



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland



TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION

**LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
PROFESSIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS
WITH NATIONAL
COMPANIES**

From drum kit to marimba and Latin American and ethnic percussion, you will be exposed to all timpani and percussion instruments through your years of study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

At RCS you will be introduced to various styles and techniques of playing through one-to-one lessons, repertoire classes, creative and contextual studies, and the chance to participate in masterclasses and competitions. Not only will you have the opportunity to play in ensembles with other musicians but also perform in collaborative pieces with opera, drama and dance students.

Timpani and Percussion

BMus: Four years, full-time
[rcs.ac.uk/timpanipercussion](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/timpanipercussion)

MMus: Two years, full-time
MA: One year, full-time
[rcs.ac.uk/pgtimpanipercussion](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/pgtimpanipercussion)

This programme will prepare you for the technical challenges of professional performance, help you broaden your stylistic range, and give you the opportunity to work with national professional orchestras and world-renowned, respected musicians.



Graduate (2018) and Freelancer, Jonathan Chapman practising in the RCS percussion and timpani dedicated rehearsal space.

Why choose us?

- | Small class sizes; we only take a maximum of 12 students to ensure the highest possible teaching contact and practice time
- | 90-minute one-to-one lessons per teaching week in each year on your principal study with our highly acclaimed staff, supplemented by one three hour orchestral repertoire class per week
- | To further equip you for the profession, we offer specialist tuition from leading performers and educators featuring Drum Kit, Latin American and ethnic percussion and Marimba
- | Three large dedicated percussion studios with a full range of the highest quality instruments such as Zildjian multi-application cymbals
- | Unrivalled links with the world's leading performers in timpani and percussion, who deliver regular clinics and masterclasses
- | Performing side-by-side opportunities alongside guest artists
- | 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

Diverse performance schedule

All timpani and percussion students benefit from the enormous range of performance opportunities available whilst studying at RCS. Symphony, chamber and wind orchestra performances, opera productions, wind ensembles and chamber experiences are central to the education of each student.



“The facilities in this department are amongst the best in Europe. Students benefit from having access to dedicated percussion studios to practise and rehearse in.”

Head of Timpani: **Kurt-Hans Goedicke**

Mentoring

There are side-by-side mentoring and touring opportunities with Scotland's major orchestras and ensembles, delivering practical experience to our students. These partnerships include:

- | BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- | Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- | Red Note Ensemble

Teaching staff

Timpani

- | **Kurt-Hans Goedicke, Paul Philbert and John Poulter**

By request:

- | **Ruari Donaldson and Gordon Rigby**

Percussion

- | **Tom Hunter, Alasdair Kelly, Simon Lowdon and John Poulter**

Additional regular specialist contributors

- | **Chris Lamb** (Principal Percussion, New York Philharmonic and RCS International Fellow) - visits RCS three times a year, for two and a half days each time, to work with students.

- | **Eric Sammut** (member of Orchestre de Paris and Conservatoire de Paris and RCS International Marimba Consultant) - visits four times each academic year, for two days at a time.

Latin American Kit and Ethnic Percussion

- | **Dave Hassell** (session musician and renowned clinician) - visits six times each academic year, for two days at a time.

Associate to Timpani and Percussion

- | **David Kerr**

Please note, full biographies of all staff and guest artists can be found on our website: [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Recent masterclasses include:

Simon Carrington Principal Timpanist, London Philharmonic Orchestra. **Colin Currie** International percussion soloist and clinician, **Dame Evelyn Glennie** International percussion soloist, **Keith Aleo** and **Neil Grover** Avidas Zildjian Company, **Benedict Hoffnung** Baroque and Period Timpani specialist, **Leigh Howard Stevens** Marimbist and clinician, **Graham Johns** Principal Percussion, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, **Jasmin Kolberg** Kroumata Internationally-celebrated marimbist and clinician, **Neil Percy** Principal Percussion, London Symphony Orchestra, **Birger Sulsbruck** Internationally renowned Cuban percussion expert and **Sam Walton** Eminent percussionist.

Watch a masterclass with Eric Sammut:

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



Our graduates

The Timpani and Percussion department has a long-established tradition of producing graduates who hold prominent positions both in the UK and abroad:

- | **Louis Abbott** Admiral Fallow
- | **June Binnie** Sinfonia Finlandia
- | **Richard Buckley** Orquestra Sinfonica Portuguesa
- | **Jonathan Chapman** Freelancer
- | **Ruari Donaldson** Scottish Opera
- | **Alan Emslie** Baroque specialist
- | **Glynn Forrest** Freelancer
- | **James Gorman** Freelance
- | **Philip Hauge** Admiral Fallow
- | **Colin Hyson** Freelancer
- | **Calum Huggan** First British student accepted onto the Advanced Solo Marimba course at the Royal College of Music
- | **Tom Hunter** Freelancer, formerly Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra
- | **David Kerr** Composing Lecturer
- | **Alasdair Kelly** Bologna Opera
- | **David Lyons** BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

- | **Rory Neill** Freelancer
- | **Patrick Nolan** Freelancer
- | **Kate Openshaw** Camerata Ireland
- | **Louise Paterson** Real Orquestra Sinfonica de Sevilla
- | **John Poulter** Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- | **Gordon Rigby** BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- | **Chris Terian** Philharmonia
- | **Martin Willis** Scottish Ballet

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 application deadline is **1 October. 1 December** is for US applicants only.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Most auditions take place on campus, however we do offer some internationally. Please see [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk) for more details. You can also audition via a video recording, please see our website for what to prepare.

BMus

At the discretion of the audition panel, you may be asked:

- | to give a short sight-reading test
- | have a short interview

Applicants should demonstrate:

- | their ability in their Principal Study
- | knowledge of repertoire and aspects of performance practice
- | their dedication and professional aspirations

MMus/MA

Through audition, applicants will be required to demonstrate:

- | a high degree of technical competency on the instrument in the service of specific repertoire
- | an ability to demonstrate a considerable degree of understanding of the repertoire performed
- | an ability to perform specific repertoire convincingly
- | a considerable degree of self-confidence and creativity with respect to the repertoire performed
- | a degree of self-sufficiency, initiative and independence in selecting, preparing and performing a particular programme
- | a developing musical personality

Full details on the audition processes, including what students are required to prepare, are available at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

DID YOU KNOW?

Timpani and percussion students take part in three Symphony Orchestra concerts a year.

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

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

Contact us

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

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