



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

GUITAR AND HARP

rco.ac.uk

LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
ONE OF THE
WORLD'S LEADING
PERFORMING
ARTS INSTITUTIONS

Learning from a team of distinguished professional performers, we aim to help your development in becoming a successful, well-rounded musician who enters the profession fully-equipped with all of the necessary skills to succeed.

Under the visionary leadership of international guitar virtuoso **Professor Allan Neave**, the Guitar and Harp department is an inspiring place for students to learn and develop their musical talents and performance skills.

Guitar and Harp

BMus: Four years, full-time
rcs.ac.uk/guitarandharp

MMus: Two years, full-time
MA: One year, full-time
rcs.ac.uk/pgguitarandharp

Why choose us?

- | RCS is recognised as one of the world's top three destinations to study the performing arts (QS World University Rankings 2021)
- | 90-minute lesson each week on your principal study
- | Collaborate with performing artists from across RCS
- | Opportunity to undertake an additional performance study
- | Excellent partnerships and links to industry professionals; partnerships include Big Guitar Weekend, Celtic Connections, Classical Guitar Retreat, Ullapool Guitar Festival, European Mandolin and Guitar Youth Orchestra, NECGS Concert Series, Sphere Concert Series, RCS Guitar Orchestra and many international guitar festivals
- | Side-by-side schemes with the national companies, enabling harpists to play alongside the professionals; partnerships include the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Opera, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- | Vast number of performance opportunities each academic session
- | An expert teaching team with regular guitar masterclasses from the likes of **Lukasz Kuropaczewski, Marcin Dylla, Marco Tamayo, Lorenzo Micheli** and **Göran Söllscher**

- | Numerous harp masterclasses; recent guests have included **Karen Vaughan, Isabelle Perrin, Sioned Williams** and **Lucy Wakeford**
- | Undergraduate music students can take advantage of learning within this unique Scottish conservatoire and undertake a module within traditional music, enabling you to broaden your repertoire, musicality and ensemble arrangement practices



“Welcome to the Guitar and Harp department. I hope you find this information useful in helping you decide where you would like to study. We hope you choose to join students from across the world in coming here to Glasgow to study with us, and we look forward to welcoming you in person.”

Head of Guitar and Harp: **Professor Allan Neave**

Your studies

Choose to study here and you will benefit from 90 minutes of one-to-one tuition each week on your principal study, ensuring ample time for your personal and musical development. You will also regularly encounter a broad circle of other musical influences in performance classes, chamber studios, and technical classes, taught by faculty and visiting experts.

With an emphasis on performance, the curriculum of the department includes:

- | performance classes
- | repertoire classes
- | chamber music
- | technical classes
- | orchestral studies

You will also be able to study other aspects of the profession including teaching, academic research and entrepreneurship skills.

Performance

There are many opportunities to perform either as a soloist or as a chamber musician. We also encourage students to take part in competitions and play in student ensembles, both within RCS and externally.

You will also have the chance to collaborate with other artists across RCS including actors, musical theatre performers and dancers. Our contemporary music festival, Plug, provides the perfect opportunity to work with emerging composers.

“I have found that the personal attention I receive from my teachers, both in and outside of our 90-minute lessons, has been incredibly beneficial in developing my professional music career.”

Evan Dim, BMus student



Teaching staff

Guitar

- | **Professor Allan Neave** Head of Department
- | **Paul Galbraith** Associate Artist
- | **Matthew McAllister**
- | **Peter Stewart**
- | **Ian Watt**
- | **Jamie Akers** Early guitars/lute
- | **Sasha Savaloni** Guitar chamber music
- | **Malcolm MacFarlane** Fretboard harmony/improvisation

Harp

- | **Sharron Griffiths**
- | **Pippa Tunnell**

Image: Graduate Sean Shibe giving a masterclass.

Our graduates

Graduates have gone on to further study in the US and Europe, become heads of university departments, solo artists, orchestral principal harpists, teachers and festival directors.

Guitar alumni include **Sean Shibe** (winner of the 2018 RPS Young Artists Prize and BBC Music Magazine Award nominee), **Laura Husbands** (Denver Classical Guitar Society winner), and **Marek Pasieczny** (performer and composer).

Harp alumni include **Mary Ann Kennedy** (Scottish musician, composer, radio/TV presenter and music producer), **Helen Thomson** (Acting Principal Harp, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra) and **Louise Vickerman** (Principal Harp, Utah Symphony Orchestra).

How to apply

Before you apply, please go to [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) to read full details on the music programme you wish to apply to, and the application and admissions processes.

The standard application deadline is **1 October**. Late applications made after this date may be accepted and those details can be found at [rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply)

All applications must be made through the UCAS Conservatoires online admissions service: [ucas.com/conservatoires](https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires)

Our institution code is **R58** and you will find the specific programme code on [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Entry requirements

Entrance to RCS is based on talent, potential and ability. We are looking for students who display outstanding potential, dedication and ambition.

BMus Academic entry requirements

- | Scottish Highers - 3 passes (grade C or above)
- | A Levels - 2 passes
- | International Baccalaureate - minimum score of 24 with 3 subjects at Higher Level
- | Recognised equivalences

We offer a flexible approach to students taking Highers over more than one academic year and/or who achieve their qualifications in more than one sitting.

Within the minimum academic entry requirements, the subjects recommended are:

- | Music at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced level or equivalent
- | English at Higher, Advanced Higher or Advanced level or equivalent

Postgraduate Academic entry requirements

- | Honours degree (at least 2.2), or its overseas equivalent in a subject area relevant to the demands of the programme

For more specific entry requirements, including language requirements, please visit [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Your audition

We want you to enjoy the audition process and use the opportunity to discover more about RCS and see if it is the right place for you.

Details on the audition/interview process are available online at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk). This includes information on any deadlines, live vs. recorded auditions, repertoire/requirements and what to expect following your audition/interview.

Tuition fees and scholarships

Tuition fees can be found at [rcs.ac.uk/fees](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/fees) as well as information on financial support and scholarships.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year the department hosts the **Big Guitar Weekend festival**, with invited artists from around the world performing and teaching masterclasses in RCS.

Junior Conservatoire

The Junior Conservatoire of Music programme is for talented and committed young people aged 11-18 who are passionate about music and want to develop their skills and techniques.

Junior Conservatoire students benefit from one-to-one tuition from RCS expert teaching staff, performance classes and the opportunity to play in a variety of ensembles every week.

Find out more at [rcs.ac.uk/junior](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/junior)

Short Courses

We offer a range of short courses and summer schools for people who wish to develop their skills and passion for music.

To see what courses are on offer this year, please visit [rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses)

Contact us

If you have any questions about your application, please contact us at admissions@rcs.ac.uk and we will be happy to help you.

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[rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

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