



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

STRINGS

rco.ac.uk

**LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
WE HELP
YOU FIND
YOUR UNIQUE
MUSICAL
VOICE**

The String department offers a flexible learning experience with outstanding opportunities to develop your existing musical passions and inspiration to explore new creative ideas.

Responding to the constantly changing wider cultural environment is now more important than ever. We support our students to reimagine their engagement with the world, such as the student-led video project “Under the Bridge” which brings together street art with Vivaldi under a flyover.

Strings

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

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

Study with us and benefit from many solo, chamber and orchestral performing opportunities. You may work alongside national orchestras including BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Scottish Opera and The Manchester Collective.

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 individual lesson on your principal study
- | Side-by-side chamber music opportunities with ensembles including Hebrides Ensemble, Moishé's Bagel, Red Note Ensemble, Daniel Pioro Studio Collective and the Brodsky Quartet
- | Our teaching focusses on integrating technique and creativity, musicality and theory - it's about 'head' and 'heart'
- | Classical and free improvisation are increasingly recognised as key to unlocking the music of the past as well the present. Students benefit from regular visits from David Dolan and Anto Pett and this approach underpins David Watkin's teaching of Bach across the department. Explore improvisation with people from other musical worlds including Jazz, or take a module in Traditional music
- | String students can work with the School of Drama to find new ways of embodying music in dance and ways of moving; new levels of expression, communication and projection



“Whatever your destination might be as a musician, creative adaptability will be essential. Whether your heart is set on solo, chamber, orchestral playing or pedagogy, you will encounter everything you need at RCS from early music to contemporary music and improvisation.”

Head of Strings: **Professor David Watkin**

Your studies

Your 90-minute individual principal study lesson is enhanced by regular masterclasses, performance classes and orchestral classes, all underpinned by regular, co-ordinated technique classes. Chamber music plays a central role in how we help you develop as a rounded musician.

Along with up-to-date approaches to learning and teaching - including video analysis, online peer assessment and mutually constructed feedback - our international team of teachers represent the major pedagogical traditions of Europe, Russia and the USA. Many of them are drawn to Glasgow as principal players in Scotland's world-renowned national companies.

Teaching staff

Associate Head of Strings

| **Hector Scott**

Visiting Professors

| **Pedro de Alcantara**

| **Professor Joseph Swensen** makes a unique contribution across silos, bringing not only violin teaching and chamber coaching but his knowledge of composing and conducting

Violin

| **William Chandler, Ruth Crouch, Francis Cummings, Tamás Fejes, Professor Andrea Gajic, Maya Iwabuchi, Gongbo Jiang, Greg Lawson, Daniel Pioro, Hector Scott, Angus Ramsay, Laura Samuel, Justine Watts, Bernard Docherty, Olivier Lemoine and Donald Grant**

Baroque Violin

| **Huw Daniel and Ruth Slater**

Viola

| **Dr Lev Atlas, Scott Dickinson, Duncan Ferguson, Sophie Renshaw and Jane Atkins**

Baroque Viola

| **Alfonso de Leal**

Violoncello

| **Robert Irvine, Aleksei Kiseliov, Martin Storey, Betsy Taylor, Professor David Watkin and Alison Wells**

Baroque Cello

| **Alison McGillivray and Professor David Watkin**

Double Bass

| **Tom Berry, Ana Cordova, Iain Crawford and Nikita Naumov**

Chamber Music coaches

| **David Watkin, Hector Scott, William Conway and Greg Lawson**

Recent masterclasses include; **Nicola Benedetti**, the **Brodsky Quartet**, **Paul Coletti**, **Professor David Dolan**, **Decoda**, **James Ehnes**, **David Geringas**, **Lutsia and Alina Ibragimova**, **Rinat Ibragimov**, **Steven Isserlis**, **Ralph Kirshbaum**, **Rachel Barton Pine**, **Henning Kraggerud**, **Graham Mitchel**, **Johannes Moser**, **Trio Apaches**, **Maxim Rysanov**, **Peter Salaff**, **Janet Sung** and **Raphael Wallfisch**.



DID YOU KNOW?

Strings students benefit from side-by-side chamber music opportunities with ensembles including Scottish Ensemble, Hebrides Ensemble and the Brodsky Quartet.

Our graduates

- | **David BaMaung** (Sub-Principal Viola City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra)
- | **Benedict Morris** (BBC Young Traditional Musician 2019)
- | **Javier Fernandez Diaz** (Profesor de Violin at Conservatorio Profesional "Garcia Matos" de Plasencia)
- | **Clara Hernandez** (Profesora de Violin at Conservatorio Profesional de Musica Esteban Sanchez de Merida)
- | **Jiří Kabat** (Professor of Viola at the Prague Conservatoire and member of Prague Philharmonic String Quartet)
- | **Katrina Lee** (Principal 2nd Violin, Scottish Ballet)
- | **Maxwell Quartet** (selected as Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Group)
- | **Wouter Raubenheimer** (Principal Viola, Stavanger Chamber Orchestra)
- | **Duncan Strachan** (Artistic Director of the Loch Shiel Festival)
- | **Erik Vardanyan** (Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, China)
- | **Veronika Vardpatrikyan** (Assistant Principal Viola, Yerevan Symphony Orchestra, Armenia)

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)

Auditions

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.

“Being in the string department family, feels like we’re growing up together, building each other up, being honest with our points of view. Seeing all the faces from the String Department in classes is the most precious thing ever.”

BMus student

“My old school definitely had a more ‘competitive’ atmosphere - at RCS everyone is super supportive. When I walk along the Strings corridor and hear someone practicing my piece, I feel I can knock and ask them what fingering they’re doing!”

MMus student

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 expert one-to-one tuition from RCS 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'll be happy to help you.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

100 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3DB

Telephone: +44 (0) 141 332 4101

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

 @RCStweets

 RCSofficial

 RCSofficial

 RCSofficial