



Royal Conservatoire  
*of Scotland*



Scottish  
Opera

OPERA

**OPERA**

[rccs.ac.uk/opera](https://rccs.ac.uk/opera)

LIKE  
NOWHERE ELSE:  
THE PERFECT  
COMBINATION  
OF MUSIC AND  
DRAMA

Choose to study Opera at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and you will be learning your craft in the only UK conservatoire to offer all of the performing arts within the one campus. You will benefit from studying alongside production artists, musicians, musical theatre performers and actors, as well as working directly with Scottish Opera through masterclasses and performances. These collaborative opportunities make studying opera here truly like nowhere else.

The Opera School has a reputation for producing high calibre graduates. Recent graduates include **Catriona Morison** (Cardiff Singer of the World winner, 2017), **Anush Hovhannisyan** (Cardiff Singer of the World finalist, 2017) **Svetlina Stoyanova** (Neue Stimmen winner, 2017) and the internationally-renowned mezzo soprano, **Karen Cargill**.

# Master of Music (Opera)

Two years, full-time  
[rcs.ac.uk/opera](https://rcs.ac.uk/opera)

## 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)
- | We have a close relationship with Scottish Opera, with students participating in workshops and collaborative projects, as well as accessing dress rehearsals throughout the year following Covid protocols. Many graduates have progressed to join Scottish Opera's prestigious Emerging Artists programme
- | 90 minutes of one-to-one vocal tuition per week
- | Acting classes throughout your studies which lead to a series of Opera Scenes in your first year
- | Intensive audition preparation where you will grow confident in auditioning for companies across the world
- | Regular one-to-one coaching sessions
- | Two fully-staged operas per year plus one chamber opera
- | All first year Opera students partake in a role study (normally a Mozart role)
- | Frequent visits from professional companies and agents including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Scottish Opera, Bayreuth Festival, Independent Opera, Garsington Opera, Clonter Opera, Berlin Opera Academy, British Youth Opera and Grange Park Opera
- | Links with the Royal Opera House, giving you access to stage rehearsals, workshops and coaching opportunities
- | Excellent record of student successes at international competitions including Cardiff Singer of the World, the Neue Stimmen and Clonter Opera prize

- | Opportunity to learn from guest coaches and directors from all over Europe; recent guests include **Seann Alderking, David Cowan, Joyce Fieldsend, Matteo Dalle Fratte, Gerhard Gall, David Gowland, Anthony Negus, Sonja Nerdrum, Rachel Nicholls, Ingrid Surgenor, Jonathon Swinard, Steven Maughan** and **Anthony Legge**



“At the Alexander Gibson Opera School, we aim to provide a greenhouse learning environment rather than a hothouse, designed to equip the young singer of today with the tools required to be a fully-rounded, professional opera performer.”

Head of Opera: **Philip White**

## Your studies

Your studies are built around a balanced combination of drama and music. In addition to vocal lessons, coaching and performance opportunities, you can expect to study a range of core skills in languages, French, German and Italian repertoire, and acting.

Acting is the ability to bring to life a character using a voice and a body at the service of the imagination. As a singer, you must work to release your body, free your speaking voice, and stimulate your imagination, so that, in performance, your entire being is telling a story. At the RCS, we see the development of acting skills as a fundamental part of a singer's learning, work that goes hand-in-hand with the development of the singing voice.

A varied programme of performance takes place throughout the year. Opera Scenes allow students to experience different repertoire and style, and to discover their own strengths and weaknesses. The second year production explores chamber opera repertoire, and the full-scale productions in the New Athenaeum Theatre provide opportunities to perform and collaborate with artists from across RCS and external visiting artists and directors.

Additionally, there are performance opportunities with Scottish Opera and regular concert series within RCS. Professional agents and opera companies are frequent visitors, ensuring the Opera School is a busy and vibrant place to learn.

You will also benefit from intensive audition preparation. We regularly invite guests to work with students to advise on current industry requirements, with students participating in mock auditions and receiving feedback on their performance and CVs. Recent guests include **Anthony Legge** (author of *The Art of Auditioning*), **Sarah Playfair** (Glyndebourne, Garsington), **Steve Phillips** (Company Manager, the Grange Festival) and representatives from Germany's opera agencies to give their unique industry insight.

## Guest artists

Guest directors and conductors work frequently within the Opera School and students benefit from their experience and expertise. Recent guests include **Christian Curnyn** and **David Roblou** (Baroque specialists), **Matthew Waldren**, **Lionel Friend**, **Anthony Kraus** and directors **James Bonas**, **Jack Furness**, **Caroline Clegg**, **Jamie Manton**, **Maxine Braham**, **Olivia Fuchs**, **William Relton**, **Ashley Dean**, **Harry Fehr**, **Matthew Eberhardt**, **Stephen Lawless**, **Keith Warner** and **Julia Hollander**.

There are many opportunities to participate in masterclasses. Recent masterclasses include **Susan Bullock CBE**, **Karen Cargill**, **Simon Keenlyside**, **Dame Gwyneth Jones**, **Dame Felicity Lott**, **Sir Thomas Allen**, **John Treleaven**, **Malcolm Martineau**, **Rosalind Plowright**, **Barbara Bonney**, **Roderick Williams**, **Jane Eaglen** and **Christine Brewer**. Several of these are regular guests, and not only work in the 'traditional' masterclass format, but also work with students in private sessions.

## MMus/MA Repetiteurship programme

Students on this programme will work and study as part of the internationally reputable Alexander Gibson Opera School, where you will learn and study all of the core and related skill sets: piano lessons, languages, coaching and continuo playing. A large part of your training will be in practical sessions, playing for classes, opera scenes rehearsals, full productions and, where appropriate, conducting.

For more programme information, please visit: [rcs.ac.uk/repetiteurship](https://rcs.ac.uk/repetiteurship)

## Teaching staff

- | **Philip White** Head of Opera
- | **Professor Stephen Robertson** Head of Vocal Performance
- | **Keith Warner** Associate Artist
- | **Mark Hathaway** Lecturer (Acting)
- | **Duncan Williams** Vocal Coach

### Voice Lecturers

- | **Scott Johnson**
- | **Helen Lawson**
- | **Wilma MacDougall**
- | **Stuart MacIntyre**
- | **Elizabeth McCormack**
- | **Kathleen McKellar-Ferguson**
- | **Linda Ormiston OBE**
- | **Iain Paton**
- | **Clare Shearer**
- | **Julian Tovey**

### Coaches

- | **Seann Alderking**
- | **Professor Timothy Dean**
- | **Joyce Fieldsend**
- | **David Gowland**
- | **Fiona MacSherry**
- | **Steven Maughan**

- | **Patricia MacMahon**
- | **Anthony Legge**
- | **Ingrid Surgenor**
- | **Language Coaches**
- | **Professor Christopher Underwood** French
- | **Héloïse Bernard** French
- | **Sonja Nerdrum** French
- | **Geoffrey Tanti** Italian
- | **Matteo Dalle Fratte** Italian
- | **Helen Lawson** German
- | **Gerhard Gall** German

## Our graduates

Recent graduates include:

- | **Rebecca Afonwy-Jones**
- | **Peter Auty**
- | **Dominic Barberi** Cardiff Singer of the World finalist, 2017
- | **Jeni Bern**
- | **Lee Bisset**
- | **Richard Burkhard**
- | **Karen Cargill**
- | **Michel de Souza**
- | **Anush Hovhannisyan** Cardiff Singer of the World finalist, 2017
- | **Lisa Milne**
- | **Catriona Morison** Cardiff Singer of the World winner, 2017
- | **Elin Pritchard**
- | **Jung Soo Yun**
- | **Svetlina Stoyanova** Neue Stimmen winner, 2017

## How to apply

Before you apply, please go to [rcs.ac.uk](https://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://rcs.ac.uk/apply)

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

Our institution code is **R58** and the programme code for UCAS is **851F**.

## 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

- | 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://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://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://rcs.ac.uk/fees) as well as information on financial support and scholarships.



## 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'll be happy to help you.

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