

A short introduction and
welcome

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Harp Department



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

Teaching Staff

- Catrin Finch – International Chair
- Rita Schindler – Principal Tutor
- Eleanor Turner – Visiting Harp Tutor
- Ruth Faber – Orchestral Tutor
- Robin Ward – Early Music Tutor
- Amanda Whiting – Jazz Harp Tutor



Bmus Course in a glance

- Full Time (4 years)
(three years with direct entry to the second year, subject to ability)
- We provide 30 hours of individual specialist tuition per year (increasing to 35 in year four). You are also allocated five hours a year, to spend with a conservatoire tutor of your choice (Chamber Coaching, Second Study etc) .
- In addition to benefiting from individual tuition, you will enjoy a range of activities designed to develop your artistry, musical fluency and personal and professional awareness (Electives).
- Our performance health programme – including performance coaching, physiotherapy and movement workshops and Alexander technique – allows students to develop as confident and effective performers. (Also, inclusive in the Student Allocated hours)



Outstanding opportunities for our students

- **Catrin Finch** – International Chair (3 masterclasses a year)
- **Masterclasses** twice yearly – Sioned Williams (UK), Sasha Boldachev (Russia), Anne Denholm, Olivia Jageurs, Anaïs Gaudemard (France)
- **Regular Classes:** Performance Classes, Sound Classes, Orchestral Coaching, Orchestral Repertoire Classes, Pedagogy, Jazz Classes, Early Music Classes
- **Lecture recitals** (Manon Browning – Self-Care, Helen Sharp – Orchestral audition, Sioned Williams – John Thomas)
- **Workshops** (Early Music, Jazz workshops, Recording Harp, Stage Presence, Body Mapping, Mindfulness, Physical Wellbeing)
- **Competitions** - Rennie Harp Prize, annual in-house competitions as well as numerous other RBC competitions
- **Numerous Ensembles and Orchestras** (Symphony Orchestra, Repertoire O, Pops O, Wind/Brass/Perc Rep Class, Woodwind Rep Class, Symphonic Brass Band, Thallein Ensemble, Opera and many more...)
- **Prestigious performance opportunities** – BBC Radio 3 Broadcasts and Recordings, Concerts at Symphony Hall, Ensemble projects abroad



Performing at RBC

Monday Showcase

- With its appreciative audience of regular attendees, this series of free lunchtime concerts provides an excellent opportunity to give first performances of challenging repertoire.

Tuesday Performance Platform

- Dedicated to our rising stars, this series acts as a platform for our most accomplished performers and is usually devoted to students on the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma course.

Wednesday Jazz Series

- Showcasing students, alumni and guests, our series of Wednesday jazz concerts complements regular nights elsewhere in the city.

Thursday Chamber and Small Ensemble Series

- This series provides a home not just for our chamber music concerts, but for many smaller performing groups, such as our Recorder, Saxophone and Guitar Ensembles.

Friday Orchestral Series

- A series of large ensemble concerts, including performances from our Symphony Orchestra, Repertoire Orchestra, Brass Band and Wind Orchestra, Thallein Ensemble and Capelle Baroque Orchestra.

'Frontiers' Contemporary Music Series

- Featuring guest performers and composers, as well as student performers and composers, this series explores contemporary music, acoustic and electroacoustic. Frontiers also enjoys its own mini-festival, Frontiers Plus.

Harp Department Concerts

- Organised performance opportunities at RBC (twice yearly) and outside college (around 5 times/year)





Facilities

- 5 harps (Lyon&Healy 23, Salvi Aurora, Salvi Daphne, Aoyama Delphi, Salvi Orchestra)
- Baroque Triple Harp (on loan)
- Lever Harp (Salvi Mia)
- 2 harp rooms – Harp Studio, Harp Room



Why Choose Us?

- Dynamic Harp Department and dedicated staff
- Smaller Department (6 students in 2019-20) – more opportunities!
- Opportunities in abundance – masterclasses, orchestral experience, performing experience, workshops, harp days, ...
- Our facilities are second to none.
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's £57 million music building opened in September 2017 This brand new music facility include five public performance venues – a 500 seat Concert Hall, 150 seat Recital Hall, Organ Studio, Eastside Jazz Club and the experimental black box performance venue known as The Lab. As well as these stunning performance venues, we have nearly 100 practice spaces; including 70 small practice rooms and larger ensemble rooms and workshops. We have seven recording studios, a mastering suite, a distance learning hub, and all of our performance venues feature high specification audio-visual equipment that enables interconnectivity and advanced functionality throughout the building.
- Much cheaper living costs (rent, travel, food, concerts etc..)



Questions

