



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

ACHIEVE THE
EXTRAORDINARY

2022 PROSPECTUS

Birmingham City University

WELCOME

TO ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

I HOPE THAT THROUGH THE PAGES OF THIS PROSPECTUS YOU WILL GET A REAL FLAVOUR OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO STUDY AT RBC, FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GENERATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL MUSICIANS, ACTORS AND THEATRE PROFESSIONALS.

Located in the great city of Birmingham and making use of the specialist facilities we have on offer, our provision across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses is designed to prepare you for the modern profession and all its challenges. We put employability and entrepreneurship centre stage, and provide a platform from which successful and sustainable careers can be launched.

We're passionate about empowering our students to reach their full potential, regardless of background or previous experience. Indeed, we define ourselves by our nurturing, supportive approach: we get to know every one of our students as individuals, and help guide them to discover, develop and pursue their own personal strengths and enthusiasms.

If you're in a position to visit Birmingham, I hope that you'll find an opportunity to come and see us in person. In any case, if you want to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we'll be delighted to hear from you.

Dr Shirley Thompson
Interim Principal, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION

If you receive an offer from Birmingham City University and you accept a place to study with us, you will enter into a contract with the University. Birmingham City University's Terms and Conditions are available on the Student Contract web page (www.bcu.ac.uk/student-contract) and contain the principal terms of the contract.

DISCLAIMER

The information in this prospectus is aimed at applicants starting their course at Birmingham City University in 2022/23 and should be read in conjunction with the information available on the course pages. We have taken every effort to ensure the information contained

within the prospectus is accurate for the 2022/23 cohort at the time of being finalised in January 2022. We may need to make changes to our courses, facilities or other services that we offer in certain circumstances. You should also be aware that members of staff at RBC and the wider University can change from time to time. It is therefore important that you check the most current information on our course pages and website before you apply to study with us. Further details of the type of changes we are able to make and the approach we will take can be found on our important information about the prospectus page: www.bcu.ac.uk/prospectus-information.

It is possible that the 2022/23 academic year may be affected by the ongoing disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Any

arrangements to be put in place by the University for the 2022/23 academic year in response to Covid-19 and the associated variants will be in accordance with the latest government public health advice, pandemic-related/health and safety legislation, and the terms and conditions of the student contract. Further information will be provided on the Student Information section of the University's website.

Alternative formats are available on request. Please contact creative.services@bcu.ac.uk.



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Photography: Greg Milner, Tom Bird, Graeme Braidwood, Hannah Kelly, Guy Traynor, Amos Miller and Craig Holmes

WHOWEARE

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING EACH INDIVIDUAL BECOME THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE, IN A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT.



RBC President Sir Simon Rattle visiting our new facilities for the first time' with then Conservatoire Principal, now Emeritus Professor of Performing Arts, Julian Lloyd Webber.

Image by Candian Li.



In 2017 our college of music 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 Theatre 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 has proven to be 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, we continue to pride ourselves on a 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; we're passionate about helping you accomplish your ambitions.

FUTURE

“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. This investment presented us with a unique opportunity to advance how music is taught and performed in the digital age.

Our music building houses five public performance spaces, known collectively as the 'Eastside Venues', including the 500-seat Bradshaw 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, mastering and editing suites, and the Eastside Jazz Club.

ACTING AND APPLIED THEATRE

In the 2022/23 academic year, our School of Acting will be moving to new premises, just a short walk away from the University's City Centre Campus. The School's new home will offer teaching, rehearsal and performance spaces, including a Studio Theatre.

The School also has access to facilities in the Parkside Building at the City Centre Campus and rehearsal spaces at the Doug Ellis Sports Centre in Perry Barr.

We use professional external venues for most public performances, which means you will benefit from regular opportunities to perform in theatres around the city. Venues have previously included 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 Birmingham City 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.



Symphony Hall © Craig Holmes

BASED IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, 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) 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 location 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.

The friendly population is what makes Birmingham the dynamic, multicultural city that it is – and also the youngest major city in Europe with under-20s accounting for 29% of its population (West Midlands Growth Company 2021) – 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 175 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.

The schools contained within this Faculty, which is the largest at the University, combine to form one of Britain's leading providers of talented professionals to the cultural and creative industries.

With over 5,200 of Birmingham City University's 29,000 students enrolled on courses in Music, Theatre, Writing, Media,

Digital Technology, Fashion, Art, Design, Visual Communications, Jewellery and Architecture, the Faculty has an enviable and growing reputation for excellence.

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, exhibitions and on the high street. 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 as an institution we 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, we enjoy a close relationship with one of the most highly regarded orchestras in the world – the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. This partnership has previously included 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. The CBSO's Musical Director, Mirga Gražinyte-Tyla, did us the great honour of conducting our Symphony Orchestra for the Royal Gala opening concert to formally open our facilities.

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, The Royal Opera House, Ex Cathedral, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Music Education Partnership, The Orchestra of the Swan and Cheltenham Jazz Festival, among many more.

NEXT PROGRAMME WITH BCMG

NEXT is a programme of study in contemporary music performance run in partnership with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. Musicians on the course have opportunities to be mentored by BCMG players, perform side-by-side with BCMG, and work with some of the most high profile living composers on their repertoire.

For eligibility and other terms and conditions visit:
www.bcmg.org.uk/next.



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 opportunities to perform. Being located only a short journey away from the famous theatres of Stratford-upon-Avon and within easy travelling distance to London 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.

Our Applied Theatre course has partnerships with a list of more than 60 professional companies in the small-scale performance sector in the city, alongside strong links nationally and internationally. We also have a special partnership with The Birmingham Rep theatre, enabling students to work with its team of directors and outreach workers, and aim for the highest possible standards of performance and participation.

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

CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

ACTING

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 THEATRE. WE ENJOY THE ADDED STATUS OF BEING PART OF ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, WHICH IS A HUGE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR LONG HISTORY AS ONE OF THE UK'S TOP DRAMA SCHOOLS.

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

As an actor at the Conservatoire 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 are proud to 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, including some of our recent productions, please visit www.bcu.ac.uk/acting.

Professor Stephen Simms
(he/him)
Vice Principal
Head of the School of Acting



P A S

APPLY
YOUR

OUR OPEN DAYS

COME TO A CONSERVATOIRE OPEN DAY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STUDYING ACTING, APPLIED THEATRE OR STAGE MANAGEMENT AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE:

bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/open-days

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. Our standard of training gives you exceptional vocational practice and professional development, together with established links directly to the industry.

As a conservatoire, we place increased emphasis on practice, alongside academic theory. We focus on professional, vocational training, preparing you for the industry in which you want to work.

Another distinguishing feature is that the training we offer is intensive. All of our courses are demanding and energetic, allowing you to explore your potential in a challenging and supportive 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

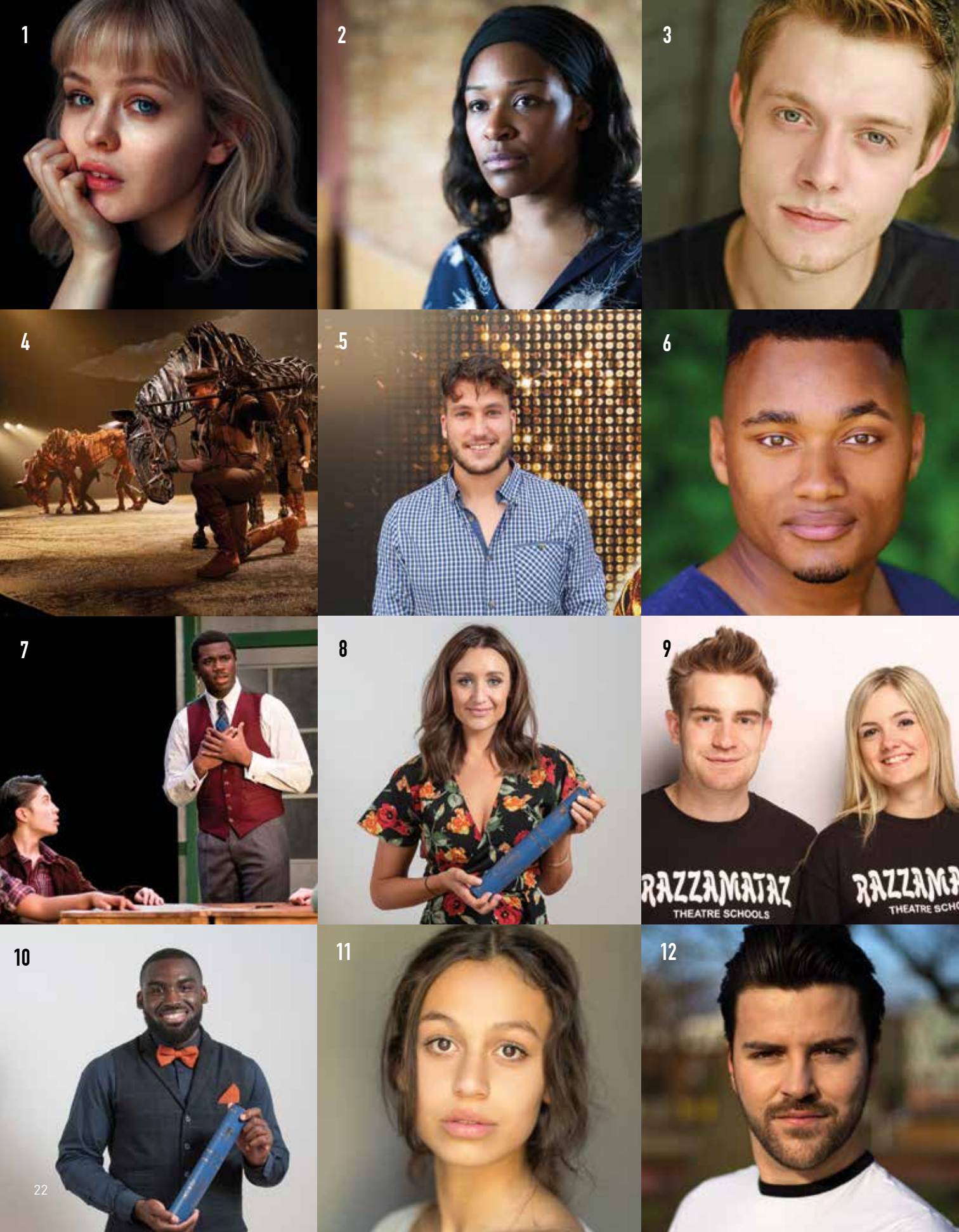
ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE'S ACTORS PERFORM A RANGE OF THEATRE PRODUCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EXPLORING A GREAT VARIETY OF PERFORMANCE METHODS, TECHNIQUES AND REPERTOIRE.

We stage productions in professional theatres and public spaces, in front of diverse audiences. 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 School of Acting, working on every internal and external production, with increasing responsibility as the course progresses. As Stage Management students you undertake at least one professional work placement during your training – recent destinations have included the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company. We encourage you to take part in as many placements as you can so that you can engage with ideas and theories in a practical setting, while developing your communication skills and working in an authentic environment.

Applied Theatre students are immediately immersed in one of the most exciting areas of contemporary theatre practice through frequent practical work. You will regularly work away from the Conservatoire with young people, community groups, hospitals and prisons, and with a wide range of participants. We believe that creating passionate new theatre with social and political objectives can have a significant impact on the lives of individuals and communities.





OUR GRADUATES - ACTING

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF WHAT OUR ACTING, APPLIED THEATRE 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 SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI AND WHAT THEY ARE UP TO IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF THE INDUSTRY:

1. Nicola Coughlan, 2011

Nicola became a Netflix sensation when she was cast as Penelope Featherington in period drama *Bridgerton*. She is also set to return to our screens this year in her role as Clare Devlin in Channel 4’s sitcom *Derry Girls*. Nicola has also created her own hit podcast with an all-star cast titled *Whistle Through The Shamrocks*.

2. Charlene James, 2003

Playwright Charlene 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 has also written on *Doctor Who*, *A Discovery of Witches* and *The Rising*. She is currently developing original pieces for World Productions, BBC and Channel 4.

3. Rob Mallard, 2014

Rob has played Daniel Osbourne in ITV’s *Coronation Street* since 2016. Rob was awarded the Best Newcomer Award at the British Soap Awards in 2017 and was nominated for Best Soap Actor at the TV Choice Awards in 2020.

4. Lewis Howard, 2012

Lewis played 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 went 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 largescale musicals. He has toured China as Stage Manager with the West End productions of *The Bodyguard* and *CATS*, and has also toured with big shows in the UK, such as *Sister Act*, *Hairspray* and *Singin’ in the Rain*. He is currently Technical Stage Manager for the Dirty Dancing International Tour.

6. Dominic Hartley Harris, 2015

Dom has previously starred as George Washington in the West End production of *Hamilton*, as well as in *Beautiful – the Carol King Musical* and he has also played the lead role of Jagwire in *Bat out of Hell*. He recently played the role of Collins in *Rent* at Manchester’s Hope Mill Theatre and is now playing Curtis Taylor Jr in the first UK tour of the musical *Dreamgirls*.

7. Philip Morris

Philip is Youth Theatre Director at Birmingham Rep.

8. Catherine Tyldesley

Catherine spent seven successful years playing Eva Price on *Coronation Street*. Since then, she has starred alongside comedian Jason Manford in BBC series *Scarborough*, as well as taking on the role of Kate in ITV drama *Viewpoint*. She has also taken part in BBC’s *Strictly Come Dancing* and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Conservatoire in 2018.

9. 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.

10. Corey Campbell, 2013

Corey is the founder and Creative Director of Strictly Arts, a physical theatre company that devises work that is engaging, thought provoking and unique. In 2018, Corey was made an Honorary Member of RBC and has also recently been announced as Co-Artistic Director at Coventry’s Belgrade Theatre.

11. Robyn Cara, 2016

Since graduating in 2016, Robyn has starred in the role of *Kayla* in Channel 4’s *Ackley Bridge*, as well as Jen in Apple TV series *Trying* and Katie in Sky series *The Rising*.

12. Nathan Scott Dunn, 2021

Nathan is an award-winning playwright and actor. His hit play *1902* saw huge success at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, winning the Bobby Award 2021 and being nominated for the Off-West End Award. Nathan is taking the show on tour across the UK and Ireland in 2022.

13. Nigel Boyle, 2002

Nigel is best known for starring as DS Ian Buckells on BBC’s hit police drama *Line of Duty*. He has also starred in *Peaky Blinders* and in Amazon Original series *Small Axe*.

14. Helen George, 2002

Helen has played the role of Trixie Franklin on the BBC drama series *Call the Midwife* since 2012. In 2018, she starred as Miss Shelly in *Nativity Rocks!* She also took part in BBC’s *Strictly Come Dancing*, finishing in sixth place.

15. Alexia McIntosh, 2015

Alexia is currently starring as Anne of Cleves in the massively successful musical *Six*, based on the lives of Henry VIII’s wives. Alexia was nominated for an Olivier Award for her role, along with the other ‘Queens’ (Best actress in a supporting role in a musical).

FOUNDATION COURSE IN ACTING

This course, with two pathways of delivery to choose from, allows you to increase your skills in and awareness of auditioning, and discover the essential requirements for many drama school auditions. While gaining increased confidence towards performing, you will also be given skills classes in voice, movement, dance and acting.

The Foundation Course in Acting, available both full-time or part-time, 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 also available to those who want to expand their experience in acting before applying. Former students have gone on to train at a variety of drama schools in the UK and in the USA. The course offers the chance to be entered for a Level 3 qualification which may be worth up to 65 UCAS points.

The 20-week full-time course includes two terms of 10 weeks, each week consisting of up to 30 contact hours. With potential opportunities for professional workshops at Shakespeare's Globe theatre, plus theatre visits and visiting masterclasses, you will be given valuable insight into a challenging but exciting profession. The 34-week part-time course is delivered over three terms, two evenings per week, with six contact hours per week.

Please note: At 20 to 34 weeks in length, this Foundation Course in Acting course does not qualify for Student Loans Company funding/finance for fees or living expenses. Payment plans and school bursaries are available.

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

UCAS CODE:

N/A - please apply to the School 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

Apply your passion and complete your training at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire – we offer drama school level training to mould you into a versatile actor and help you launch your career.

BA (Hons) Acting develops you practically, personally and professionally, and prepares you for the dynamic and challenging world of the dramatic arts. We have carefully designed a contemporary course that will prepare you for a creative career in front of a stage, screen or radio audience, including specialist training in voice, movement and singing.

We prepare you to be a professional actor and, as a vocational training course, full attendance for a minimum of 30 contact hours a week would be expected.

Our graduates have gone on to enjoy successful careers on stage and screen. They can be found working on hit TV programmes such as *Derry Girls*, *Coronation Street*, *Call the Midwife*, *Bridgerton* and *Line of Duty* as well as on stage at prestigious theatres such as The Globe, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the West End and regional theatres. We are particularly proud of the entrepreneurial skills they leave us with; we produce graduates who know how to survive and thrive in the industry, who write their own material and set up their own theatre companies such as Strictly Arts.

The course is demanding and energetic, allowing you to explore your potential in a supportive, exciting and challenging environment. We encourage you reach your full potential and to become the best that you can be.

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

UCAS CODE:

W410

DURATION:

3 years full-time



"The course consistently challenged me and developed me in ways I could never anticipate. The breadth of classes and disciplines we studied allowed every individual to find their niche, their passion. And thanks to the professional development module, I've been able to make confident first steps into the industry."

RUTH PAGE

BA (Hons) Acting

BA (HONS) APPLIED THEATRE

This unique and enterprising course is built around preparing students to create new drama with and for young people and community groups, using theatre as a way of making a real difference.

The focus is on developing all of the skills needed to create compelling new performances and valuable and effective theatre projects. You will cover all the various skills of performance – acting, movement, voice and singing – but beyond that also address the whole of theatre-making: group devising, writing, facilitation, producing, funding and administration.

You will be equipped to create your own work, telling the stories that are most important to you, and also with the skills to make it happen. The majority of what you will learn on the course will be through practical experience – working with professional practitioners – and in real contexts, out with communities responding to actual need. The final year is all about preparing for employment or freelance work as a confident and skilled practitioner.

The course currently has important partnerships with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Big Brum TIE Co, The Playhouse, Loudmouth, Geese, Open Theatre and more than 60 professional companies in the Birmingham area. We also have strong links with a wide range of practitioners, both nationally and internationally. In the second year, every student has a full-time placement with one of these companies for six to eight weeks, which is a crucial part of your preparation to graduate as accomplished applied theatre-makers – to go out and change the world.

The course embraces students from a wide variety of performance backgrounds and actively encourages you to develop your own areas of interest and practice. Recent students have included spoken word artists, musicians/singers, dancers and those with interests as diverse as puppetry and arts administration.

For full details on the course including entry requirements and fees, see:
www.bcu.ac.uk/applied-theatre

UCAS CODE:
W490

DURATION:
3 years full-time



“I really believe that BA (Hons) Applied Theatre has given me the space I needed to challenge myself in so many ways, both creatively and personally.”

EMALEIGH CONN

100%
of students said their course provided opportunities to apply what they had learned.

National Student Survey 2021



Have you seen our new Applied Theatre film?
www.bcu.ac.uk/app-theatre-vid

BA (HONS) STAGE MANAGEMENT

Prepare yourself for a successful career in Stage Management through in-depth, practical training. We aim to produce confident graduates who are ready for the industry as soon as they leave us.

You will develop an understanding of the core skills needed in technical theatre and design, widening your knowledge and ability to work in the fast-paced, demanding environment of stage management and further afield.

Taking on the essential duties of assistant stage manager in your first year of study, deputy stage manager in your second year, and stage manager in your final year, you will learn through authentic experience on internal productions and within the industry.

Your final year also includes a six- to eight-week 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, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman.

We encourage you to take part in as many in-house show allocations as you can so that you can engage with ideas and theories in a practical setting, while developing your communication skills and working in an authentic environment. Graduates have gone on to work on large-scale national tours such as *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera*, West End residencies like *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and seasons at The Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as working in a variety of stage management roles within different aspects of theatre and entertainment.

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

UCAS CODE:
W450

DURATION:
3 years full-time



“This is not your average university course. With many tutors dedicated to a small amount of students full-time, and with a completely hands-on, practical approach, you are constantly learning in a realistic environment that prepares you for your career.”

LUCY GOSDEN

MA ACTING



Transform your career with our postgraduate qualification in acting. 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 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. For some modules you will have timetabled rehearsal time, where you will work in groups to produce material.

Your studies will help to influence and shape your career. Previous graduates have been commended by industry for their innovative, challenging project work. Danielle Pinnock's final project, a 40-minute piece entitled BODY/COURAGE, won her the Best Actress award at the Strawberry Theatre Festival, and has since been performed internationally.

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

UCAS CODE:
W412

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

MA PROFESSIONAL VOICE PRACTICE



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.

Through reading, discussion, reflective writing and practising, you will relate theory to practice and thereby learn the ways of thinking and working of a professional voice practitioner. Through engagement with the opportunities the course provides, you will be prepared for work as a voice practitioner in private practice, further or higher education, business, theatre, performing arts and media.

The starting point is to work on yourself: i.e. your voice and its source in your body and breath. It is the experiential understanding of this process and listening to your colleagues on the course that informs your own pedagogy.

Through core learning based on how the voice works, your imagination will fuel the development of your personal artistry and development. 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 vital industry connections.

We will help you establish links to industry through our strong connections with leading companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, Birmingham REP Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We have a working relationship with the RSC and with the company's Head of Voice, Kate Godfrey. We also have connections at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Voice Clinic which can offer insights into clinical practice.

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

UCAS CODE:
N/A – please apply to the 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 in Acting 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 has a research focus which enables graduates to develop high-level, innovative approaches to practice. The programme cultivates originality of thinking and self-direction in order to tackle technical, interpretive and scholarly problems within the field of acting and performance.

Studying a postgraduate acting degree at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will advance your knowledge of the non-naturalistic forms of theatre that form the bedrock of the British tradition. The British tradition of acting is long-admired and internationally renowned. With great historical context, the British performing arts continue to spark inspiration and discussion both in terms of research and practice.

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 in acting in classical forms of theatre and other forms that make specific stylistic demands.

For full details on the course including entry requirements and fees, see:

www.bcu.ac.uk/mfa-acting

UCAS CODE:
N/A – please apply to the 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

TOP
15

for graduate prospects
for Music

(Complete University
Guide 2022)

OUR OPEN DAYS

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

[bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire
open-days](http://bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/open-days)

WE HAVE BEEN INSPIRING MUSICIANS SINCE
1886; ONE OF THE REASONS FOR OUR LONG-
STANDING SUCCESS IS OUR REPUTATION AS
A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING PLACE TO STUDY.

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.

We feel that becoming a
multidisciplinary conservatoire
alongside our acting and theatre
colleagues has already made our
creative community more exciting
and stimulating than ever before,
and has arguably boosted our
standing as one of the foremost
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 – most of whom
are active in the music profession
themselves – share a determination
to ensure each and every student
they teach reaches their full
potential. Our outstanding facilities
attract the best and brightest
students to Birmingham, along
with internationally renowned
performers and teachers.
With limitless collaboration
opportunities for staff and
students, the Conservatoire
is a stimulating environment
with an international reputation
which celebrates diversity.

We look forward to warmly
welcoming you to one of our
Open Days, to experience some
of what makes the atmosphere
we have created here so special.

NURTURING TALENT



WE REGULARLY HAVE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED NAMES VISIT US TO WORK WITH AND INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS. WE ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF HIGH PROFILE VISITING TUTORS ON OUR STAFF.

Here's a selection of the famous names that have previously visited:

<p>BRASS</p> <p>Rex Richardson - Trumpet</p> <p>Alan Thomas Associate Head of Brass</p> <p>COMPOSITION</p> <p>Louis Andriessen</p> <p>Sir Harrison Birtwistle</p> <p>Heiner Goebbels (Hon Doc)</p> <p>JAZZ</p> <p>John Abercrombie - Guitar</p> <p>Marc Copland - Piano</p>	<p>KEYBOARD</p> <p>Louis Lortie</p> <p>Jean-Efflam Bavouzet</p> <p>Imogen Cooper</p> <p>Paul Badura-Skoda</p> <p>Stephen Hough</p> <p>MUSIC TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Jeff Lynne</p> <p>Ken Scott</p> <p>Mike Stevens</p>	<p>PERCUSSION</p> <p>Alexej Gerassimez International Consultant in Solo Percussion</p> <p>Emmanuel Sejourne</p> <p>Adam Betts</p> <p>Colin Currie</p> <p>STRINGS</p> <p>Leonidas Kavakos - Violin</p> <p>Catrin Finch - Harp</p> <p>Nobuko Imai - Viola</p> <p>Leonidas Kavakos - Violin</p> <p>Tasmin Little OBE (Hon Doc) - Violin</p> <p>Thomas Riebl - Viola</p> <p>Jian Wang - Cello</p> <p>Sheku Kanneh-Mason - Cello</p>	<p>VOCAL</p> <p>Danielle de Niese</p> <p>Roderick Williams</p> <p>Susan Bullock</p> <p>Rebecca Evans</p> <p>Benjamin Appl</p> <p>Iain Burnside</p> <p>WOODWIND</p> <p>Emily Beynon - Flute</p> <p>Jonathan Kelly - Oboe</p> <p>Francois Leleux - Oboe</p> <p>Michael Collins - Clarinet</p> <p>Nikolaj Henriques - Bassoon</p> <p>Jess Gillam - Saxophone</p>
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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.

The range of experience you get from playing in orchestras and ensembles will help you to develop the knowledge and flexibility required for the demands of professional music-making.

Performances sometimes take place at Symphony Hall – one of Europe’s finest concert venues – as part of our close relationship with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). We also use local cathedrals for our concerts, making the most of the excellent acoustics and surroundings available in our city.

The breadth of the music you will encounter is enhanced by the opportunity to work with a variety of artists, some of whom may be permanent or visiting members of Conservatoire staff. Each artist, whether they be conductors, soloists or professional orchestra members, brings their own style to their work to engender an important learning experience for the developing professional musician.

Equally important is the opportunity to experience the reality of professional scheduling and discipline. You need to be punctual, organised and well prepared,

because this is what the music profession will demand of you. We have high expectations and wish to maintain our excellent standard of orchestral activity. Outside the Conservatoire, you will be able to audition for the CBSO Youth Orchestra, which runs three courses every year that include sectional coaching from CBSO musicians, rehearsals, and performances with leading professional conductors. In addition, the CBSO Training Scheme offers a series of masterclasses by CBSO principals as well as a sit-in scheme with the orchestra, and is the most comprehensive relationship between a symphony orchestra and conservatoire in the UK.

There are also side-by-side and participation schemes with Birmingham Royal Ballet, Welsh National Opera, Orchestra of the Swan and the Royal Shakespeare Company, allowing successful candidates to gain valuable first-hand

exposure to a wide range of professional activities. You’ll also find slightly more unusual ways to gain experience, like the famous **Joe Broughton’s Conservatoire Folk ensemble** (pictured), a group unique to Royal Birmingham Conservatoire that is open to all students.

“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
BMus graduate

ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES

- Afro Cuban Jazz
- Orchestra Brass Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- Conducting for Composers
- Historial Performance
- Millennial Percussion
- Opera
- Orchestral Auditions
- Pops Orchestra
- Repertoire Orchestra
- String Orchestra
- Symphony Orchestra
- Thallein Orchestra
- Wind Orchestra

OUR MUSICIANS COLLECTIVELY EARNED OVER £43,000 IN 2019 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

1. Charlie Bates, 2018

As well as being a jazz pianist, Charlie has gained a reputation as a composer and arranger. In 2017, The Charlie Bates Big Band released their debut album *Silhouettes*, which was well received by national press. He has written music for television and worked as a musical advisor on a number of productions and has also been commissioned to write music for some of the country's finest vocalists. In 2019, Charlie won the prestigious Dankworth Award for Jazz Composition and spent a year as the composer-in-residence for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. In December 2020, it was announced that Charlie had been awarded an Ivor Novello Award. Charlie teaches at Hockerill Anglo European College in Hertfordshire and coaches big bands and jazz ensembles in specialist workshops all over the country. He also works as an examiner for the Music Teacher Board (MTB) and is currently co-writing their new jazz syllabus.

2. Owain Jenkins, 2012

After graduating from the Music Technology department, 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 and Welsh Music Prize nominee Jodie Marie, plus fellow Conservatoire graduates Jimmy Brewer and Leo Appleyard.

3. Samantha Oxborough, 2018

In September 2017, Mezzo Soprano Samantha proudly sang as a soloist in a concert in Kineton organised by Roderick Williams for the Woman's Institute. She also sang as Zerlina in the duet *La Ci Darem La Mano* by

Mozart, with Roderick as Don Giovanni. On the same day she won the Geraint Morris Award, and as a result Samantha was one of the soloists at the Festival of Massed Choirs in the Royal Albert Hall, London in May 2018. In 2019, she was selected for as one of the artists on the Young Artist Programme at the National Opera Studio.

4. Tom Dunnett, 2013

Tom is a well-established freelance player and holds the lead trombone chair in the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. He is also a member of the London Jazz Orchestra, and has recently finished a two year run on the West End Musical *Dream Girls*. He is also a member of the Louis Dowdeswell Big Band and has performed and recorded with the BBC Big Band, The BBC Concert Orchestra, Jamie Cullum, Robbie Williams, Alfie Boe, Micheal Ball and many more.

5. Phil James, 2016

Since graduating, Phil has worked as a freelance musician, performing, arranging and composing. He has been Musical Director for a number of productions with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and has also performed in the RSC's Associate Schools Festival. He is currently Assistant Musical Director for The *Book of Mormon's* UK and international tour.

6. Emma Chilton, 2008

Since graduating from the Music Technology department, Emma has been working as a Freelance Sound Assistant in the TV and film industry. Her credits include *Poldark*, *Call the Midwife*, *Marcella*, *Sherlock*, *Black Mirror* and *Ted Lasso*, as well as *Downton Abbey*, *Men in Black: International*, *1917*, *Solo: A Star Wars Story* and *The Batman*.

7. Laura Mvula, 2008

Singer-songwriter Laura Mvula graduated with a BMus (Hons) in Composition. Both her debut album, *Sing to the Moon*, her second album, *The Dreaming Room* and her latest album *Pink Noise* were all shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize, and *The Dreaming Room* also won the Album Award at the 2017 Ivor Novello awards. In 2018, Laura was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Birmingham City University for her services to music.

8. Harry Lightfoot, 2007

Harry Lightfoot is an award winning composer for film and TV. Regularly working for the biggest movie studios in Hollywood, Harry has scored the trailers for many international box office hits, including *Soul* (Disney), *Black Widow* (Marvel), *Mulan* (Disney), *Mary Poppins Returns* (Disney) and *Avengers: Endgame* (Marvel), which in 2019 became the highest grossing movie of all time. He has also composed music for advertising campaigns for Pepsi, Netflix, Mercedes, Samsung and Jeep. Harry also composes for television shows and his music is regularly featured across the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky and many more.

9. Charlotte Bray, 2005

Since graduating with a degree in Composition, Charlotte has written for some of the world's leading musicians. Championed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Charlotte has performed at festivals across the world with renowned conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Oliver Knussen, Daniel Harding, Jessica Cottis and Karina Canellakis. She was an awarded an Ivor Novello Award

in 2019 for *Invisible Cities*.

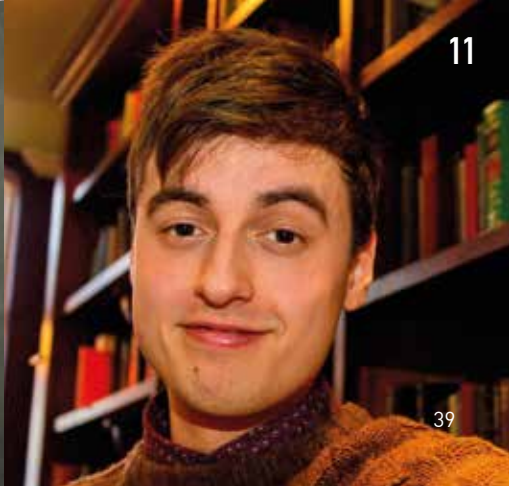
October 2021 saw the World Premiere at Oxford Lieder Festival of *Crossing Faultlines*, a song cycle commissioned by soprano Samantha Crawford and pianist Lana Bode, which sets specially commissioned poems by Nicki Jackowska about women's experiences in the workplace. Charlotte is an Honorary Fellow of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

10. Segun Akinola, 2014

Segun Akinola composed the score for the latest series of *Doctor Who*. As part of the BAFTA Breakthrough Brit programme in 2017, Segun was recognised as one of the rising stars among British composers. He also scored Sundance 2019 favourite *The Last Tree*. His other work includes scoring BBC Two's four-part series *Black and British: A Forgotten History*, three-part series *The Human Body: Secrets of Your Life Revealed* and two-part series *Expedition Volcano*, both for BBC Two and PBS.

11. Joel Hall, 2018

Since graduating with an MA in Composition, Joel has worked as a performer and composer. He is currently creating a new musical which will be staged at Lichfield Garrick Theatre in 2022, as well as working with Coventry Belgrade Theatre for the show *The Last Vampire*. Joel also works as an educator for Inspire Culture, Learning and Libraries, where he works in six local schools offering one-to-one and ensemble group music lessons. In 2020, he also founded *Stream Park*, an interactive digital platform which hosts immersive events for national organisations, theatres and communities.





RECENT MASTERCLASSES:

Sarah Willis

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra,
International Chair of Brass, RBC

Helen Vollam

Principal Trombone BBC Symphony
Orchestra, RBC Visiting Artist

Katrina Marzella

Solo Baritone, Black Dyke Mills Band

Stockholm Chamber Brass

BRASS DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Amos Miller**

IN RBC'S BRASS DEPARTMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT HAPPINESS IS KEY TO FULFILLING POTENTIAL, AND WELLBEING IS THEREFORE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO. IN ADDITION TO THE EXCEPTIONAL PASTORAL ENGAGEMENT OF OUR TEACHING STAFF, WE HAVE REGULAR SESSIONS IN MINDFULNESS, TIME MANAGEMENT AND HOW TO PRACTISE EFFECTIVELY, RESILIENCE, STAGECRAFT, AND PILATES FOR MUSICIANS, ALL DELIVERED IN A CULTURE OF OPENNESS AND MUTUAL SUPPORT.

The brass world is exceptionally diverse, and requires versatile musicians that offer a broad range of skills. Our highly practical curriculum provides students with plentiful opportunities to focus on a professional level of performance in orchestras, brass bands, historical brass, chamber music, commercial music, and as soloists, mentored and taught by an inspiring group of Tutors and Visiting Artists that include members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Black Dyke Mills and Grimethorpe Colliery Bands.

To prepare our graduates for the realities of life as a professional musician we offer unrivalled 'side by side' training opportunities with major partners including City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Welsh National Opera, and the Orchestra of The Swan, as well as developing the breadth of your 'portfolio' career opportunities with a strong focus on pedagogy as well as electives in arranging for brass and software skills.

Find out more:

www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/brass



COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Professor Joe Cutler**

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

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, small practice-based classes, and numerous hands-on projects, you will develop an understanding of, and expertise in, different compositional styles and approaches; 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 in your own unique voice. We offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Composition as well as interdisciplinary postgraduate courses in Experimental Performance, which bring together artistic creators from a wide range of sonic, visual and performance-based art forms.

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

"The Composition Department pushed me to explore the boundaries of my work in a nurturing environment and made me a more confident and versatile musician."

Emily Abdy
BMus Composition

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, orchestral and brass band conducting courses build on the success of all our other departments, including the Vocal and Operatic Department, whose Chamber Choir regularly releases CDs to critical acclaim. You will also work with our expert staff, who currently include renowned conductors Paul Spicer, Jeffrey Skidmore, Daniele Rosina, Michael Seal, Ian Porthouse 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 to lead orchestral sectionals, direct new music and conduct some orchestral projects. Learning core repertoire with a pianist, along with podium time with a symphony orchestra and a variety of other ensembles, encourages the development of the wide range of skills orchestral conductors need.

Brass Band conductors will be offered individual tuition from expert staff conductors, and will spend considerable time developing directing techniques in rehearsal and in performance. In addition to attending and participating in scheduled brass band activities, you will be encouraged to explore other opportunities to engage with ensembles, as director or observer, both within the Conservatoire and with professional organisations such as Services for Education and Tredegar Brass Band.

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



HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE 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 historical 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 the orchestra joins forces with the Vocal Department to produce a full-scale baroque opera.

Historical Performance Studies is offered as an elective to all students, and encourages them to explore a wide range of music and performance-practice issues from medieval 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: **Dr Adam Whittaker**

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

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 first year of undergraduate study and extends to postgraduate level. Workshop facilitation techniques learned in the lecture room are typically developed in early years settings, primary and special schools, care homes and hospitals. Students observe and/or are mentored on their own deliveries in partnership with organisations such as Music in Hospitals and Care, Orchestra of the Swan, Calthorpe Academy and Derby Royal Hospital to name but a few. We are proud to have a thriving partnership with Services for Education, in place for over a decade, where our students engage with Birmingham's Music Service through annual lectures, workshops and teaching placements in tandem with their pedagogy modules.

Partnerships such as this 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."

Rachel Roberts
Violinist, former postgraduate student



JAZZ DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Jeremy Price**

THE LAUNCH OF OUR EASTSIDE JAZZ CLUB HAS HELPED CONSOLIDATE THE INTEGRAL ROLE THAT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE HAS TO PLAY IN THE CITY'S THRIVING JAZZ SCENE. WHILE BIRMINGHAM'S SCENE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED OVER MANY YEARS, OUR BESPOKE VENUE STRENGTHENS THE PROMISE OF AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR JAZZ IN THE CITY.

Our jazz department is based around the club, where student musicians share a platform and get invaluable side-by-side performance experience with the best on the scene, whom we welcome to our stage on a regular basis. Outstanding tuition is provided by musicians who are active performers, composers, session musicians and band leaders.

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.

Our Jazz courses are 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, such as the Cheltenham Jazz Festival.



Watch our film about Jazz at RBC
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/jazz



Emeritus Professor of Performing Arts Julian Lloyd Webber with six outstanding RBC students (five of whom are pianists) who were selected to make their all-important debut recording with Naxos Records. Image by Candian Li.

KEYBOARD DEPARTMENT

Head of Department:
Professor John Thwaites

Associate Head of Keyboard:
Daniel Browell

Head of Piano in Chamber Music:
Daniel Tong

Head of Organ:
Daniel Moulton

International Chair in Piano:
Professor Pascal Nemirovski

WELCOME TO OUR KEYBOARD DEPARTMENT 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 Historical Performance. This gives these areas focus and drive, but also allows 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 COMPETITION SUCCESS

Lauren Zhang:
Winner, BBC Young Musician 2018; First Prize at the 15th Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists, First Prize Young Pianist of the North.

Roman Korsyakov:
First Prize at the Hastings International Piano Competition 2018 and First Prize (and audience prize) Sheepdrove Inter-Collegiate Piano Competition 2018.

Luigi Carroccia:
Quarter-Finalist Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Edward Leung:
First Prize in the Thomas Harris International Piano Foundation Beethoven Concerto Prize, Watford International Piano Competition, Appelbe Piano Prize of the North London Festival, and the Springboard Brighton & Hove Concerto Competition in 2018.

Mika Inukai:
Winner, Appelbe Piano Competition 2019 and Third Place, Watford International Piano Competition 2019.

Emanuil Ivanov:
First Prize in the Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition 2019 and second prize and audience prize in the Alessandro Casagrande International Piano Competition 2019.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Dr Simon Hall**

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AS A PRINCIPAL 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 opportunity for the study of Music Technology. Not only do you have access to our astonishing state-of-the-art facilities, and have lessons from 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 technology, 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, 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. There are numerous opportunities to gain professional experience with the staff, students, and industry partners.

Music Technology is a principal 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

RECENT MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Matthew Black (Game Music Composer and Producer)

Mira Calix (Warp Records)

Matt Dilley (Producer)

Alex Dromgoole (Mix Engineer and Alumnus)

Mike Exeter (Rock Producer)

Luca Francesconi (Composer)

Andrew Keener (Recording Producer)

Jeff Lynne (Producer, Composer, Performer)

Taz Mattar (Cavendish Library Music Producer)

David Mitson (Chief of Mastering, Sony)

Dom Morley (Mix Engineer)

Nitin Sawhney (Producer / Composer)

Marc Silk (Voiceover Artist and Producer)

David Tobin (Film Music Producer)

Paul White (Editor, Sound On Sound)

Sam Wooster (Analogue Synth Guru)

PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: **Toby Kearney**

VERSATILITY AND EMPLOYABILITY ARE THE MAIN GOALS OF OUR COURSES - OUR CUTTING EDGE CURRICULUM ALLOWS US THE FLEXIBILITY TO NURTURE ALL STUDENTS' STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES INDIVIDUALLY. WE DON'T HAVE A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL POLICY IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

Our Percussion Department is incredibly busy with countless performances and opportunities every year. With our roster of highly acclaimed specialist tutors we give students and graduates the skills and opportunities they need to build a successful career.

To enhance their employability we give every student a tailor-made timetable with all students covering disciplines including classical, commercial, outreach, solo, contemporary, Cuban, Brazilian, folk, ballet, opera, and rock and pop. Classes are delivered in our world-class facilities from department tutors including Owen Gunnell, Matt Hardy, Sophie Hastings and Adrian Spillett as well as masterclasses from International Solo Percussion Consultant Alexej Gerassimez and other visiting specialists. We give our students the responsibility to manage their own projects, classes and ensembles, and regularly give them national and international performance opportunities. Previous international trips have included samba in Brazil, new music with Ensemble Contrechamps in Switzerland, Cuban bata in Spain and percussion ensemble collaborations in Germany.

The RBC percussion ensemble Millennial Percussion performs several times a year playing ground-breaking new repertoire alongside classics from composers like Reich, Xenakis and Cage. Annual highlights include our New Music collaboration with the Composition Department and our residency in Digbeth's urban warehouse venue, Centrala. The ensemble has gained a reputation for embracing multi-media, using live electronics, lighting and screen in recent performances of Stockhausen's iconic Mikrophonie & Zyklus, Anna Meredith Brisk Widow & Flex, Reich Pendulum Music, Florent Ghys Big Dada, Takemitsu Rain Tree, Varèse Ionisation, Alexander Schubert Star Me Kitten and Andy Akiho to wAlk Or ruN in wEst harlem.

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

RECENT MASTERCLASSES INCLUDE:

Adélaïde Férrière
Vassilena Serafimova
Colin Currie
Sam Walton
Graham Johns
Adam Betts
Dame Evelyn Glennie



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 STUDENTS ALSO BENEFIT FROM OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH HIGH-PROFILE VISITING ARTISTS.

Bowed Strings

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. Our schemes with orchestras, festivals, educational organisations and networks across the globe provide a world-class and inspiring pathway into the music profession for our students. 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 programme offers you a chance 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



INTERNATIONAL CHAIRS INCLUDE:

Oliver Wille (Chamber Music)
Tamsin Waley-Cohen (violin)
Thomas Riebl (viola)
Hannah Roberts (Visiting Artist in cello)
Jian Wang (cello)
Thomas Martin (double bass)
Giuseppe Ettore (double bass)
Catrin Finch (harp)

ARCO Project

Our ARCO Project is an innovative alliance between RBC and Morris Isaacson Centre for Music, an inspiring institution in Soweto, (Johannesburg, South Africa) and also the Sunshine Orchestra based at KM Music Conservatory in Chennai, India, the flagship orchestra of the Rahman Foundation.

ARCO provides regular distance-learning opportunities for talented musicians who for multiple reasons, do not have access to the same level of musical education as students in the UK. RBC undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Vocal Departments deliver weekly online lessons to students in both South Africa and India, receiving regular teacher training and mentoring sessions to support their teaching.

Students can select from a variety of electives to use ARCO as an assessed part of their degree course. Involvement with the ARCO Project has resulted in job offers and deeply impacted the career trajectories of many of our students.

Find out more:
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/about-us/arco

ENSEMBLES IN RESIDENCE

Castalian String Quartet

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 historical 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.

All students undertake a theatrical training programme including stagecraft and movement. 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 VoxBox 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 typically 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

“Few would argue that a great deal of luck is often at the core of many a successful musician’s career. Nonetheless, training young people how to recognise and harness that luck, what to do with it and how to behave when the opportunity knocks, is what distinguishes the artist with a potential career. Talent needs careful nurture if it is to achieve any longevity, and that is something Royal Birmingham Conservatoire can most definitely offer.”

Roderick Williams OBE,
Visiting Consultant in Vocal Performance



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 active orchestral programme 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 we also incorporate dedicated departments for Saxophone and Recorder. We regularly welcome high profile visiting tutors who give a whole day of tuition once a term, in the form of an open lesson/masterclass.

We appreciate the importance of being a multi-instrumentalist in finding employment, and as such our students benefit from working with our Multi-Instrumental Consultant, Paul Saunders. Paul’s role includes giving all students an opportunity to continue learning secondary instruments, (thus enabling them the best chance of employment in teaching posts) and preparing aspiring multi-instrumentalists for the ‘doubling’ demands made on woodwind players in West End, touring shows and operas.

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



RECENT MASTERCLASSES:

Jonathan Kelly
Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Collins
International solo clarinettist

François Leleux
International oboist
and conductor



**Watch our film about
Woodwind at RBC**
www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/woodwind

BMUS (HONS)



SPECIALISE IN ONE OF THREE PATHWAYS:

PERFORMANCE (VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL)/
COMPOSITION / MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

We have invested £57 million 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 individual specialist tuition throughout all four years of the course you will get the individual attention you need to prepare for a successful career in the music profession.

You can also apply for additional hours to help support your studies and develop your skills in complementary areas such as playing on historical instruments, performance coaching and Alexander technique.

You will have opportunities to perform in our five public performance venues, including our stunning 500-seat Bradshaw Hall, and make use of our seven industry-standard recording studios and 100 practice rooms. Each year you will have more choice and opportunities to specialise in your studies. In your final year, you will work towards a substantial project relevant to your own professional aspirations.

Academically, you will explore themes such as musicianship, music history and professional development. As well as getting a thorough grounding in technical and performance skills with an emphasis on harmony and aural training, you will cover topics such as education and outreach work, conducting and world music.

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

UCAS CODES:
Performance: 300F
Composition: 301F
Music Technology: 302F

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

93%
of students said staff had made the subject interesting.
National Student Survey 2021



“Through using my voice in a variety of settings, I have also grown in confidence and noticed a considerable difference in my voice and performance since graduating.”

GINA BAKER

BMUS (HONS) JAZZ



The launch of our Eastside Jazz Club has helped strengthen the integral role that Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has to play in the city’s thriving jazz scene.

Our Jazz Department is based around the Club, where student musicians share a platform and get invaluable side-by-side performance experience with the best on the scene, whom we welcome to our stage on a regular basis.

This course meets with the needs of the modern jazz performer – it places emphasis on practical work, with the majority of time dedicated to one-to-one lessons, small group coaching and private practice. You will study modules that have been specifically and skilfully designed for jazz musicians, and as part of your learning we encourage you to explore in depth the relationship between improvisation and composition, which is central to developing your individual voice. You will graduate as a versatile, professional musician who is knowledgeable about the entrepreneurial opportunities available to you, and aware of the commercial realities for musicians joining today’s UK jazz scene as a portfolio musician.

Delivered by performers, band leaders and composers who enhance their teaching with professional experience, insights and connections, the course hones both your performance and professional awareness. With specialist tuition throughout all four years of the course you will get the individual attention you need to prepare for a successful career in the music profession.

As well as having our own club that has taken its place in Birmingham’s vibrant jazz scene, our students enjoy professional experience opportunities with external gigs that familiarise them with the industry, for example through our current partnership with Cheltenham Jazz Festival, one of many ways we prepare you for the future.

For full details on the course including entry requirements and fees, 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)

90%
of students said the course provided them with opportunities to explore ideas or concepts in depth.
National Student Survey 2021



“The Conservatoire provided a great platform for personal development. The course, although oriented around jazz and improvisation, still gives 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 COMPOSITION

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

The course actively celebrates the diversity of today’s musical genres, and fosters artists who challenge, innovate and transform notions of artistic practice today. You will 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. You will also be encouraged to express yourself in multiple musical and artistic genres.

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 for you to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

At Royal Birmingham Conservatoire we provide a friendly and supportive environment in which you can pursue your postgraduate studies. This is a time when you need to think particularly carefully and strategically about the direction of your developing career as a musician. We therefore encourage you to be ambitious in pursuing your aspirations, and endeavour to provide you with the flexibility to mould your course to your individual needs, both within your Principal Study area and – for PgDip and MMus students – in complementary modules.

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

UCAS CODE:
810F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
PgCert: 1 year 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/PGCERT EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE

If you want to study experimental performance in the UK, with or without a focus on sound, then these are the ideal courses for you.

Designed for emerging arts practitioners, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire’s courses in Experimental Performance provide you with an opportunity to undertake independent artistic projects in a fully supportive environment.

They enable practitioners from a variety of disciplines (including, but not limited to, instrumental/vocal performance, composition, dance, choreography, theatre, visual and performance art, creative writing) to come together with like-minded people. This course doesn’t ask you to justify yourself against the background of tradition, but gives you agency. People from every discipline are treated equally with emphasis placed on rigorous conceptual thought and idea-development. By focusing on these non-discipline-specific aspects of performance you will contribute to a collaborative, discursive and interdisciplinary working environment.

The core of your study will be formed by your own artistic ideas, which are developed, through research and dialogue, into professional practical projects. You will be allocated a mentoring team comprising a personal tutor who has experience in collaborative and conceptual approaches alongside additional specialist support according to your individual needs. Your mentoring team is there to help you realise your ideas into fully developed performances in the best possible way.

Our Experimental Performance courses will equip you with the skills you need to engage successfully with diverse contemporary creative practice.

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

UCAS CODE:
802F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
PgCert: 1 year part-time

Our postgraduate Music courses offer a broad menu of

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

modules designed to help you work towards achieving your personal career aspirations.

MMUS/PGDIP CHORAL CONDUCTING

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our taught postgraduate Choral Conducting courses provide the technical training, collaborative opportunities and podium time necessary to help you prepare for a career as a professional conductor. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is an 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 will be offered tailored individual tuition from our principal conducting tutor Paul Spicer (Finzi Singers), and will also come into contact with Jeffrey Skidmore (Ex Cathedral) through the Conservatoire’s Chamber Choir.

You will work across the whole spectrum of the Conservatoire’s music-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.

You will have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

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

UCAS CODE:
802F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time, 2
years part-time

Our postgraduate
Music courses offer
a broad menu of

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

modules designed to
help you work towards
achieving your personal
career aspirations.

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Advance your skills as a performer with a postgraduate course in Instrumental Performance at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Whether you’re a recent graduate or returning to study after a break, our postgraduate courses in Instrumental Performance provide 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.

These courses are 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. We offer a ‘multi-instrument’ specialism for woodwind players who do not wish to follow the traditional orchestral route, but would prefer to pursue a career as a multi-instrumentalist in musical theatre. All principal study woodwind instruments are welcome, but it is aimed primarily at saxophone, flute and clarinet players.

You will receive specialist tuition from leading UK and internationally renowned performers and teachers. In addition, you’ll 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.

You’ll have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

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

UCAS CODE:
800F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
Pgcert: 1 year part-time



“I would not be where I am today without the support of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. I believe the openness and collaborative atmosphere is what makes RBC unique. I have also had many high-profile performance opportunities throughout the UK, thus broadening my professional network, and setting up my performance career.”

EDWARD LEUNG

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT JAZZ

The launch of our Eastside Jazz Club has helped consolidate the integral role that Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has to play in the city. While Birmingham’s thriving jazz scene has been established over many years, our bespoke venue strengthens the promise of exciting future developments in this area.

It is in this context that we offer our taught postgraduate courses in Jazz. Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, these programmes provide high quality advanced-level tuition, enabling you to specialise either as a jazz performer or instigator. These courses also provide excellent opportunities for you to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession. The course provides individual specialist tuition from professional jazz musicians active on today’s scene, with an emphasis on the art of improvisation. There are regular opportunities to rehearse and perform with small and large jazz ensembles, and you will receive priority access to guest masterclass sessions.

You will have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Eastside Jazz Club, Bradshaw Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, seven recording studios, editing and mastering facilities, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

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

UCAS CODE:
803F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
PgCert: 1 year part-time



“The core and optional modules of the MMus Jazz helped me to begin to think about how my own practice might be framed in research terms. As a Master’s student I also became part of BCU’s Jazz Research Group. This all became instrumental in determining my subsequent return as a PhD student, as well as helping me to focus the themes of my research.”

CHRIS MAPP

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

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 internationally important centre for performance and composition with technology, especially live electronics. An example of its work is the highly acclaimed Integra Live project, an application that makes it easy to use interactive audio processing to create new music. As you might expect in this context, our postgraduate courses in Music Technology provide an exciting opportunity for composers and composer-performers to experiment with and develop expertise in the creative application of established and new music technologies.

Studying Music Technology in the setting of a thriving conservatoire will allow you to benefit from opportunities to work with professional ensembles and musicians, as well as student performers. You’ll get opportunities to participate in a wide variety of creative projects, including interdisciplinary collaborations.

You will have full access to our superb state-of-the-art facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, Recital Hall, seven recording studios, editing and mastering suites, and our black-box performance space known as The Lab. Alongside your focus on Music Technology, our courses provide opportunities for you to develop other skills relevant to a future career in the music profession.

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

UCAS CODE:
811F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
PgCert: 1 year 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 to pursue your own research project within a lively and exciting Conservatoire environment. Our flexible course enables 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 also 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. Therefore, we provide you with a choice of Professional Development options (shared across our postgraduate programmes) alongside your musicological work to give you the opportunity to develop and/or expand your interests across a range of complementary areas.

The Conservatoire team – which comprises a large number of research-active staff – has a vast array of expertise, allowing us to supervise a wide range of projects, and we are particularly keen to attract those interested in pursuing Master’s-level research in our specialist areas. These include: Late Medieval Music; French Music of the 17th, 18th and 20th centuries; Italian Baroque Music; 18th and 19th-century British, Russian or Austro-Germanic Music; Theory and Analysis; and Music Critics and Criticism.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire also hosts a significant collection of historical instruments and we welcome studies with a focus on performance practice and/or critical editing.

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

UCAS CODE:
W350

DURATION:
12 months 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 STUART

MMUS/PGDIP ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING

Designed for recent graduates and suitably qualified mature students, our postgraduate taught Orchestral Conducting courses provide the technical training, collaborative opportunities and podium time necessary to help you prepare for a career as a professional conductor. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is currently a destination for orchestral conductors, with an active concert schedule.

As a Principal Study Orchestral Conductor, you’ll be offered individual tuition from our staff conductors, 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 music-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.

You will have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

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

UCAS CODE:
812F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time

Our postgraduate Music courses offer a broad menu of

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

modules designed to help you work towards achieving your personal career aspirations.



MUS/PGDIP BRASS BAND CONDUCTING

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

As a Principal Study Brass Band Conductor, you'll be offered individual tuition from expert staff conductors, and will spend considerable time developing your directing techniques in rehearsal and in performance. In addition to attending and participating in scheduled brass band activities, you will be encouraged to explore other opportunities to engage with ensembles, as director or observer, both within the Conservatoire and with professional organisations such as Services for Education and Tredegar Brass Band. Brass Band Conducting students should also expect to attend classes/workshops of their peers studying other conducting pathways.

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.

You will have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Concert Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

For full details on the course including entry requirements and fees, see:
www.bcu.ac.uk/brass-band-conducting

UCAS CODE:
1036

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time



MMUS/PGDIP ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE (STRINGS)

Developed in partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), our postgraduate courses in Orchestral Performance enable advanced-level string players to focus on their development as orchestral musicians.

In addition to one-to-one specialist tuition, you will spend a significant amount of rehearsal time with the CBSO alongside one or more dedicated host players who will act as mentors. You may also be offered opportunities to play at the back of the section to gain further experience. In addition to developing your technical facility, musicianship, interpretative skills and stylistic awareness, you will expand your knowledge of orchestral repertoire, learn how to prepare for rehearsal in the most efficient way, develop strategies which will help you to integrate within your section, and build confidence in preparing for orchestral auditions.

You will also participate in additional performance activities within the Conservatoire's String Department and the wider Conservatoire, including performance classes, masterclasses, orchestra and chamber music.

You will have full access to our superb £57 million facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice rooms, ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

Both PgDip and MMus 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 Instrumental Performers, which includes both solo and chamber music routes for string players (the latter for existing ensembles).

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

UCAS CODE:
809F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time

Our postgraduate Music courses offer a broad menu of
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
modules designed to help you work towards achieving your personal career aspirations.



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

MMUS/PGDIP/PGCERT
VOCAL PERFORMANCE

SPECIALISE IN:
**INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE, VOCAL
PERFORMANCE, COLLABORATIVE PIANO, ORGAN
PERFORMANCE, CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE,
OPERA REPETITEURSHIP OR CHORAL CONDUCTING**

Support your developing career as a professional performer with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire’s post-Master’s, Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Performance. You can choose one of the seven specialisms listed above.

Our Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (APD) is aimed at post-Master’s level, and is ideal for you if you are an advanced postgraduate performer who already has a Master’s degree, and are beginning to accept professional 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. You can study full-time over 12 months or part-time over two years.

The Professional Performance APD allows you to take on performance engagements both within and outside Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as part of your course. Assessment focuses on your work in professional contexts, via a Professional Performance Portfolio module and a choice of External Engagement and Professional Project modules. We also provide a Career Management and Self-Promotion module designed to help you deal with those niggling, but vital, non-performance aspects of your professional career.

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

UCAS CODE:
602F

DURATION:
12 months full-time,
2 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

Advance your skills as a singer 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 increase your experience as a performer and to broaden your repertoire, though you can also take the opportunity 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 will receive specialist vocal 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. Such opportunities 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 £57 million facilities, including our Bradshaw Hall, 150-seat Recital Hall, our black box performance space known as The Lab, and more than 70 practice ensemble rooms and workshops, all acoustically designed to provide a music-making environment that is world class.

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

UCAS CODE:
801F

DURATION:
MMus: 2 years full-time,
3 years part-time
PgDip: 1 year full-time,
2 years part-time
PgCert: 1 year part-time



“I had a wonderful time on the course – it was intense but also very fulfilling. I felt my singing came on enormously with teachers and coaches who nurtured and challenged me, and performances that really moved me forward. I also enjoyed the variety of academic modules to choose from, which were all well taught and supported and felt relevant to my practice.”

KATIE GILBERT
Soprano



Requiem for the 21st Century project by
Doctoral Researcher Khyam Allami.
Photo credit © 2019 Rowland Thomas/
Opera North

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH COURSES AT ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

A PHD AT ROYAL 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. Royal 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. While 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.

Royal 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 £57 million facilities with state-of-the-art recording studios, 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 (currently 80,000 words) or practical (composition, performance or scholarly edition) with a written element.

REF2014 confirmed the high quality of our research at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, which was assessed as being equal third among UK conservatoires in terms of grade point average, and top of all UK conservatoires for 'research power'. 100% of our research impact was deemed 'outstanding' or 'very considerable' and 90% of our research environment was rated as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. Researchers in Music and Performing Arts also benefit from interdisciplinary collaboration through research clusters and wider networks as a part of Birmingham City University.

Find out more about our research expertise and opportunities for doctoral studies at: www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire-phds.



"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 (Instrumental Performance)

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



© Greg Milner / BBC

JUNIOR ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

OUR JUNIOR CONSERVATOIRE PROVIDES SPECIALIST MUSICAL TUITION OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE FOR TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM ALL AROUND THE WEST MIDLANDS AND BEYOND.

We work closely with the senior Conservatoire to deliver a shared vision for music education. Our tutors are exceptional teachers and musicians, and include members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, professional musicians and senior Conservatoire staff. We typically 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 (offering string instrument tuition to beginners as young as four years old).

Junior Conservatoire students can also, where the timetable allows, combine elements from different courses to suit individual needs. A strong emphasis is placed on performance opportunities through weekly platforms and termly chamber music recitals, as well as biannual concerts for the larger ensembles in the Bradshaw Hall.

The Junior Conservatoire day

Your Saturdays 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 have reached. Younger students will usually begin with a shorter day.

Who should apply?

We offer specialist training to young musicians between the ages of eight and 18 with exceptional potential, and the commitment and desire to realise 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 our young musicians to achieve their maximum potential, with the aim of reaching 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 a limited 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 5,000 young musicians, and countless numbers of people through a variety of 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. Studying at RBC you will have access to our extensive outreach programme to further develop your skills in education and community settings.

Our programme aims to have a positive impact on young musicians by emphasising progression routes into Conservatoire education. Widening participation in

Conservatoire activities to people from all social and cultural backgrounds is a key focus of the programme.


In partnership with the Concerts and Events team, we deliver a range of community and education events, making our building a resource for people from diverse cultural and social backgrounds.

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-support

If you have any questions, concerns or problems while at University, your School Office is the place to go. Our teams provide a personal, supportive and responsive service with staff on hand to answer course-related questions and point you towards where you can access any other specialist support you may need. You can also log an enquiry and book wellbeing sessions or advice appointments online.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Your health and happiness are important to us and there are a wide range of support services available in areas including disability, counselling, mental health and wellbeing, and healthcare. We offer ongoing support, workshops and events such as our Mental Health Day which has previously included tea and talk sessions, music therapy, and therapy dogs!

Centre for Academic Success

The Centre for Academic Success aims to help you develop the skills you need to progress and successfully complete your course. They can help with:

- academic essay and report writing
- English
- referencing
- dissertations
- presentation skills
- mathematics and statistics
- computing and programming
- project management
- study skills.

This support is offered through a range of tutorial sessions, workshops, online resources and feedback on your assignment drafts.

Disability Support

Whether you have already told us about your disability or Specific Learning Difficulty (such as dyslexia), or you have a long-term health condition for which you think you may need some support at university, our Disability Support Team will be able to work with you to find the support you need.

Finance/Money

To help you balance your budget we can offer advice and support on the money you have, help you seek paid work, and give you tips on making your money go further. We run activities during National Student Money Week aimed at checking your financial health and helping you to make the most of your resources, including time and money.

Professional Development and Work Experience

We take employability very seriously and appreciate the challenging nature of the industry we are sending our graduates into. Our Music department has a dedicated Professional Development team 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.

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

Our Applied Theatre course sends second year students on work experience placements with theatre groups, community groups or schools. Recent placements have included 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 included the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

University Locks interior



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.

Our halls of residence offer a range of on campus and inner city living, with various facilities and features including double beds, en suites and even gyms. One of our halls of residence, University Locks, even includes nine practice pods, ideal for musicians studying at the Conservatoire.

All undergraduate first-year, full-time home, EU and international students are guaranteed University accommodation if they have

firmly accepted an offer in the main application cycle and apply by the deadline date.






Returning students in their second year and above are also able to re-book direct with some of our partner providers.

We are also able to offer University accommodation to postgraduate students, although this may be shared with undergraduate students.

If you decide that you want to live in private accommodation, Birmingham City University Students' Union has its own letting agency, which we recommend to find private housing.

www.bcu.ac.uk/accommodation

AT A GLANCE

-  Over 2,000 rooms available
-  CCTV coverage and security staff at each site
-  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

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN MUSIC ARE INTERNATIONAL, AND ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN INTERNATIONAL PROFILE.

With almost 100 international partner institutions in more than 30 countries on five continents, and a vast network of internationally renowned teachers, performers, composers and researchers, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is an international conservatoire with a global reach.

Our partnerships allow us to participate in teaching exchanges and collaborative projects with leading international institutions. The experts we host, and the collaborative projects we participate in, will inspire and inform you as you build your own international networks with teachers and peers from partner institutions. These activities allow you to experience excellent teaching from outside the UK, and bring insights into international careers in music and theatre around the world.

We sponsor a wide variety of international trips, creating opportunities for our students to study, perform, teach, compete, network and volunteer overseas.

Please note that it is possible that international opportunities may be affected by the ongoing disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic or any associated rules, guidance or changes in the risk profile of international travel.

In a typical year:

WE WELCOME AROUND
50 GUEST ARTISTS
FROM ALL OVER THE
WORLD
TO ROYAL BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE TO
PERFORM, TEACH
AND INSPIRE OUR
STUDENTS.

10%
OF OUR STUDENTS
TRAVEL
OUTSIDE THE UK TO
PERFORM, STUDY,
COMPETE OR TEACH.

WE SPONSOR
AROUND
100 TRIPS
OUTSIDE THE UK.





ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

OUR LEADERSHIP



HRH the Earl of Wessex
KG GCVO
Royal Patron



Sir Simon Rattle
President



Peter Donohoe CBE
Vice President



Dr Shirley Thompson
Interim Principal, Royal
Birmingham Conservatoire

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www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire