the wider Conservatoire research community. As well as bespoke research skills training for musicians and performing arts students, there are regular opportunities for you to present and share your work with other research students.

Birmingham Conservatoire has a thriving research community, with particular specialisms in composition, music technology, musicology, performance and performing arts. Regardless of your specialism, you will benefit from access to top-level performers and a brand-new, £57 million building with state-of-the-art recording facilities, concert venues and practice rooms. Research students have access to a dedicated work-space. We have close links with the city's musical and theatrical organisations such as the CBSO, BCMG, The Rep Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Music students are eligible to audition for our ensembles, and in addition both Music and Performing Arts students can take part in a full range of our practical activities and lectures. Our programme offers the flexibility to present your research in a range of formats, depending on the nature of your research, whether it be fully text-based (80,000 words) or practical (composition, performance or scholarly edition) with a written element.

REF 2014 confirmed the high quality of our research, where Music was assessed as being equal third among UK conservatoires in terms of grade point average. All of our research impact in this area was deemed 'outstanding' or 'very considerable' and 90% of our research environment was considered to be conducive to producing research of world-leading or internationally excellent quality. Performing Arts students benefit from involvement in the CIPA research centre (Centre for Interdisciplinary Performative Arts), which works collaboratively with partners from within the Faculty, the city, and internationally.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

OUR STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP SPECIALIST SKILLS, EXPAND THEIR NETWORK, EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES AND BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS THROUGH OVERSEAS TRAVEL. WITH OVER 65 INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTIONS, STRONG LINKS IN FIVE CONTINENTS, AND A VAST NETWORK OF INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED TEACHERS, PERFORMERS, DIRECTORS, ACTORS, COMPOSERS AND RESEARCHERS, ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE IS AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATOIRE WITH A GLOBAL REACH.

Our strong global reputation paves the way for our students to begin developing an international profile even while they study.

Each year we sponsor numerous trips abroad, creating opportunities for our students to study, perform, teach, compete, network and volunteer overseas. In recent years overseas trips have included:

- Volunteer teaching trips to South Africa, part of our ARCO Distance Learning Project
- *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* production taken on a tour of Eastern Europe
- Overseas placements for Applied Performance students and partnership with the Korean National Theatre
- Study abroad exchanges to countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark and China
- Jazz workshops in Italy and Norway
- Samba percussion masterclasses in Brazil
- Composition and new music projects in Belgium, China and the Netherlands.

We value the positive impact international experiences have on our students, so we continually seek to build meaningful partnerships with leading conservatoires and develop strong links with internationally renowned teachers, performers, researchers and composers.

As an active member of the Association of European Conservatoires and, as an international conservatoire with a global reach, we regularly participate in teaching exchanges and collaborative projects with leading institutions from across the world.

Each year, the visiting professionals we host and collaborative projects we participate in make it possible for our students to build an international network as they work with peers from overseas, gain insight into music and acting professions around the world, and experience excellent teaching from outside the UK. Whether our students venture overseas or stay in the UK, international experiences are always possible at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

LAST YEAR
10%
OF OUR STUDENTS
TRAVELLED
ABROAD
TO PERFORM,
TEACH OR STUDY*

OUR STUDENTS
PERFORMED, TAUGHT
OR STUDIED IN
13
COUNTRIES
SPREAD ACROSS
4 CONTINENTS

IN 2016/17 WE
SPONSORED
39
TRIPS
ABROAD



*UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT ONLY



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

OUR LEADERSHIP



HRH the Earl of Wessex
KG GCVO
Royal Patron



Sir Simon Rattle
President



Peter Donohoe CBE
Vice President



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