



ROYAL  
HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL

# MUSIC

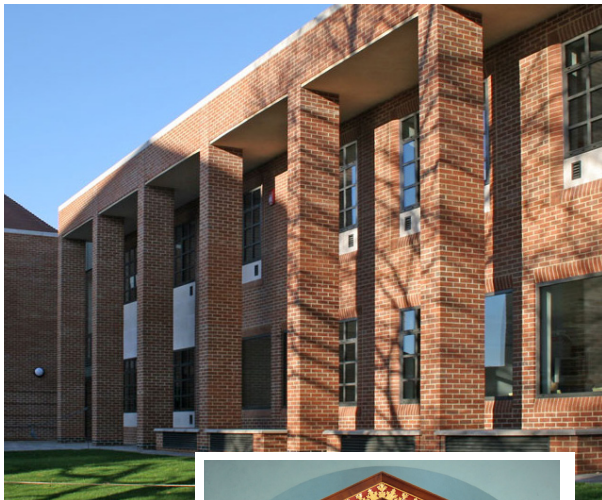


# FACILITIES AT RHS

## THE STATE-OF-THE-ART MUSIC SCHOOL

Opened in 2008 and comprising:

- The Burns Recital Hall - a fully equipped concert venue seating 250 and housing two new grand pianos: a fine Bechstein and an outstanding Fazioli (one of only 110 made annually) as well as a full selection of orchestral percussion
- A purpose-built and fully equipped music technology suite including a fully furnished recording studio
- Three classrooms, including a keyboard laboratory
- 15 specialist instrumental teaching rooms
- Well-stocked department library with a new practice pipe organ
- A fleet of new Bechstein pianos



## CHAPEL

- Magnificent 1930s chapel, seating well over 1300, with an impressive eight second acoustic
- Legendary Grand Organ, a 4-manual Romantic instrument of unrivalled power and a smaller Classical Organ for choral accompaniment

“MUSIC GIVES A SOUL TO THE  
UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND,  
FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION  
AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING”

– Plato

# CHORAL AT RHS

## FAMOUS CHAPEL CHOIR

- The dedicated, 80-strong core of the RHS choral tradition
- Weekly services in the cathedral-sized school chapel
- Four major concerts each year
- Annual performances at high-profile naval services in St Paul's Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields, London
- Regular appearances in concert venues such as the Royal Albert Hall
- Exciting international tours – recently to Italy, Germany, Malta, and to New York

## ELITE CHAMBER CHOIR

- 20 hand-picked singers, the cream of the RHS vocal crop, performing a wide repertoire of sacred and secular, classical and contemporary works
- Frequent concert performances

## MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

- Singing, dancing, acting
- A chance to perform some of Broadway's finest hits
- Run by industry professionals
- The chance to perform in major school concerts

We have strong links with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain – our most promising singers are actively encouraged to audition.



**ONE OF THE  
LARGEST  
AND MOST  
COMMITTED  
CHOIRS I  
HAVE EVER  
ENCOUNTERED  
IN A SCHOOL**

*– John Rutter,  
RHS patron of music*





## BAND AT RHS

- Renowned 75-strong marching and concert band, dating back 200 years
- Two major annual concerts at school
- Joint concerts with the Royal Marines School of Music Band
- Performances at prestigious venues and occasions such as the Lord Mayor's Show, Twickenham Stadium and Lord's Cricket Ground, and for HM The Queen
- Biennial tours, most recently to Sri Lanka, the USA and Canada
- Eclectic and challenging repertoire
- Vibrant and unique Corps of Drums, entirely student-led, providing drum displays for formal occasions
- Elite corps of solo buglers
- Junior Corps of Drums

## ORCHESTRA AT RHS

- A strong string section and symphonic brass, woodwind and percussion
- Joint concerts with leading local orchestras
- Playing repertoire from the classical, romantic and 20th century periods

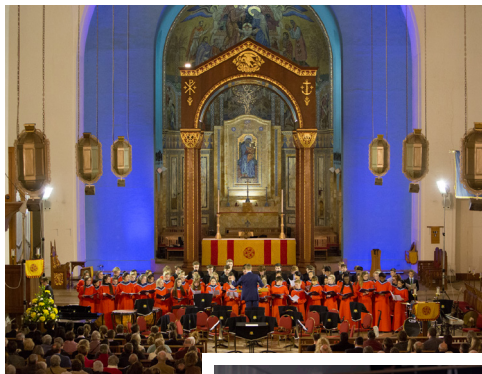


# ENSEMBLES AT RHS

A diverse and ever-growing number of small and large ensembles including but not limited to:

- Big band
- Brass ensemble
- Classical guitar ensemble
- Fanfare team
- Flute ensemble
- Gospel choir
- Saxophone ensemble
- Intermediate string group
- Advanced string group
- Rock/Pop workshop
- Samba group
- Music technology club
- Various independent pupil bands

We strongly encourage and give all possible support to any new pupil ventures.



## PARTNERSHIP AT RHS

RHS maintains a place at the forefront of music making in the community.

## CONCERTS

We welcome many world-leading musicians as part of our annual concert series, creating many opportunities for our pupils and visitors to learn from the best.

## SINGING PROJECT

RHS hosts Sing Up! Suffolk, an annual singing day for hundreds of local children – an unforgettable and transformative experience guaranteed to revolutionise and invigorate young people's attitudes to their own voices.



## NOTES & NIBBLES

Highly popular series of lunchtime recitals given by RHS musicians for local audiences, with buffet lunch.

## ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION OF EAST ANGLIA & RCO

RHS collaborates enthusiastically with the Organists' Associations and the Royal College of Organists, inviting many visitors to play our superb Grand Organ and hosting recitals and masterclasses with internationally acclaimed performers. We are proud to be the first school accredited by the RCO under its new Institutional Accreditation scheme. It acknowledges the first-rate provision for organ teaching at the school.

## HOLBROOK CHORAL SOCIETY

RHS has a longstanding association with the Holbrook Choral Society, a large and dedicated group of singers from Holbrook and further afield that sings two major annual concerts in the chapel. Recent performances have included Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Messiah.

**“ THE RICH TRADITION OF OUR MUSIC-MAKING IS SOMETHING WE ARE RIGHTLY PROUD OF. PLEASE FIND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND SEE US IN ACTION AND MEET THE TEAM OF DEDICATED AND TALENTED MUSICIANS THAT WORK AND STUDY HERE. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL BE IMPRESSED BY THE BREADTH OF OUR PROGRAMME AND FEEL CONFIDENT TO ENTRUST THE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILDREN TO US HERE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL. ”**

*– Edward Allen, Director of Music*

# ACADEMIC MUSIC AT RHS

Music forms an important part of the curriculum for Years 7 – 9 with a strong emphasis on practical music making and technology, as well as listening. Music is also offered at GCSE and A Level and pupils are prepared for entry to music college or university with many recent successes.

- A large and talented team of Visiting Music Teachers
- Over one third of pupils learn a musical instrument or take singing lessons
- All are encouraged to participate in the regular senior and junior lunchtime ensembles
- Specialist teaching is available for the particularly gifted and talented
- There is a yearlong series of academic music lectures and masterclasses given by professional musicians – many leaders in their fields – on topics from Elgar's orchestration techniques and Bach's St John Passion to the life of a film composer and the use of computers in new music, all open to the public

## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

September 2015 saw the opening of a purpose-built three-room music technology suite. Complete with a recording studio, an iMac room running Logic Pro X and a control booth with a 24 channel TOFT mixing console. This is a fantastic resource which many professional recording businesses would drool over.

## MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music Scholarships are awarded annually to pupils who demonstrate real potential in their music making. Prospective candidates are encouraged to visit the school informally and meet the Director of Music, from whom further information is available.





## MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music – Edward Allen

Bandmaster and Teacher of Music – Lizzie Merrell

Assistant Head (Co-curricular)

and Teacher of Music – Brian Martineau

School Organist – David Poulter

Administrator – Katy Griffiths



## CONTACT

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