



Royal College of Music launches free training programme for young bassoonists

The RCM Young Bassoon Programme will provide 11–18-year-olds the opportunity to join a community of young bassoonists and learn from world-leading teachers.

The Royal College of Music is launching the RCM Young Bassoon Programme, a free initiative giving young players the opportunity to join with like-minded musicians to explore the instrument.

Aimed at bassoonists from grade 4 to post-diploma, participants will spend time with leading bassoon teachers exploring new repertoire in ensembles, masterclasses and creative collaborations, as well as learning more about breathing techniques and reed making. They will also gain valuable advice about how to prepare for auditions, develop performance skills and receive peer-to-peer support from other young bassoonists in a welcoming environment.

RCM Head of Woodwind Marie Lloyd comments: 'The RCM Young Bassoon Programme is a wonderful new opportunity for young bassoonists. From instrumental classes to masterclasses and ensemble playing with RCM professors and postgraduate students, each day offers a unique variety of exciting musical experiences. By joining our programme at the Royal College of Music, players will be welcomed into a community of bassoon enthusiasts who love to make music together.'

Taking place on selected Sundays throughout the year, the sessions will be divided by ability and led by RCM bassoon professors including Sarah Burnett, Martin Gatt, Joost Bosdijk, Emily Hultmark and Roberto Giaccaglia who all hold positions in leading orchestras and chamber ensembles, and they will be supported by RCM postgraduate students.

The inaugural 2023/24 programme will take place on 19 November 2023, 21 January, 4 February, 3 March and 28 April 2024.

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2023.

For further information please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/youngbassoon or email youngbassoonprogramme@rcm.ac.uk.

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About the Royal College of Music

Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music (RCM) is a world leading music conservatoire with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. More than 900 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 50 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors, and composers of the future. In 2023 and 2022, the RCM was ranked as the global no 1 institution for performing arts in the prestigious QS World University Rankings by Subject.

The Royal College of Music has trained some of the most important figures in British and international music including composers and performers such as Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, Michael Tippett, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Leopold Stokowski, Sir Hubert Parry, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Neville Marriner, Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Sarah Connolly, Tarik O'Regan, Lord Lloyd Webber, Sir James Galway, Anna Meredith MBE, Louise Alder and Mark-Anthony Turnage.

Regular visitors to the RCM include Sir Thomas Allen, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alina Ibragimova and Lang Lang. Our recent honorary doctorates include Sir Antonio Pappano, Jonas Kaufmann, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Bryn Terfel, Steve Reich and Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin).