



Royal Conservatoire  
*of Scotland*



**MA MUSICAL THEATRE**

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

**LIKE**

**NOWHERE ELSE:**

**EMPOWERING**

**THE INDIVIDUAL &**

**CELEBRATING THE**

**ENSEMBLE**

Whether you're looking to develop your skills, re-focus your career, or explore new creative opportunities, this dynamic postgraduate programme has been designed to celebrate what's individual about you and your artistic voice. Celebrating your creative self through collaborative small group projects and challenging ensemble work will help you find your place within an ever-changing industry.

The combination of intensive skills classes and creative performance projects on offer will ensure that you have the opportunity to develop in all areas of your practice. With an appreciation of your unique strengths and goals, you will feel empowered to engage - or re-engage - with industry, in an informed and sustainable way.

# MA Musical Theatre (Performance) or (Musical Directing) or (Choreography)

12 months, full-time  
[rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre](https://rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre)

All three pathways offer a blend of bespoke skills classes and creative projects. You'll be given opportunities to support, inform and lead in various capacities and both new and established work will be explored.

Students will work closely together as an ensemble, exploring their specialist pathways in studio-based and proto-professional environments. These could include public performances produced by the RCS Musical Theatre department and - for Musical Directors and Choreographers - the possibility of placements in other areas of the Conservatoire and/or beyond.

The year culminates in a sustained run of a fully-produced musical at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe: a once-in-a-lifetime student experience, where the knowledge and skills you develop during the programme will be shared with an international audience at the world's most famous arts festival.

## Why choose us

- | Full year of intensive training, supported by an experienced team of on-site professionals
- | Small class sizes with high contact time
- | One-to-one lessons in singing, repertoire and mentor sessions
- | Programme design that prioritises experiential learning and self-determined pathways
- | Support for new musical development with industry creatives and collaborative partners
- | Full production run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- | Regular contact with industry professionals and mentors
- | 83% of performance graduate respondents are in employment or further study (HESA, 18-19)
- | 100% of musical directing graduate respondents are in employment or further study (HESA, 18-19)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The new MA Musical Theatre Choreography pathway is the first of its kind being offered in the UK**



**“With a strong emphasis on celebrating your uniqueness as a creative artist; this programme is designed to support you in enhancing your skills and/or refocusing your career. This is an intensely practical course, offering opportunities to immerse yourself in a variety of performance projects, designed to empower both the individual and the ensemble.”**

Head of MA Musical Theatre: **Jane Hensey**

## Term one

**Performers:** A skills-focused term, with high-level classes in Acting, Voice, Singing and Dance, supplemented with Performance Classes and Artist in Development seminars, through which you'll be encouraged to set your own goals.

**Musical Directors:** A similar skills-focused term, with high-level classes in Keyboard, Conducting, Scoring and Arranging, Voice and Sound, with introductory sessions in Repertoire Coaching, facilitation of Performance classes and Artist in Development seminars. This will lead into the first project of the year which could include roles across either the MA Musical Theatre Seasonal Concert, the BA Musical Theatre studio production or the BA Acting Festive Shows.

**Choreographers:** Term one will focus on building the practical skills and knowledge vital to the role of the choreographer, with high-level classes in four main areas: Dance Skill, Choreographic Practices, Dance Pedagogy and Performer Anatomy. These will be supported with Artist in Development seminars. Towards the end of term one, a mentor will support you through the observation of rehearsals and production to develop a robust approach to the integration of skills. Students will develop an individual process for musical comprehension, notation, recording and mapping. Project options could include the MA Musical Theatre Seasonal Concert, the BA Acting Festive Shows or an industry placement.

## Term two

**Performers:** The integration of skills continues through project work. You'll work with both faculty and industry professionals on material from different styles/forms, with a focus on practice-based research and the rehearsal process. The development of new work may also be explored. Performance Classes and Artist in Development workshops continue, with an embedded focus on personal sustainability and well-being.

**Musical Directors:** The integration of core skills continues through project work. You'll work across different styles/forms, with a focus on exploring varying rehearsal environments and working with creative teams. There will be musical direction opportunities across the BA Musical Theatre production, the BA Musical Theatre Industry Showcase and the MA and BA company scenes. Skills classes, Repertoire Coaching sessions, Performance Classes and Artist in Development workshops will focus on personal sustainability and well-being.

**Choreographers:** You'll experience a variety of rehearsal processes and will assist across a range of projects or productions which could include the BA Musical Theatre production, the BA Musical Theatre Industry Showcase and MA and BA text, song and dance scenes. Artist in Development workshops will focus on personal sustainability and well-being. You will be progressing towards leading choreography sessions with a mentor by the end of the term, developing lesson plans and engaging in observed choreography sessions.



## Term three

**Performers:** In the third term, the focus begins to turn outwards to how you as individuals want to engage with audiences and industry professionals. There is space for the creation and rehearsal of solo cabaret performances and preparations begin for the term four Edinburgh musical performances. Professional practice will be developed through industry masterclasses and panel events.

**Musical Directors:** As with the performers, the third term begins to look outwards. There is space for a more creative and autonomous focus within skills, whilst musical directing opportunities include either projects within the cabaret season, the BA Musical Theatre mainstage production or BA new work modules. Preparations will begin for the Edinburgh performances in term four and professional practice will be developed through industry masterclasses and panel events.

**Choreographers:** You will be encouraged to explore and articulate your own unique style and to experiment with creative approaches to choreography. Project work will focus on the consolidation of choreographic skills, creating your own material and assisting across a range of projects. Options will include: the MA Musical Theatre Cabaret season, the BA Musical Theatre mainstage production, the new work module or an industry placement. Preparations will begin for the term four Edinburgh performance and professional practice will be developed through industry masterclasses and panel events.

## Term four

**All Pathways:** The final term culminates in the rehearsal and performance of a fully-realised musical at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, which will include all pathways (Performance, Musical Directing, Choreography) working very closely together.

This project is designed to replicate the demands of a professional experience of rehearsing and performing a musical over a sustained period of time.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**RCS has produced more than 40 productions at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 15 years - that's a lot of costume changes!**

# Professional Graduate Diploma in Musical Directing

10 months, full-time  
[rcs.ac.uk/PGdipMD](https://rcs.ac.uk/PGdipMD)



“The new Professional Graduate Diploma in Musical Directing bridges the gap leading to Masters level study, giving you a solid foundation of skills and plenty of opportunity to observe, assist and lead on a variety of projects.”

Associate Head of BA Musical Theatre and Musical Directing  
Pathway Supervisor: **David Higham**



This one-year programme aims to teach you the core skills and processes required to progress on to full-time Masters study.

Studying within our distinctive conservatoire environment will give you the opportunity to work closely with musical theatre performers, actors, musicians and artists from across RCS.

You will focus on the development of your skills with regular one-to-one lessons in Keyboard Skills, Scoring, Arranging and Conducting, while project workshops will provide the space and insight needed to explore all musical directing processes.

Opportunities to observe, assist and lead on projects will be explored. You will develop a solid foundation of skills, and the space and guidance needed to embody the many processes expected of an emerging Musical Director.



## Term one

The focus is on grounding your skills in each area. Personal development plans will be set for your individual learning and space and time will be provided to allow for significant development in the five key skills areas of Keyboard, Conducting, Scoring and Arranging, Voice and Sound.

## Term two

Legit musical theatre skills will allow a more specific book musical focus with importance being placed on the key aspects of the style, including classical piano technique, orchestral conducting technique and scoring and arranging support for a conventional orchestral texture. You will observe rehearsals and performances for the RCS Symphony Orchestra or Opera department, and weekly repertoire will be based in this book musical style.

## Term three

Focus shifts to the contemporary style of musical theatre including pop and rock repertoire. Keyboard skills will include time and chord reading while scoring and arranging will provide support for band and rhythm section charts. You will observe RCS jazz rehearsals and performances and have the opportunity to observe and participate in the MA Musical Theatre Cabaret performances.

## Project Preparation

Throughout the year there will be an ongoing series of mentor sessions exploring the many processes required of an emerging Musical Director. Led by the Programme Team Co-ordinator and external musical directors from across the UK, they will include:

- | Note-learning sessions
- | Vocal warm-ups
- | Band and orchestra calls
- | Rehearsal techniques
- | Rep session processes
- | Performance class and audition pianist experience
- | Creative team relationship etiquette
- | Author relationship etiquette
- | Communication and management skills

There will also be ample opportunity to observe and assist on many diverse and interesting projects within the Musical Theatre department and across all the varied disciplines taught at the RCS.



## Teaching staff

Our teaching staff are equipped with the experience, knowledge and skills to help you find your passion and work in the industry after graduating.

- | **Jane Hensey** Head of MA Musical Theatre and Acting Lecturer
- | **Gordon Adams** Programme Co-ordinator and Voice/Singing Lecturer
- | **David Higham** Associate Head of BA Musical Theatre and Musical Directing pathway supervisor
- | **Emily Reutlinger** Head of BA Musical Theatre and Artist in Development Lecturer
- | **Ruth Mills** Dance Lecturer and Choreography pathway supervisor
- | **Rowan MacGregor, Courtney Bailey Allan, Freya Jeffs, Dr Lucy Weir** Lecturers (Dance)
- | **Jean Sangster** Head of Voice and the Centre for Voice in Performance
- | **Bill Wright, Hilary Jones, Melanie Drake** Lecturers (Voice)
- | **Scott Harrison, Arlene Rolph, Claire Thomas, Marjory Watson** Lecturers (Singing)
- | **Pete Woollard, Hilary Brooks, Amy Shackcloth, Nick Finlow, Stuart Morley, Ted Arthur** Musical Director mentors
- | **Laura McIntosh, Pete Woollard** Keyboard Skills
- | **Richard Lewis, Andrew Nunn** Conducting
- | **Oli Searle, Stuart Morley** Scoring and Arranging
- | **Chris Pugh** Sound and Programming

## Our graduates

Graduates of the programme are working in London's West End, on Broadway, on international tours and for renowned companies around the world.

### Performance

- | **Charlotte Elisabeth Yorke** *Pretty Woman* (West End)
- | **Eu Jin Hwang** *The King and I* (National Tour)
- | **Isabella Ward** *West Side Story* (Steven Spielberg/Tony Kushner)
- | **Bethany Xan Jeffery** *Kinky Boots* (US National tour)
- | **George Arvidson** *Evita* (West End) and *Carousel* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- | **Rebecca Faulkenberry** *Rock of Ages*, *Spiderman* and *High School Musical* (Broadway)
- | **Keisha Fraser** *The Colour Purple* and *The Book of Mormon* (West End)
- | **Scott Garnham** *Les Misérables*, *I Can't Sing* (West End), *Billy Elliot* (National Tour)
- | **Aaron Lee Lambert** *Shrek*, *Urinetown* (West End), *Sister Act* (National Tour)
- | **Tom Mackley** *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (West End), *Sex Education* (Netflix Original), *Ghosts* (TV Series)
- | **John McLarnon** *We Will Rock You*, *The Commitments* (West End), *Apologia* and *Outlander*
- | **Sabrina Carter** *Wicked*, *The 39 Steps*, *Oliver* (West End)

### Musical Directing

- | **Amy Shackcloth** *Lion King*, *Company* (West End), *Pinocchio* and *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour* (National Theatre and NTS), *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (UK and National tours)
- | **Chris Poon** *Rent*, nominated 'Best Musical Director' for *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and *The Astonishing Times of Timothy Cratchit* (Hope Mill)
- | **Sarah De Tute** *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* (UK National Tour), *Assassins*, *Into the Woods* (RCS)
- | **Tamara Saringer** *Vanities the Musical*, *The Life* (West End), *Me and My Girl* (Chichester festival Theatre), *Wizard of Oz* (Leeds Playhouse)
- | **Gavin Whitworth** *Room* (Stratford East/NTS), *Glasgow Girls* (Pachamama/NTS) *London Road*, *Brigadoon*, *The Pajama Game* (RCS)
- | **Alan Bukowiecki** *The Book of Mormon* (Broadway), *Chicago* and *Hair* (US National tour)
- | **Andrea Grody** *The Band's Visit* (Broadway and US Tour)
- | **James Simpson** *Lion King* (Singapore), *Aladdin* (Australia) *Chicago* (Australia)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**We offer a Professional Graduate Diploma in Musical Directing to develop your skills and experience for entry onto an MA Musical Directing Programme**



## How to apply

UCAS institution code: **R58**

Course code: **MA Performance: 703F**

Course code: **MA Musical Directing: 702F**

Course code: **MA Choreography: 312F**

Course code: **PGDip Musical Directing: 705F**

Before you apply for the programme, please go to [rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre) to find out more about the programme and the application and admissions processes.

The application deadline is **31 March** for students who want to start in September of the same year.

All applications must be made through the UCAS Conservatoires online admissions service:

[ucas.com/conservatoires](https://ucas.com/conservatoires)

## Entry requirements

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

### Academic & language requirements

| Appropriate undergraduate degree

| Minimum IELTS Score of 7.5

(if English is not your first language)

For more specific entry 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), along with information on financial support and scholarships.

## Auditions

We want you to enjoy the audition process and use the opportunity to find out what life on the programme is really like. The audition is your chance to discover more about RCS and see if it is the right place for you.

Most auditions take place on campus in Glasgow, however we do offer some international auditions, or you can submit a recording. Full details of the audition process are available on the website at [rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/mamusicaltheatre)

## Short Courses

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

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

## Contact us

If you have any questions about your application to the MA or PGDip Musical Theatre programme, please contact us at [admissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk) and we'll be happy to help you.

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