

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC



UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES
2021/22



WELCOME

When your family, friends or teachers ask you why you want to study at the Royal Academy of Music, your answer is probably that you would like to become a professional musician. Our internationally respected BMus degree can make those aspirations a reality.

We can't pretend that there won't be challenges ahead as the whole world adjusts after the pandemic. Musicians will need imagination, versatility and resilience as never before, but you can be confident that at the Academy your individual talent will be matched to the opportunities and needs of the current era. You will study with distinguished teachers and visiting professors who insist on the highest standards of musical excellence, and our collaborative performance environment will bring out the best in you.

You can expect your four undergraduate years here to be challenging, engaging, motivational, inspirational and, above all, tailored to your personal interests and career goals. You will make friends for life and begin rich musical relationships that will sustain your professional career.



Roscoe Ruttler (this page and cover)

// We are encouraged not just to become great musicians but to think about our future. I like the fact that we are treated as young professionals rather than students



LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

The Academy's distinctive and stimulating learning environment is made up of four key factors:

TEACHING AND PERFORMANCE

One of the biggest influences on your development as a musician is your teacher; at the Academy you will find the very best. And, with over 500 events taking place each year, performance is central to what we do.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

It takes more than being a superb performer to make a life in music. Our Artist Development provision teaches you the practical skills you'll need to build a successful career.

PLACE

The Academy's location in the heart of London gives you access to performance opportunities that will add significant value to the start of your career.

PASTORAL CARE

We offer personal support on all things social, financial and artistic, guiding you through every aspect of your study to ensure that your musical wellbeing is sustained and enhanced by everything you do.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR BMUS COURSE AT
[RAM.AC.UK/STUDY](https://ram.ac.uk/study)**

Contact the Admissions Team in our Registry Department at admissions@ram.ac.uk or 020 7873 7393 with any questions.

PETER HAVLAT

FLUTE

'Being surrounded by such talented, hard-working musicians from so many different countries increased my own motivation'



During my time at the Academy, I have progressed in all areas of musicianship. Being immersed in conservatoire life not only encourages this sort of progression but renders it almost inevitable because standards and expectations are so high. Coming to London from Australia as an 18-year-old, I was thrown into a completely new environment – being surrounded by such talented, hard-working musicians from so many different countries increased my own motivation to learn about, discover and play music.

The Academy is a great place to be if, in conjunction with your principal study, you want to gain a deeper academic knowledge of music. In my first and second years, I enjoyed weekly lectures and classes on the aural, theoretical and historical aspects of music. In my third and fourth years I've had more freedom, with a wide range of elective modules to choose from. I am grateful to all my professors, who, throughout my time at the Academy, have exhibited a contagious interest in their subjects, and have been ready and willing to answer all my questions.

The Academy has enabled me to mature musically, personally and intellectually, and has provided me with the skills and know-how I may need for the future.

OUR VALUES

Artistry, Belonging and Challenge are the 'ABC' of your studies at the Academy

ARTISTRY

We believe that being a successful and well-rounded musician requires a wide range of skills. Principal study lessons are your primary means of preparing for a professional career, and you will need to master technique and cultivate musical artistry. Recent opportunities for BMus students have included:

- Masterclasses with distinguished artists including Jeroen Berwaerts, Lucy Crowe, James Ehnes and Stephen Hough.
- Workshops with composers Hans Abrahamsen, Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Mark-Anthony Turnage.
- Chamber music coaching with the Doric Quartet.
- The possibility of placements and side-by-side projects with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Knussen Chamber Orchestra, Nash Ensemble and Riot Ensemble.
- Sessions with principals from the Czech Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Lucerne Festival Orchestra.
- The chance to perform in concerts under high-profile conductors – recent visitors include Semyon Bychkov, Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Trevor Pinnock, Ryan Wigglesworth and John Wilson.

BELONGING

With a vibrant mix of students from more than 60 countries, the Academy is a truly cosmopolitan place to study. We are deeply committed to our identity as a global community and value everyone equally, regardless of background. As the UK's oldest conservatoire, the Academy also has an extraordinary heritage. We will help you to explore what it means to belong to a distinguished lineage, and to make music today (and tomorrow) with the support of this distinguished tradition behind you.

CHALLENGE

Your Academy journey will be a demanding and fulfilling one. We will challenge you constantly, rewarding your success and encouraging you to explore your musical horizons to the limit. Our intensive performance schedule provides opportunities to perform publicly, not only in our own performance spaces but also in world-famous London venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall. And you will get to work with our outstanding staff, visiting artists and guest conductors. You will graduate from the Academy ready to challenge the world as an artist.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Prepare practically, creatively and strategically for a sustainable career in the music profession

We know how competitive the music business is for our graduates. That's why the focus of our Artist Development provision is to empower you – the next generation of professional musicians – to make the most of your individual skills when you leave. Since the Covid-19 crisis, it has become more important than ever to have the most up-to-date industry knowledge and know-how. With specialisms and contacts across the music world, our team has the expertise to ensure that you leave here as a fully rounded, creative and adaptable musician, with the tools to gain employment even in unpredictable times.

Our talks and seminars are designed to develop your core artist skills, self-knowledge and professional awareness. They cover a comprehensive range of practical

subjects, including preparing professional documents, auditioning well, how to get funding, working with online content, personal recording techniques, self-employed finances and how to practise effectively. We also consider all your creative and career options, with talks and workshops on effective programming, orchestral life, working with promoters, and producing and creating your own projects. Alongside our lectures and events, there are one-off sessions throughout the year focusing on more specialised areas, such as West End work, writing for video games, TV and film, and the improvising musician. Our events are run by Academy specialists and invited experts from all fields of music, including established solo artists, orchestral fixers, agents and festival directors. We engage with health and wellbeing concerns for musicians, too, inviting speakers who are experts on injury prevention and psychological resilience.

One-to-one career coaching is available to help you hone your artistic goals and objectives, and there are dedicated Artist Development Days for all students.

By the end of your time at the Academy, you should feel confident to make bold artistic choices, and to make your career in music whatever you want it to be.



JUNYAN CHEN PIANO

'The standard of music making is so high, it encourages us all to push ourselves as hard as we can'



One of my favourite things about studying at the Academy is the quantity and quality of performance opportunities for students. I am currently in my third year of undergraduate study and I have played with a lot of different ensembles and chamber music groups, which has been a fulfilling experience. One of my highlights was performing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 4 with the Academy Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Edward Gardner.

It is hard for me to express how grateful I am to have Professor Joanna MacGregor as my teacher and mentor. She inspires me every day and has had a huge impact on me, both musically and personally.

The path I am now on has been paved with support and encouragement from my peers as well as my teachers. The standard of music making is so high, it encourages us all to push ourselves as hard as we can. Students come to the Academy from all over the world, and it is a very lucky thing that we are all gathered here for one reason – the passion we have for music.

PATRON

HM The Queen

PRESIDENT

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester GCVO

PRINCIPAL

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE

The Academy is a registered charity, number 310007, and a company registered with Companies House, number RC000438.

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