



ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF MUSIC

Undergraduate Studies

PROSPECTUS 2018–19

Hannah Morgan

'For me the Academy was the ideal place to pursue my studies – the tuition, both instrumentally and academically, is exceptional and it is a privilege to be surrounded by such accomplished musicians.

'The Academy provides so many wonderful opportunities. I performed in orchestral concerts with renowned conductors including Yan Pascal Tortelier, Edward Gardner and Peter Schreier, premiered Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's opera *Kommilitonen!*, and made a CD recording with Trevor Pinnock. I also played in a joint Academy/Juilliard orchestra in collaborative performances in New York and at the BBC Proms, conducted by John Adams.

'Chamber music and solo playing are also nurtured – I was offered many performance opportunities, both inside the Academy and at external venues. Numerous masterclasses and individual lessons with international players and Academy professors broadened my outlook and were inspirational and motivating.

'The Academy is a unique place in which one can flourish both musically and as a person. One could not hope for a better start to a professional career in music.'



INTRODUCTION

The Royal Academy of Music offers an internationally recognised springboard into the music profession.

We are a friendly community of students and staff who insist on the highest standards of musical excellence.

Family and friends may ask you why you want to come to the Academy and study in London, and your response is probably because you want to become a professional musician. Our renowned BMus offers you a clear route to realising your career aspirations. From

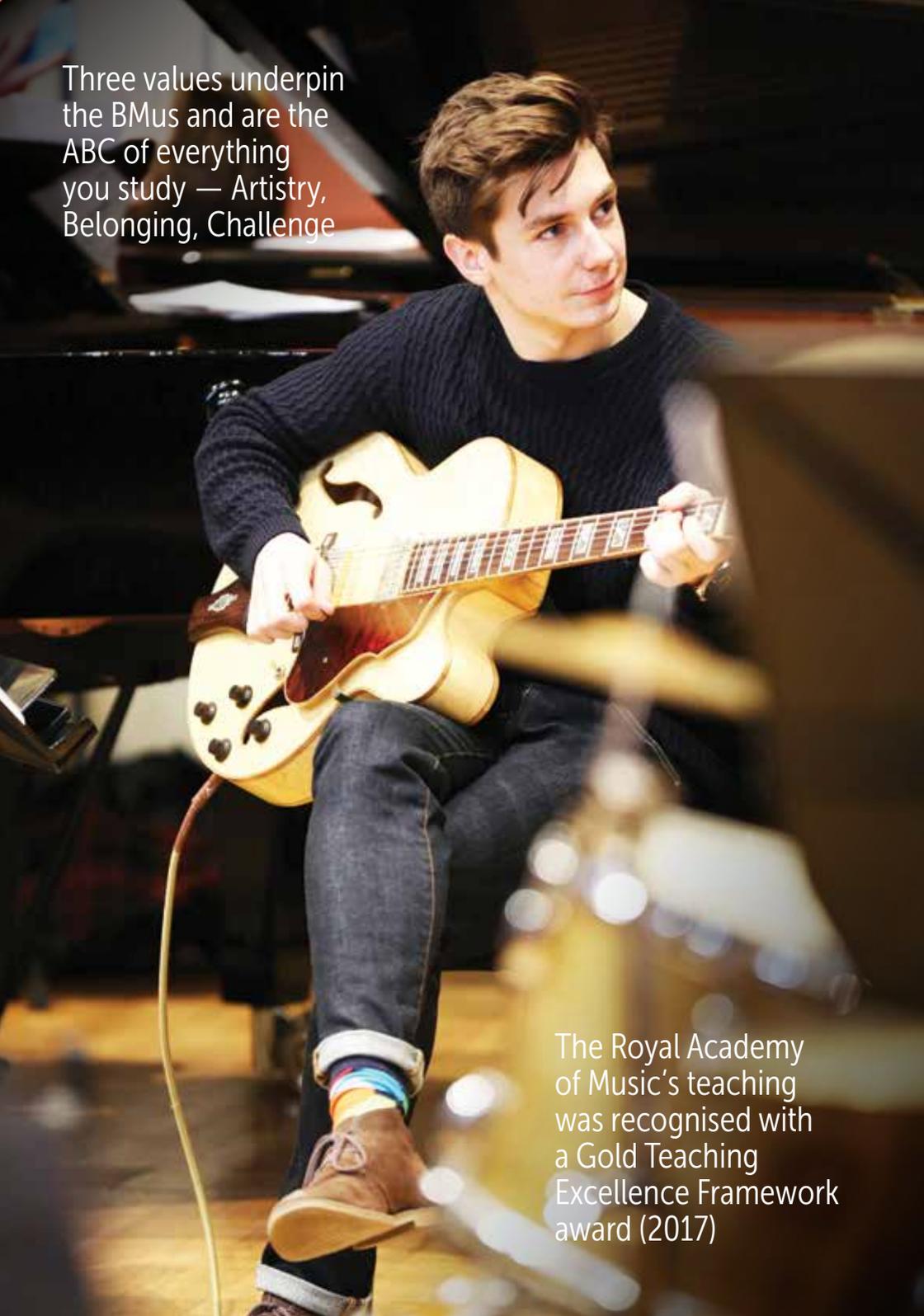
performing in Academy events to learning directly with the world's greatest musicians and benefiting from London's huge music scene, our collaborative performance environment nurtures your individual talent and enables you to reach your full potential.

Every student at the Academy is valued equally, no matter where they are from. You can expect your four undergraduate years here to be challenging, engaging, motivational, inspirational and, above all, tailored to reflect your own artistic personality and personal career goals.



'For 190 years the Royal Academy of Music has been the nursery, hothouse and generator for the British music profession and has become one of the world's greatest conservatoires'

The Times



Three values underpin
the BMus and are the
ABC of everything
you study — Artistry,
Belonging, Challenge

The Royal Academy
of Music's teaching
was recognised with
a Gold Teaching
Excellence Framework
award (2017)



The Academy's distinctive and stimulating learning environment emerges from four key factors:

Performance

Our insistence upon excellence in performance and the astonishing expertise of our staff — a veritable *Who's Who* of music.

Professional Development

We believe that the skills needed for employment as a successful musician are just as important as the techniques needed to perform, so we teach you about the music world and how to thrive in it.

Place

Being located in central London brings significant added value to the start of your career, as well as a buzz of entrepreneurial energy to your development — not to mention a vast number of performance opportunities and other cultural events to experience. Teaching takes place on the main site and in satellite venues in Marylebone and central London.

Pastoral Care

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

'The very best musicians train here [...] It's the most accessible and friendly musical venue anywhere'

The Sunday Times

ARTISTRY

Being artistically successful at an international level requires a wide variety of skills, the most important of which is listening. As a result, it underpins many of the activities undertaken on the programme. For example:

- Hearing and responding to subtle expressive nuances from the other members of your ensemble.
- Notating complex contemporary melodies and chords.
- Hearing a score in your inner ear and reading it at a keyboard or arranging it for brass quintet.
- Analysing the aural effect of Mahler's orchestral technique.
- Getting feedback from teachers, peers and audiences.
- Learning about music in multimedia
- Blending your own intonation with your ensemble.
- Giving an oboe lesson to a beginner.
- Identifying errors in Baroque counterpoint
- Leading an improvisation with a group of children.
- Listening to your players as you conduct a rehearsal.
- Discriminating between edits for your demo in our recording studios.



'With a list of alumni that reads like a Who's Who of classical music over the last two centuries, there is no doubting that the Royal Academy of Music has successfully retained and developed its status as a centre of excellence'

Classical Music magazine

Principal Study lessons on your instrument or in composition are your primary means of developing ways of preparing professionally. They are geared towards developing both your interpretative and your technical abilities. In addition to individual lessons, Academy students have:

- Performance classes with Visiting Professors such as Rachel Podger, Steven Osborne, James Ehnes, Patrick Messina and Reinhold Friedrich.
- Workshops with composers including Magnus Lindberg, John Adams, Oliver Knussen and Sir Harrison Birtwistle.
- Opportunities to perform in masterclasses with distinguished artists such as William Bennett, Andrew Marriner, Pascal Rogé, Emily Beynon and Angelika Kirchschrager.
- Chamber music sessions with ensembles such as the Escher and Doric Quartets.
- Placements with top UK orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and London Sinfonietta.
- Sessions with principals of the very best European orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.
- The chance to perform in concerts under distinguished Visiting Conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Semyon Bychkov, Oliver Knussen and Trevor Pinnock.

Fanning out from Principal Study, the rest of the programme develops complementary musical skills. These fall into two overlapping



categories — practical skills, which concern live performance directly; and professional skills, which enhance employability and help you to learn vital self-management techniques.

You will develop your practical skills in modules such as departmental activity (eg string orchestra, big band, orchestral repertoire sessions, historically informed performance classes), conducting skills, analytical skills, composition for performers, attentive listening, Baroque music, improvisation for pianists, and performing experimental music.

Your professional skills will be developed in modules that address employability head on and train you for life as a working musician. These include professional development portfolio, principles of teaching, recording and digital editing, instrumentation and computer transcription and creative music leadership.

Your individual programme of study develops and combines this practical and performance expertise in a variety of ways and gives you a safe, supportive space in which to experiment and develop as a musician — to challenge and be challenged.

'The Royal Academy is internationally known and recognised as representing the highest values'

Daniel Barenboim

BELONGING

Academy alumni such as Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Henry Wood, Moura Lympany, Sir John Barbirolli, Dennis Brain, Lionel Tertis and Sir Clifford Curzon have made many of the most influential recordings of the 20th century. Our alumni also include key players in the music business — Edward Gardner, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Lesley Garrett, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Elton John and Annie Lennox to name just a few.

Our library and museum contain internationally significant materials including manuscripts and letters by Purcell, Handel, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Brahms and Vaughan Williams, a peerless collection of violins, music books belonging to Queen Elizabeth I, and the archives of iconic figures such as Yehudi Menuhin, Otto Klemperer, Kenny Wheeler and Sir Charles Mackerras.

Given this extraordinary heritage at your fingertips, a significant proportion of your programme will focus on the historical and technological contexts of music making: what it means to live in our present age, to belong to our unique artistic lineage, and to make music today — and tomorrow — with the support of this distinguished tradition behind you.

Optional modules include Crossing Cultural Frontiers, Exoticism in the Western Classical Tradition, Landmarks in Post-War Music, Maestro: A History of Conducting, The Music of Brahms, Mozart's Later Operas and Messiaen in Context. Through modules like these you develop ways of engaging with the world's musical heritage and create a musical identity for yourself that is individual and employable around the world.

The Royal Academy of Music is ranked top UK conservatoire in the *Guardian's University Guide 2018* and *The Complete University Guide* for 2018

Flo Moore

'Studying at the Academy has been a fantastic opportunity to work with some of the UK's leading jazz musicians and with many international artists. Recent highlights have included masterclasses with John Hollenbeck and Ambrose Akinmusire, as well as a great week with Dave Holland — it is always so valuable to hear from people who speak from experience at a high level.

'Being exposed to so many different playing and writing styles has been great preparation for the many performance situations I expect to

encounter in the future. There is a unique emphasis on composition and arranging — I've found this particularly useful as it's encouraged me to write original material that I can use for my own projects.

'I have made some great friends here, and it's been a privilege to study surrounded by so many supportive and enthusiastic musicians. It's an ideal opportunity to build musical relationships that will continue beyond the Academy and into our professional lives.'

'This institution was seen to be setting global standards in conservatoire education. There was compelling evidence that hugely impressive major international artists were both engaging with and emerging from the institution. Collaborations with other leading institutions around the world were seen as indicative of the esteem in which the peer group holds the Royal Academy of Music'

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), 2016



CHALLENGE

We understand that you will embark on a demanding journey while you are studying at the Academy. Being a musician is a privilege but also requires exceptional commitment. You are one of tomorrow's musicians and have an important dual responsibility — to develop and deepen the understanding of musical traditions, and to develop innovative ways of making music.

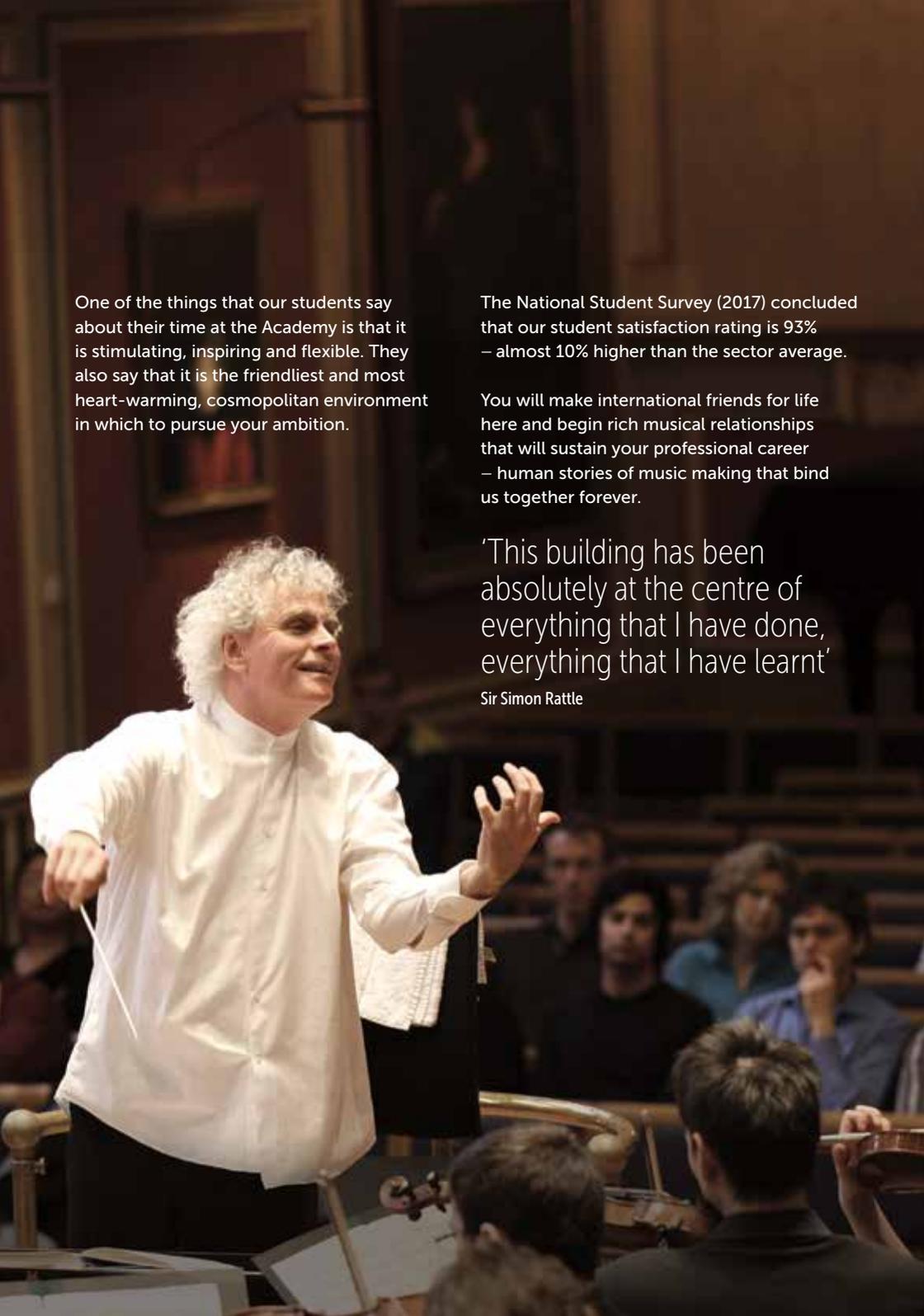
We ensure your personal and professional development by challenging you constantly, giving you unique performing opportunities, rewarding your success and providing you with all the support you need along the way. You will graduate from the Academy as a fully equipped citizen of the musical profession, ready to challenge the world as an artist.

'A student's choice of university makes a difference when it comes to finding a job or a place in a graduate program, according to a survey released last week by the British government... The Royal Academy of Music was the only British post-secondary institute with a perfect score'

International Herald Tribune

Below: John Adams conducts a combined Royal Academy of Music and Juilliard School Orchestra at the BBC Proms





One of the things that our students say about their time at the Academy is that it is stimulating, inspiring and flexible. They also say that it is the friendliest and most heart-warming, cosmopolitan environment in which to pursue your ambition.

The National Student Survey (2017) concluded that our student satisfaction rating is 93% – almost 10% higher than the sector average.

You will make international friends for life here and begin rich musical relationships that will sustain your professional career – human stories of music making that bind us together forever.

‘This building has been absolutely at the centre of everything that I have done, everything that I have learnt’

Sir Simon Rattle



University of London

‘This institution was seen to be setting global standards in conservatoire education. There was compelling evidence that hugely impressive major international artists were both engaging with and emerging from the institution’

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), 2016

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