



Royal Conservatoire  
*of Scotland*



**VOCAL STUDIES**

[rcs.ac.uk](http://rcs.ac.uk)

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

We want singers to fulfil their greatest potential and become versatile, independent artists.

We have strong industry partnerships with Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, National Opera Studio, Bayreuth Festival, British Youth Opera, and both the Samling and Britten Pears School, all of whom regularly visit RCS to audition our students for professional opportunities.

We will help you discover and develop your own unique voice and establish a lasting and individually tailored technique.

# Vocal Studies

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

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

You will have the chance to perform in main-stage operatic productions, choral works and specialist chamber groups, including the RCS Song Studio recital series, which is extremely popular with audiences and provides a fully professional outlet for this repertoire.

## Why choose us?

- | Two 45-minute, one-to-one singing lessons each week
- | Unique classes specifically on the basis of vocal technique
- | Students are taught how to understand the vocal mechanism
- | Imagination and artistry are seen as crucial components in the curriculum
- | Extensive choral and ensemble performance activity including RCS Voices, the RCS Chamber Choir and BBC Choir of the Year 2012, Les Sirenes
- | 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

**“...students clearly display levels of artistic development and performance maturity which are already well beyond the minimum acceptable threshold for professional viability.”**

(Specialist external assessor 2018)

## Your studies

Classes are offered in all the main languages and associated repertoire, such as Italian song, lieder and mélodie, with further classes for oratorio, opera, auditions, performance skills, Alexander Technique and vocal pedagogy.

In addition to the traditional methods of learning to sing, we are passionate about understanding the role that technology plays in enhancing your training - for instance, the use of spectrographic analysis and electroglottogram information.

Many of our students choose to progress through the BMus, MMus and then advanced MMus Opera route at RCS. The reputation of our graduates is second to none, with many receiving scholarships in other prestigious institutions overseas.



**“We prepare students for the real world of vocal performance.”**

Head of Vocal Studies: **Professor Stephen Robertson**

## Performance

Performance is at the heart of everything we do. We offer our students as many opportunities as possible, where they will participate in full operatic productions, festivals and concert performances. There is also an extensive choral programme with a variety of ensembles such as RCS Chamber Choir and RCS Voices.

Recent highlights include a performance of Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, broadcast live on Radio 3, as well as a large scale production of Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel* in collaboration with Scottish Opera and an international cast from Russia, Azerbaijan and Poland.

## Teaching staff

Many of our teachers have performed at major opera houses and have brought specialisms with them, including:

**Christina Dunwoodie, Stuart MacIntyre, Margaret Izatt, Scott Johnson, Helen Lawson, Wilma MacDougall, Elizabeth McCormack, Kathleen McKellar-Ferguson, Linda Ormiston, Iain Paton, Professor Stephen Robertson, Clare Shearer, Marilyn Smith, Julian Tovey and Professor Christopher Underwood.**

## Repertoire coaches

- | **Michael Bawtree**
- | **Julia Lynch**
- | **Robert Melling**
- | **Ingrid Sawers**
- | **Jonathon Swinard**
- | **Geoffrey Tanti**

## Language tutors

- | **Héloïse Bernard**
- | **Dr Ralph Strehle**
- | **Dr Elisabetta Toreno**
- | **Svetlana Zvereva**

## Movement and Acting

- | **Mark Hathaway**
- | **Nicolette Molnár**
- | **Choral Co-ordinator**
- | **James Slimings**

Recent masterclasses from industry professionals, visiting artists, and invited guests include:

**Sir Thomas Allen CBE, Andrea Baker, Barbara Bonney, Christine Brewer, Susan Bullock CBE, Karen Cargill, Jane Eaglen, Susan Graham, Dame Gwyneth Jones, Dame Felicity Lott, Patricia MacMahon, Malcolm Martineau, Lisa Milne, Ann-Helen Moen, Rosalind Plowright, John Treleaven and Roderick Williams.**



## Our graduates

Recent graduates have been offered places on the **Covent Garden Jette Parker** scheme, the **National Opera Studio**, the **Welsh International Academy of Voice**, the **International Opera Studio Staatsoper Berlin**, the **Salzburg Festival Young Singers Project**, **Opera Studio**, the **Bregenz Festival**, the **Verbier Academy**, as well as contracts in fully professional houses including: the **Royal Opera House**, **Staatsoper Berlin**, **Deutsche Oper Berlin**, **Vienna State Opera**, **English National Opera**, **Scottish Opera**, **Opera North**, **Welsh National Opera** and **Royal Opera Den Norske**.

## 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** and, for US applicants only, **1 December**.

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 at [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
- | for singers, the study of two foreign languages (German, French or Italian) is recommended

### 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)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Graduate and acclaimed opera singer, Karen Cargill returns to her roots to work with students in her role as Vocal Studies Associate Artist.**

## 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.

## 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.

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

Auditions may take place over two rounds. For the BMus programme, you should prepare three items, for example:

- | Any Italian Aria Antiche (e.g. from the volume entitled 24 Italian Songs and Arias, or similar) or a folk song
- | An art song
- | An aria from oratorio or opera

You may also be given sight-reading. The auditions may take place over two rounds.

### MMus/MA

You will be asked to perform a programme lasting 15 minutes which should include three or four contrasting items.

Full details on the audition processes are available at [rcs.ac.uk](https://www.rcs.ac.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Three alumni were finalists in the Cardiff Singer of the World competition 2017 - Catriona Morison, Anush Hovhannisyan and Dominic Barberi - with Catriona winning both the song prize and the overall competition first prize, becoming the first British singer to ever win the main prize. Svetlina Stoyanova won the prestigious German competition, Neue Stimmen, whilst still a student with 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](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk) and we will be happy to help you.

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