



ROYAL
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

MUSIC PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2025 - JULY 2026



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impression

Music at the Royal Hospital School
Programme designed and printed
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WELCOME TO MUSIC AT RHS

It is a great pleasure to introduce this year's RHS Music Programme: a rich and varied calendar that reflects the creativity, commitment and breadth of talent within our community. Music at RHS continues to flourish, rooted in tradition yet alive with innovation, and it remains a powerful way of bringing people together through shared experience.

This season offers an exciting blend of new ventures and much-loved highlights. Our three Gig Nights return, showcasing the contemporary talents of our pupils, while the Chapel Choir continues its proud tradition of singing in some of the country's most iconic sacred spaces, including St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Jesus College, Cambridge. We are also delighted to continue leading in organ education through our Royal College of Organists accreditation, with several study days on site and a new series of Sunday afternoon recitals. Visiting artists of the highest calibre will join us once again: Adrian Cox, one of the UK's foremost jazz clarinetists, collaborates with our Big Band in November, and Griff Rhys Jones brings his captivating one-man show *The Cat's Pyjamas* to our stage. Our links with the wider community remain strong, with *Sing Up! Suffolk* returning to welcome over 700 children from schools across the county.

November brings our school production of the universally beloved *Les Misérables*, sure to be a landmark in this year's cultural life at RHS. In

May, the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood joins forces with our own Band for a spectacular concert and Sunset Ceremony. The Band has also received the honour of another invitation to the Lord Mayor's Show, representing the school with pride on the national stage. Throughout the year, pupils will benefit from masterclasses with leading artists and composers. March sees *A Night at the Opera*, featuring iconic scenes from much-loved works, alongside the return of the Charity Gala Concert in support of the RHS Centennial Bursary Campaign. Our scholars continue to shine, with Sofia Usmanova performing a piano concerto with the Wolsey Orchestra in May – a remarkable achievement.

The year concludes with an ambitious summer concert presenting Mozart's *Requiem* alongside Orff's *Carmina Burana*: a fitting climax to a season of extraordinary music-making. Many of these performances will take place in the newly refurbished Assembly Hall, breathing new life into one of our most cherished venues. Alongside these major events, our regular musical fixtures remain at the heart of school life – the Scholars' Concert, Christmas Concert, Notes & Nibbles, Divisions, Sunset Ceremonies and the weekly life of the Chapel – each one a showcase of our pupils' exceptional talent and the dedication of our staff.

I warmly invite you to join us throughout the year. Whether you are a regular concert-goer, a supporter of the arts or simply curious to discover the power of live performance, I hope you will find something here to inspire. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an outstanding year of music at RHS.

Irfan H Latif, FRSA
Headmaster

SEASON AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2025

	PAGE
Monday 15 1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles	9
Saturday 20 2-5.30pm	
RCO Study Day & Organ Recital with Claudia Grinnell	9

OCTOBER 2025

Saturday 4 7pm	
Gig Night I	10
Wednesday 8 5pm	
Annual National Seafarers' Service, St Paul's Cathedral, London	10
Friday 10 7.30pm	
Griff Rhys Jones: <i>The Cat's Pyjamas</i>	11
Saturday 11 10.30am	
Harvest Festival Service and Divisions	11
Sunday 12 4.30pm	
Grand Organ Recital with James Davy	11
Monday 13 1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles	13
Wednesday 15 5.30pm	
Choral Evensong	13

NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 8 11am	
Lord Mayor's Show	14
Sunday 9 9.45am & 11.45am	
Remembrance Service and Divisions	14
Thursday 13 9.30am-2.15pm	
Sing Up! Suffolk with Dominic Ellis-Peckham	14
Thursday 13 7-9pm	
Piano Masterclass with Nicola Eimer	15

Friday 14 7pm	
Adrian Cox and the Chris Ingham Quartet featuring the RHS Big Band	16
Saturday 15 3pm	
Come and Sing Musicals with Sue Double and the Reade Ensemble	16
Monday 17 1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles	17
Sunday 23 4.30pm	
Grand Organ Recital with Edward Allen	17
Wednesday 26 - Saturday 29 7.30pm	
<i>Les Misérables</i>	18
Friday 28 4.30pm	
A service of music and readings for Advent	17

DECEMBER 2025

Monday 1 7pm	
Admiralty Carol Service	20
Saturday 6 7pm	
Christmas Concert, <i>Gloria!</i>	21
Monday 8 7pm	
Christmas Nocturnal Notes & Nibbles	20
Wednesday 10 7.30pm	
Carols by Candlelight	21
Friday 12 2.45pm	
School Christmas Carol Service	21
Wednesday 24 5pm & 11.30pm	
Christmas Eve Services	21

2025 - 2026

JANUARY 2026

Tuesday 13	4.30pm	
English Song Festival		22
Monday 19	1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles		22
Sunday 25	4.30pm	
Grand Organ Recital with James Davy		22
Friday 30	7pm	
Scholars' Concert		22

FEBRUARY 2026

Thursday 5	5.45pm	
Choral Evensong, Ipswich Minster		22
Saturday 7	7pm	
Gig Night II		22

MARCH 2026

Friday 6	7pm	
A Night at the Opera		23
Monday 9	1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles		23
Thursday 12	7-9pm	
Composition Masterclass with TRIPTYCH		23
Sunday 15	4.30pm	
Grand Organ Recital with David Poulter		23
Tuesday 17	6.30pm	
Choral Evensong, The Chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge		23
Friday 20	7pm	
Charity Gala Concert		25
Saturday 21	10.30am	
Founders' Day Service & Divisions		25
Friday 27	2.30pm	
The Way of the Cross (Easter Service) and Divisions		25

APRIL 2026

Monday 27	1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles		25

MAY 2026

Sunday 3	4.30pm	
Grand Organ Recital with Peter Crompton, RHS Organist Emeritus		27
Tuesday 5	7-9pm	
Vocal Masterclass with Alastair Brookshaw		27
Thursday 7	7pm	
Joint concert with the Bands of HM Royal Marines Collingwood and RHS		28
Saturday 16	7.30pm	
Summer Concert - Wolsey Orchestra		30
Saturday 16	Morning	
RHS Band performs at the Hadleigh Show		31
Monday 18	1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles		31

JUNE 2026

Saturday 13	2-5.30pm	
RCO Study Day & Organ Recital with Benjamin Sheen		32
Saturday 20	7pm	
Summer Concert		33
Sunday 21	11am	
Leavers' Songs of Praise Service and Divisions		36
Monday 22	1.30pm	
Notes & Nibbles		36
Saturday 27	7pm	
Gig Night III		35

JULY 2026

Saturday 4	12pm	
Speech Day Divisions		36

MUSIC AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

Set in 200 acres of stunning Suffolk countryside overlooking the River Stour, the Royal Hospital School is a thriving co-educational boarding and day school for 11 to 18 year olds. The school has a long tradition of musical excellence, enhanced by a Music School opened by the school's music patron, John Rutter, in 2008.

“ This is one of the finest music facilities I have ever seen. It will make a perfect home for the flourishing musical activities. ”

JOHN RUTTER



A CENTRE FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Recent years have seen significant investment in facilities and resources across the Music Department. A £250,000 programme has provided Bechstein pianos throughout the school, alongside a stunning Fazioli grand piano for the Recital Hall. A complete suite of orchestral percussion has also been acquired, reflecting the school's continued commitment to nurturing and enriching musical opportunity for all pupils.

Alongside this investment, the department offers a vibrant and diverse musical programme, spanning classical, contemporary, choral, and popular music. From symphonic repertoire and



cathedral-style choral singing to three sell-out Gig Nights each year, music at the Royal Hospital School is alive with energy and ambition.

Adjacent to the Music School stands the magnificent 1930s Chapel, built to cathedral proportions and seating over 1,000. It is home to two celebrated instruments: a four-manual “romantic” organ and a smaller two-manual “classical” organ, both of which are regularly used in performance and teaching.

THE CHAPEL CHOIR

Chapel services at the Royal Hospital School are a cherished part of school life, and the distinctive “Holbrook Sound” of communal singing in this magnificent space is truly special. At the heart of this tradition is the Chapel Choir, a highly respected ensemble that plays a key role in the musical and spiritual life of the school. The choir performs regularly at major London venues such as St Paul’s Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields, and has toured widely abroad, with past destinations including Rome, New York and Washington DC. Last year, the choir toured Canada jointly with the School Band, performing in Montréal and Toronto.

SCHOOL BAND

The School Band is a flagship ensemble of the Music Department, known not only for its exceptional musical standards but also for its unique ceremonial role within school life. It plays a central part in the school’s parades (Divisions) and sunset ceremonies and has appeared at high-profile national events, including a recent performance on board HMS Diamond as part of

HM The King’s Coronation and in the Lord Mayor’s Show in London. The Band has recorded several CDs and toured internationally, including joint tours with the Chapel Choir to Washington DC, Montréal, and Toronto.

HOLBROOK CHORAL SOCIETY

The Holbrook Choral Society, based at the Royal Hospital School for nearly 40 years, offers a valued link between the school and the wider community. It welcomes pupils, parents, staff, and local singers, and regularly presents major choral works with professional orchestras and soloists. Past repertoire includes Handel’s *Messiah*, Fauré’s *Requiem*, Elgar’s *The Dream of Gerontius*, Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem*, and Rutter’s *Magnificat* and *Requiem*. New members are always welcome!

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music Scholarships are offered annually to pupils who show musical potential and commitment. Prospective candidates are warmly encouraged to visit the school informally and arrange a meeting with the Director of Music, who can provide further details.



“

Music is at the heart of life at the Royal Hospital School, and we are proud to uphold and build upon a rich musical tradition. Our team of dedicated and talented musicians offers an exceptional education that inspires pupils to achieve at the highest level. I warmly invite you to visit us, see our music-making in action, and experience for yourself what makes this such a remarkable place for young musicians to thrive.

”

Edward Allen - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MEMBERSHIP

BECOME A FRIEND OF MUSIC

By joining Friends of Music you can help us ensure that music remains a source of joy and inspiration for the Royal Hospital School and the communities we serve. Your support also gives young musicians the confidence to succeed, new instruments, and life-changing opportunities through bursaries and scholarships.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

STANDARD MEMBER

£2.50 per month or an annual donation of £30 or above

- Two complimentary tickets to two Notes & Nibbles lunchtime concerts per annum
- Two invitations to a VIP champagne reception before selected events
- Copy of the annual music programme and regular updates from the Music School

SILVER MEMBER

£20 per month or an annual donation of £250 or above

- Name on the Friends of Music Roll of Honour in the Reade Music School
- Two complimentary tickets to all Notes & Nibbles lunchtime concerts and other selected events at the school
- Three invitations to a VIP champagne reception before selected events
- Two interval drinks at music events (event tickets should be purchased unless complimentary)
- Copy of the annual music programme and regular updates from the Music School

GOLD MEMBER

£80 per month or an annual donation of £1,000 or above

- Name on the Friends of Music Roll of Honour in the Reade Music School
- Up to six complimentary tickets to all music events at the Royal Hospital School with interval drinks
- Up to six invitations to a VIP champagne reception before selected events
- You will receive complimentary reserved seating at school events
- Copy of the annual music programme and regular updates from the Music School

PLATINUM MEMBER

Donations of £10,000+


- Name on the Friends of Music Roll of Honour in the Reade Music School and other naming opportunities befitting a major donor of the school
- Complimentary tickets to all music events at the Royal Hospital School with interval drinks
- Invitations to all VIP champagne receptions before events
- Opportunity to address the audience prior to events
- Free full page advertisement or feature in the music programme
- You will receive complimentary reserved seating at school and national events
- Copy of the annual music programme and regular updates from the Music School

You can join today online at
www.royalhospitalschool.org/friendsofmusic
or call the Music School on 01473 326222.

MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music. Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 Burns Recital Hall

 1.30pm  £8

 Around Chapel



Photo Credit: Tom Soper Photography



SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER RCO Study Day & Organ Recital

with Claudia Grinnell

Stops and Spotlights

Join us for two afternoon workshops exploring the art of console management and transcriptions.

2pm Workshop 1: Make the Console Work for You. How can you make the most of your practice time when playing on an unfamiliar instrument? This practical session offers tips and strategies to help organists feel more confident and prepared at a new console.


3pm Workshop 2: Play to the Crowd – Discovering the Music of the Theatre. Explore the expressive and crowd-pleasing potential of the organ through music beyond the traditional canon. In this session, participants are invited to bring transcriptions of opera, film or other

popular music, or even piano scores, to explore their theatrical side at the console.

4pm: Refreshments

4.30pm: Organ Recital by Claudia Grinnell to include music by Verdi, Mason, Elgar and Bach.

Claudia Grinnell began learning the organ at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton before reading Music at the University of Cambridge, where she was Organ Scholar at Peterhouse. After a year at Salisbury Cathedral, she spent seven years on the music staff at Winchester Cathedral, latterly as Sub-Organist, with particular responsibility for the Girls' Choir. She was appointed Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in 2024, becoming the first woman to hold the post.

 Chapel  2-5.30pm  Participants £20/Observers £15/Recital Only £10

 Around Chapel


OCTOBER




SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

Gig Night 1

RHS Gig Nights have become a highlight event in the musical year. Join us in the newly refurbished Assembly Hall for an evening of first-rate entertainment. From solo ballads to full-scale rock bands, there's certain to be something you'll enjoy!

 **Assembly Hall**

 **7pm, pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm**



 **£10 / Free**

 **Parade Ground**



RHS Out & About

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

 **St Paul's Cathedral, London**  **5pm**

Annual National Service for Seafarers St Paul's Cathedral, London

The Annual National Service for Seafarers is held to commemorate and celebrate seafarers from across the maritime industry and is always well-attended by seafaring professionals, as well as pupils from the many nautical schools and colleges around the country.

Entry by ticket only www.stpauls.co.uk

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER
Griff Rhys Jones:
The Cat's Pyjamas

Fiery Entertainment by arrangement with YMU presents Griff Rhys Jones: *The Cat's Pyjamas*.

Griff Rhys Jones is back on the road with the second tour of his much-anticipated brand-new stand-up show, following a hugely successful run last year.

Join Griff as he shares more funny observations and comic stories. The show always varies as Griff rambles on the developing national permacrisis. Age. Family. Fraud. Nostalgia. The TikTok generation. Crocodile smuggling and noodling in Australia. Travel, dogs, hotels, drink and midnight trains. He takes questions from the audience and lets rip as his associations wander. *The Cat's Pyjamas* follows Griff's last hugely successful international tour, *All Over The Place*, which saw him play to capacity crowds across the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Away from the stage, Griff is best known for his countless TV appearances, including as the

A Assembly Hall

J 7.30pm

£ £30

P Parade Ground



star of ten series of *Smith & Jones* and one quarter of the ground-breaking *Not The Nine*

O'Clock News, whilst his multiple documentary series have been critically acclaimed ratings hits.

Age guidance: 14+

All proceeds raised from this charity event will be supporting:

- Stutton Primary School - Nature Project
- St Mary's Church, East Bergholt - Restoration Project
- Hft - Supporting adults with learning disabilities

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER
Harvest Festival Service & Divisions

Members of the public are warmly invited to watch Divisions. This spectacle is an important part of the School's heritage and a recognition of our links with our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital. See page 39 for more details.

A School Chapel **J** 10.30am **P** Boarding Houses



SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER
Grand Organ Recital

James Davy, RHS School Organist, gives an afternoon recital on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School.

A School Chapel

J 4.30pm **£** £10

P Around Chapel



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

The RHS Futures and Alumni Office and The Royal Hospital School Association work together to help to provide opportunities to **connect** and develop relationships, **inspire** the next generation and **belong** to a global community. We offer a diverse range of events throughout the year including professional networking, reunions and opportunities to come together.



CONNECT • **INSPIRE** • **BELONG**
WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/ALUMNI

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 **Burns Recital Hall**
 **1.30pm**  **£8**  **Around Chapel**



WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

Choral Evensong

Join us for a reflective and uplifting evening as the Chapel Choir sings Choral Evensong in the beautiful surroundings of the school chapel. This timeless service, rich in music and tradition, offers

a moment of stillness and beauty at the close of the day. Stay afterwards for a glass of wine and nibbles, and enjoy the opportunity to catch up with friends and fellow music lovers.

 **Chapel**  **5.30pm**  **Free**  **Around Chapel**

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

NOVEMBER

RHS Out & About

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER **Lord Mayor's Show**

The Band and Corps of Drums Display Team are proud to have been invited to perform once again at this year's Lord Mayor's Show. Come and support them as they march in the Grand Procession, departing from Mansion House at 11am.

For more information visit:
www.lordmayorsshow.london

📍 **Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice, London** 🕒 **11am**



SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER **Remembrance Service & Divisions**

Members of the public are invited to watch Divisions. This spectacle is an important part of the School's heritage and a recognition of our links with our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital. See page 39 for more details.

📍 **Parade Ground & Chapel** 🕒 **9.45am Service, 11am Divisions, 11.45am Service**



Educational Event

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER **Sing Up! Suffolk**

with Dominic Ellis-Peckham

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are warmly invited to join us for *Sing Up! Suffolk* - an exciting, energy-filled day of singing led by the hugely charismatic choral leader Dominic Ellis-Peckham.

This inspirational event promises a memorable experience for both pupils and staff, packed with vocal exploration, creativity and fun. Dominic's engaging workshops create a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere, encouraging young singers to listen, connect and discover the many joys of ensemble singing. The day is fully funded by the Royal Hospital School and free to attend.

For further information or to make an enquiry, please contact the Music School:
music@royalhospitalschool.org

📍 **Assembly Hall** 🕒 **9.30am-2.15pm**

£ **Free** 📍 **Parade Ground**

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41



Educational Event

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER

Piano Masterclass with Nicola Eimer

British pianist Nicola Eimer is a graduate of the Juilliard School and a prizewinner at the Dudley, John Lill, and Royal Over-Seas League competitions. She has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe, America and Asia, appearing at venues such as Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, St John's Smith Square, and the Purcell Room. She is a regular performer for the London Chopin Society and has featured on the Tillett Trust Young Artists' Platform.

Nicola is an experienced chamber musician and collaborative pianist, having worked with renowned artists including Adolfo Gutiérrez Arenas, Fenella Humphreys and Maria Wloszczowska. She has been an official accompanist for the Menuhin and Hastings international competitions, and is a regular pianist at IMS Prussia Cove. Nicola teaches at the Royal Academy of Music and was recently appointed specialist piano tutor on the Academy's LRAM course.

📍 Burns Recital Hall ⌚ 7-9pm 💷 Free 📍 Around Chapel

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

NOVEMBER







FRIDAY
14 NOVEMBER

Adrian Cox and the Chris Ingham Quartet featuring the RHS Big Band

Adrian Cox, arguably the UK's leading New Orleans-style clarinettist, began playing at the age of six and was performing professionally by the time he was fifteen. His early career saw him gigging not only in jazz, but also in blues, funk and ska, collaborating with artists such as Paloma Faith, Maceo Parker and ska legends Bad Manners. However, his love of jazz eventually led him to Kansas Smitty's, the UK-based jazz collective led by American saxophonist Giacomo Smith. The group's popularity earned them the title "London's New Swing Princes" from the *Evening Standard*, and they were invited to perform with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in both London and New York.

Join Adrian, the Chris Ingham Quartet, the RHS Big Band, and guest singers from RHS's own "Rat Pack" for an evening of swinging entertainment and fun.

 Burns Recital Hall  *7pm  £ £18/£15/Free
*pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm
 Parade Ground



SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER

Come and Sing Musicals

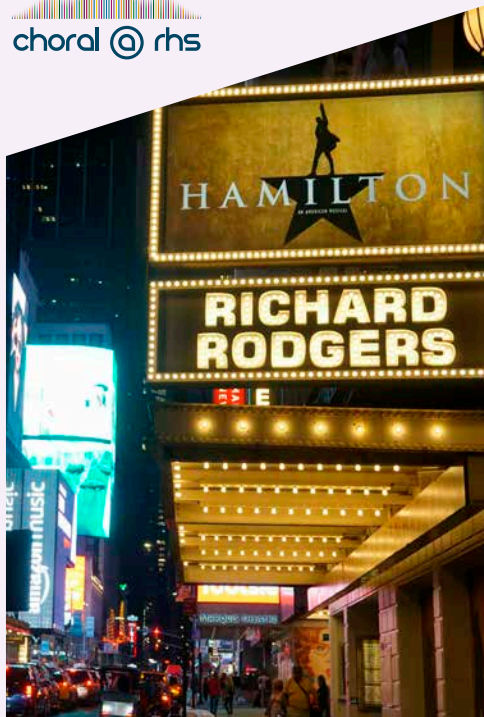
with Sue Double and the Reade Ensemble

Join us for *Come and Sing Musicals* and enjoy an uplifting afternoon filled with the magic of Broadway and the West End. From powerful ballads to high-energy showstoppers, you'll sing along to some of the most iconic numbers from musical theatre. Whether you're a confident performer or just love to sing in the shower, this lively session is a joyful celebration of music, community and shared enthusiasm. Don't miss the chance to let your inner star shine and make lasting memories with fellow music lovers.

A fun event for all the family!

 Burns Recital Hall  3pm

 £ £7.50  Parade Ground



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 **Burns Recital Hall**

 **1.30pm**  **£8**  **Around Chapel**



SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER

Grand Organ Recital

Edward Allen, RHS Director of Music, gives an afternoon recital on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School.

 **School Chapel**

 **4.30pm**

 **£10**

 **Around Chapel**



FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

A service of music and readings for Advent

 **Chapel**  **4.30pm**



Les Mis



A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and

School Edition special adaptation licensed by MUSIC THEATRE INT

sérables

Performed entirely by students

SCHOOL EDITION

Wednesday 26 November at 7.30pm

Thursday 27 November at 7.30pm

Friday 28 November at 7.30pm

Saturday 29 November at 7.30pm (*Gala Performance*)

*Tickets: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – £15 (£12 concessions)
Saturday Gala Performance – £20 (including pre-show drink)*

ASSEMBLY HALL

Performed by a cast of over 60 pupils and accompanied by a 20-piece live orchestra in the newly refurbished RHS Assembly Hall, Victor Hugo's timeless tale of redemption and revolution comes to life in *Les Misérables (School Edition)*. Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, it follows ex-convict Jean Valjean as he seeks a new life while being relentlessly pursued by Inspector Javert.

With unforgettable characters and iconic songs, including *I Dreamed a Dream*, *On My Own*, *Empty Chairs at Empty Tables*, and *Do You Hear the People Sing?*, this powerful and spectacular production captures the heart and soul of one of the greatest musicals ever written.

by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG
INTERNATIONAL and CAMERON MACKINTOSH (OVERSEAS) LIMITED

DECEMBER



RHS Out & About

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

Admiralty Carol Service

Members of the Chapel Choir will be singing at the annual Admiralty Carol Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

 **St Martin-in-the-Fields, London**  **7pm**

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

Christmas Nocturnal Notes & Nibbles

Join us for a glass of bubbly, some tasty canapés and a brilliant evening of Christmas-themed performances from some of RHS's most talented young musicians.

 **Burns Recital Hall**

 **7pm (drinks and canapés from 6.30pm in the Music School)**

 **£8**  **Around Chapel**



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER Christmas Concert *Gloria!*

Holbrook Choral Society
RHS Chapel Choir
RHS Chamber Choir
Reade Ensemble



Vivaldi's *Gloria* is one of the most enduringly popular works of the Baroque period, known for its vibrant choral writing and joyful character. Setting the words of the *Gloria* from the Latin Mass, it moves between exuberance and serenity with remarkable flair – from the jubilant opening *Gloria in excelsis Deo* to the lyrical beauty of *Domine Deus* and the gentle poignancy of *Et in terra pax*. Full of festive spirit and expressive contrast, it remains a favourite in the Christmas choral repertoire.

The second half of the concert will consist of some of your festive favourites, with numerous sing-along carols and a delightful array of joyful works interspersed with some much-loved Christmastide readings.

Chapel *7pm

£15/£12/Free Parade Ground

*Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm



WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER Carols by Candlelight

Admissions Event

Experience the magic of an RHS Christmas at *Carols by Candlelight* – a special festive service hosted by the Admissions Department. Set in the candlelit chapel and based on the school's traditional end-of-term carol service, the evening features beautiful music from the Chapel Choir, joined by pupils from Holbrook and Stutton Primary Schools. With traditional readings, congregational carols and seasonal refreshments, this is a wonderful opportunity for prospective families and the local community to enjoy the warmth and spirit of the Royal Hospital School at Christmas.

Chapel 7.30pm Parade Ground

Welcome drinks from 7pm in the Music School



FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER School Christmas Carol Service

Chapel 2.45pm

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER Christmas Eve Services 5pm - Family Carol Service

A joyful celebration for all ages, with congregational carols, traditional Christmas readings, and a fun retelling of the Nativity story performed by members of staff.

11.30pm - The First Communion of Christmas

A traditional service of Holy Communion to welcome Christmas Day, with carols, candlelight and a short sermon.

All are welcome.

Chapel 5pm & 11.30pm

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY


English Song Festival

A vocal showcase drawing from the great English Song repertoire spanning over 300 years. Many of the singers at RHS will not have the chance to perform as a soloist outside their lessons and exams, and this is an occasion for them to share their talent.

 **Burns Recital Hall**

 **4.30pm**

 **£5/Free**

 **Around Chapel**



MONDAY

19 JANUARY

Notes & Nibbles

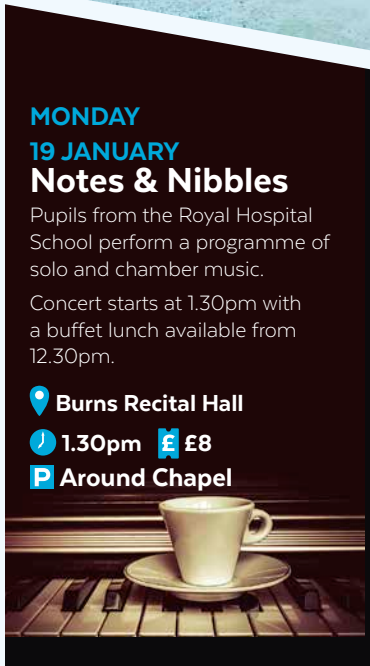
Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 **Burns Recital Hall**

 **1.30pm**  **£8**

 **Around Chapel**



SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

Grand Organ Recital

James Davy, RHS School Organist, gives an afternoon recital on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School.

 **School Chapel**  **4.30pm**

 **£10**  **Around Chapel**



FRIDAY 30 JANUARY

Scholars' Concert

A highlight of the musical year, this concert showcases the exceptional talent of our music scholars. Featuring a rich and varied programme of solo and ensemble performances, the evening promises a memorable musical experience in the intimate setting of the acoustically designed Burns Recital Hall.

 **Burns Recital Hall**  ***7pm**

 **£7.50/Free**  **Parade Ground**

***Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm**

RHS Out & About

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY

Choral Evensong, Ipswich Minster

The Chamber Choir and senior members of the Chapel Choir sing a service of Choral Evensong at Ipswich Minster.

 **Ipswich Minster**

 **5.45pm**



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41



SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY Gig Night II

RHS Gig Nights are a vibrant celebration of pupil talent, and we're delighted to be hosting another evening of live music. Expect a lively mix of solos, duets and bands, with a setlist guaranteed to get you dancing.

Assembly Hall

***7pm**

£10/Free

Parade Ground

*Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm

MONDAY 9 MARCH Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

Burns Assembly Hall **1.30pm**

£8 **Parade Ground**



FRIDAY 6 MARCH

A Night at the Opera

Join us for an evening of drama, passion and unforgettable melodies as scenes from some of the world's best-loved operas are brought to life on the RHS stage. Featuring soloists from the school's vocal elite and stirring choruses from the RHS Chapel Choir and Holbrook Choral Society, this is a concert guaranteed to hit all the high notes.



Burns Recital Hall ***7pm** **£15/£12/Free** **Parade Ground**

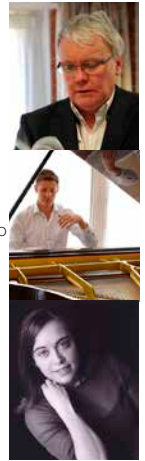
*Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm

Educational Event

THURSDAY 12 MARCH

Composition Masterclass with TRIPTYCH

Following an afternoon of creative workshops with GCSE and A-Level Music pupils, TRIPTYCH – the acclaimed ensemble featuring Jeffery Wilson (clarinet/saxophone), Christopher Weston (piano) and Catherine May (soprano) – returns for an inspiring evening masterclass. This session offers a unique opportunity to hear pupil compositions brought to life and developed in real time by three outstanding professional musicians, each with a wealth of composing, performing and teaching experience. All are warmly invited to attend and support our young composers in this celebration of creativity and collaboration.



Burns Recital Hall **7-9pm** **£ Free**

Around Chapel

SUNDAY 15 MARCH

Grand Organ Recital

David Poulter, Director of Music at St Vigor's Church, Fulbourn, gives an afternoon recital on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School.



School Chapel **4.30pm** **£10** **Parade Ground**

RHS Out & About

TUESDAY 17 MARCH Choral Evensong

The Chamber Choir joins forces with the Chapel Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge, to sing a service of Choral Evensong.



The Chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge
6.30pm





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FRIDAY 20 MARCH Charity Gala Concert

Chapel Choir | Chamber Choir | Concert Band |
Corps of Drums Display Team | Big Band |
String, Brass and Saxophone Ensembles |
Symphony Orchestra

The Royal Hospital School's Charity Gala Concert has become one of the standout events of the year, celebrating the school's outstanding musical talent and rich ensemble tradition. Audiences can look forward to a varied and dynamic programme performed by a wide range of ensembles in the vibrant setting of the newly refurbished Assembly Hall.

Guests are invited to enjoy the concert from reserved tables of eight, with a bar available throughout the evening and food available to pre-order. Traditional row seating will also be available at the rear of the hall and in the balcony.



All proceeds will support the Centennial Bursary Campaign.
Kindly sponsored by Mansion House Publishing.

📍 **Assembly Hall** ⌚ ***7pm** 💷 **£15/£12/Free** 🅑 **Parade Ground**

*Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm



MansionHousePublishing

SATURDAY 21 MARCH Founders' Day Service & Divisions

Members of the public are warmly invited to watch Divisions. This spectacle is an important part of the school's heritage and a recognition of our links with our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital. See page 39 for more details

📍 **Chapel** ⌚ **10.30am** 🅑 **Boarding Houses**

FRIDAY 27 MARCH The Way of the Cross (Easter Service) & Divisions

See page 39 for more details

📍 **Chapel** ⌚ **2.30pm**

🅑 **Boarding Houses**

MONDAY 27 APRIL Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

📍 **Burns Recital Hall** ⌚ **1.30pm** 💷 **£8**

🅑 **Around Chapel**



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41

The Community and Alumni Office and The Royal Hospital School Association work together to help to provide opportunities to **connect** and develop relationships, **inspire** the next generation and **belong** to a global community. We offer a diverse range of events throughout the year including professional networking, reunions and opportunities to come together.



Head of Community and Alumni Relations
Lauren Bayliss-Fuller:
lbyliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org

RHSA Vice President
Monty Callow:
mcallow@royalhospitalschool.org



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SUNDAY 3 MAY

Grand Organ Recital

Peter Crompton, RHS Organist Emeritus, gives an afternoon recital on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School.

 School Chapel

 4.30pm

 £10

 Around Chapel



Educational Event

TUESDAY 5 MAY

Vocal Masterclass

With Alastair Brookshaw.

Alastair Brookshaw is a versatile West End performer and vocalist whose career spans musical theatre, concert solo work and film soundtracks. He began his musical journey as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, later becoming a choral scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, before training at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Alastair has appeared in acclaimed productions such as *Parade*, *She Loves Me*, *Chicago* and *Caroline, or Change*, and has performed as a soloist at venues including the Royal Albert Hall and the Coliseum. Alongside his stage work, he continues to sing with many of the UK's leading choirs and has recorded as a soloist and backing vocalist across a wide range of genres.

 Burns Recital Hall  7-9pm  Free  Around Chapel



THURSDAY 7 MAY

Joint concert with the Bands of HM Royal Marines Collingwood and RHS

Subject to confirmation with the Royal Marines Band Service

We are delighted to welcome back the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood for a spectacular evening of music-making, following the disappointment of last year's cancelled event due to operational commitments. This much-anticipated concert will feature a thrilling joint performance with the RHS Band, showcasing the precision, versatility and world-class musicianship for which the Royal Marines are renowned.

The evening will conclude with a stirring outdoor performance of *Sunset* on the Parade Ground, featuring the combined bands and the school's Ceremonial Guard – a powerful display of musical pageantry and tradition.

There will be an opportunity to support the work of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).

Kindly sponsored by the Royal Hospital School Association

 **Assembly Hall**  ***7pm**  **Free**

 **Parade Ground** *Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm



HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41



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SATURDAY 16 MAY

Summer Concert – Wolsey Orchestra

Following their hugely successful performances last year, the Wolsey Orchestra returns to the Royal Hospital School for an evening of uplifting and much-loved orchestral music. Conducted by Richard Laing and led by Dan Kent, the programme opens with Mendelssohn's sparkling *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream* and concludes with Beethoven's powerful and revolutionary *Eroica Symphony*. The centrepiece of the evening will be Mozart's elegant *Piano Concerto No. 12 in A major*, performed by RHS music scholar Sofiiia Usmanova – a rising star whose musicality and poise continue to captivate audiences.

For further details see wolseyorchestra.org



 **Burns Recital Hall**  **7.30pm**  **£15/£3**  **Parade Ground**

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41



RHS Out & About

SATURDAY 16 MAY

RHS Band performs at the Hadleigh Show

The RHS Band is delighted to have been invited to perform at the Hadleigh Show during the morning of the event. This is a wonderful opportunity for the band to represent the school at one of Suffolk's best-loved agricultural shows. We warmly encourage families and friends to come along, enjoy the atmosphere, and support the pupils as they perform.




For further details see hadleighshow.co.uk  **Holbecks Park, Hadleigh**  **Morning**

MONDAY 18 MAY

Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 **Burns Recital Hall**  **1.30pm**  **£8**

 **Around Chapel**





SATURDAY 13 JUNE

RCO Study Day with Benjamin Sheen Organ Music from North America



Join us for two afternoon workshops exploring...





2pm Workshop 1 - The organ literature of North America (participants are encouraged to bring works by American and Canadian composers).

3pm Workshop 2 - An introduction to Gerre Hancock and the art of improvisation in the Episcopal Church.

4pm Refreshments

4.30pm Organ Recital by Benjamin Sheen to include music by Horatio Parker, Dan Locklair, Rachel Laurin, Gerre Hancock and Ernest MacMillan.

Benjamin Sheen is Director of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, and one of the UK's most established organists on both sides of the Atlantic. A former chorister at St Paul's Cathedral and music scholar at Eton, he holds degrees from Oxford and the Juilliard School. He spent seven years at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, and is a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Winner of the 2013 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition, Benjamin has performed across Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia.

 Chapel  2-5.30pm  Participants £20 / Observers £15 / Recital Only £10  Around Chapel

HOW DO I BOOK TICKETS? SEE PAGE 41



SATURDAY 20 JUNE Summer Concert

Holbrook Choral Society | RHS Chapel Choir | Reade Orchestra

Mozart *Requiem in D Minor, K. 626*

Orff *Carmina Burana*

The Royal Hospital School's Chapel Choir joins forces once again with Holbrook Choral Society and the Reade Orchestra for this year's Summer Concert. The programme features two monumental choral works: Mozart's *Requiem*, a masterpiece of drama and devotion, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, known for its thrilling energy and unforgettable opening chorus. With full orchestra, massed choirs and a cast of outstanding soloists, this promises to be a powerful and exhilarating evening of music in the majestic surroundings of the school chapel.



📍 Chapel 🕒 *7pm 💷 £15/£12/Free 📍 Parade Ground *Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm.



SUNDAY 21 JUNE

Leavers' Songs of Praise Service and Divisions

Members of the public are warmly invited to watch Divisions. This spectacle is an important part of the school's heritage and a recognition of our links with our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital.

See page 39 for more details

 Parade Ground & Chapel  11am

 Boarding Houses

MONDAY 22 JUNE Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 Burns Recital Hall

 1.30pm  £8

 Around Chapel



SATURDAY 27 JUNE

Gig Night III

Gig Night III brings the academic year to a close with another fantastic evening of live music from RHS's talented performers. Expect a vibrant mix of solos, duets and bands, with genres ranging from pop and rock to soul and jazz. As always, it promises to be a fun, feel-good night packed with energy, creativity and great music.

📍 Assembly Hall **🕒 *7pm** **💷 £10/Free** **📍 Parade Ground**

***Pre-concert drinks from 6.30pm**



SATURDAY 4 JULY

Speech Day Divisions

We invite the public to watch the final Divisions ceremony of the school year, in which we say farewell to our departing pupils from Nelson House. This special ceremony culminates in a sunset parade and the very poignant Slow March Off of the leavers.

See page 39 for more details

 **Parade Ground**  **12pm**  **Boarding Houses**



NEXT SEASON 2026-27



MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Notes & Nibbles

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Concert starts at 1.30pm with a buffet lunch available from 12.30pm.

 **Burns Recital Hall**  **1.30pm**  **£8**



**SATURDAY
26 SEPTEMBER 2026**

RCO Study Day & Recital

Ashley Grote, Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral, joins us to lead an RCO Study Day and give a recital.

 **Chapel**  **2-5.30pm**



NOTES & NIBBLES

Pupils from the Royal Hospital School perform a programme of solo and chamber music.

Burns Recital Hall

Concerts start at **1.30pm** with a buffet lunch available from **12.30pm**
Tickets: **£8 on the door**

Monday 15 September

Monday 13 October

Monday 17 November

Monday 8 December *

Monday 19 January

Monday 9 March

Monday 27 April

Monday 18 May

Monday 22 June



*** An EVENING concert starting at 7pm**

Concerts last approximately 40 minutes.

Parking available around the School Chapel.

For any enquiries please contact the Music School

01473 326222 or music@royalhospitalschool.org

GRAND ORGAN RECITALS

Organ recitals on the Grand Organ of the Royal Hospital School followed by refreshments in the Music School.

Saturday 20 September

Claudia Grinnell (St Edmundsbury Cathedral)

Sunday 12 October

James Davy (RHS)

Sunday 23 November

Edward Allen (RHS)

Sunday 25 January

James Davy (RHS)

Sunday 15 March

David Poulter (St Vigor's, Fulbourn)

Sunday 3 May

Peter Crompton (RHS Organist Emeritus)

Saturday 13 June

Benjamin Sheen (Jesus College, Cambridge)

OUT & ABOUT

The Royal Hospital School pupils perform in venues around the country that are open to the public.

Please note that programmes may in part, or whole, repeat those performed at RHS.

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 5PM

Annual National Seafarers' Service, St Paul's Cathedral

The Annual Service is held to commemorate and celebrate seafarers from across the maritime industry and is well-attended by seafaring professionals.

Entry by ticket only: www.stpauls.co.uk

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 11AM

Lord Mayor's Show

The Band and Corps of Drums Display Team are delighted to have accepted the invitation to perform at this year's Lord Mayor's Show.

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 7PM

Admiralty Carol Service

Members of the Chapel Choir will be singing at the annual Admiralty Carol Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 5.45PM

Choral Evensong

The Chamber Choir and senior members of the Chapel Choir sing a service of Choral Evensong at Ipswich Minster.

SUNDAY 17 MARCH 6.30PM

Choral Evensong

The Chamber Choir joins forces with the Chapel Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge, to sing a service of Choral Evensong at The Chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge.

SATURDAY 16 MAY MORNING

RHS Band performs at the Hadleigh Show

The RHS Band is delighted to have been invited to perform at the Hadleigh Show during the morning of the event. For further details see hadleighshow.co.uk

There will be various other events that the Band and Corps of Drums will be involved in throughout the year. Please check the Music at RHS website for more information.

Contact details for tickets for these concerts / performances are stated, where possible. Details are correct at the time of going to press. The school cannot be held responsible for changes in this information.

MASTERCLASS SERIES

These two-hour workshops are free and open to all who are interested in learning more from the masters.

Burns Recital Hall 7-9pm
Parking available around the Chapel

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER Piano Masterclass

with Nicola Eimer

British pianist Nicola Eimer is a graduate of the Juilliard School and a prizewinner at the Dudley, John Lill, and Royal Over-Seas League competitions. She has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe, America and Asia, appearing at venues such as Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, St John's Smith Square, and the Purcell Room. She is a regular performer for the London Chopin Society and has featured on the Tillet Trust Young Artists' Platform. *Read more on page 15*



THURSDAY 12 MARCH Composition Masterclass

with TRIPTYCH

Following an afternoon of creative workshops with GCSE and A-Level Music pupils, TRIPTYCH - the acclaimed ensemble featuring Jeffery Wilson (clarinet/saxophone), Christopher Weston (piano) and Catherine May (soprano) - returns for an inspiring evening masterclass. This session offers a unique opportunity to hear pupil compositions brought to life and developed in real time by three outstanding professional musicians, each with a wealth of composing, performing and teaching experience. *Read more on page 23*



TUESDAY 5 MAY Vocal Masterclass

with Alastair Brookshaw

Alastair Brookshaw is a versatile West End performer and vocalist whose career spans musical theatre, concert solo work and film soundtracks.

Alongside his stage work, he continues to sing with many of the UK's leading choirs and has recorded as a soloist and backing vocalist across a wide range of genres. *Read more on page 27*



MAJOR CHAPEL SERVICES & DIVISIONS

Major chapel services are usually preceded by Divisions on the Parade Ground.

Members of the public are warmly invited to watch Divisions. This spectacle is an important part of the school's heritage and a recognition of our links with our parent charity, Greenwich Hospital. The school perform Divisions as a mark of respect to the thousands of former pupils from Holbrook and Greenwich who paraded and who, with that same loyalty, from Nelson's day right up to the present, made the ultimate sacrifice on the high seas to ensure our nation's peace and security.

Saturday 11 October

Harvest Festival Service & Divisions
10.30am

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Service & Divisions
9.45am - Service
11am - Divisions
11.45am - Service

Friday 28 November

A service of music & readings for Advent
4.30pm

Friday 12 December

School Christmas Carol Service 2.45pm

Saturday 21 March

Founders' Day Service & Divisions
10.30am

Friday 27 March

The Way of the Cross Easter Service & Divisions 2.30pm

Sunday 21 June

Leavers' Songs of Praise Service and Divisions 11am

Saturday 4 July

Speech Day Divisions 12pm



CENTENNIAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN

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ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL PRIVACY NOTICE MUSIC AT RHS

INTRODUCTION

Royal Hospital School (RHS – from hereon known as the ‘School’)¹ is an Independent Boarding/Day School operating as part of the Greenwich Hospital Crown Charity². In addition to the School’s overarching Privacy Notice³, this focused Privacy Notice is intended to cover data processing in relation to event activities and associated distribution of publicity conducted by ‘Music at RHS’.

WHAT THIS NOTICE IS FOR

The School seeks to provide appropriate levels of data protection and security across all its operations. This notice is intended to provide information about how the School will use and hold (“process”) personal data related to ‘Music at RHS’. This information is provided in accordance with the rights of individuals under Data Protection Law⁴ to understand how their data is used. Please note that the School has a separate Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice applicable to its employees and other staff. This Privacy Notice applies alongside any other information the School may provide about a particular use of personal data, for example when collecting data via an online or paper form.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DATA PROTECTION

All individuals have a level of responsibility towards the protection of their own data and that of others. The School has appointed the Chief Operating Officer (COO) as the Privacy and Compliance Officer, who will deal with any requests and enquiries concerning the School’s use of your personal data (see section on Your Rights below) and endeavour to ensure that all personal data is processed in compliance with this Privacy Notice. In specific relation to ‘Music at RHS’ the processing of any personal data is the responsibility of the Music School Administrator.

WHY ‘MUSIC AT RHS’ NEEDS TO PROCESS PERSONAL DATA

We have identified a legitimate interest⁵ in using your personal data in order to enable publicity of and attendance at events. Your personal data is limited to your name, email and mailing address.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA AND WHO ‘MUSIC AT RHS’ SHARES IT WITH

The names and mailing addresses are stored on a specific database with limited password access. The data is shared with the Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust for the purposes of managing donations. There is no other sharing of the data beyond the RHS Music Department.

HOW LONG WE KEEP PERSONAL DATA

We will retain your data until you no longer require event information.

YOUR RIGHTS

Please notify the Music School Administrator at music@royalhospitalschool.org or at the address at footnote 1 below should you no longer wish to receive event information. Any individual wishing to access or amend their personal data, or who has some other objection to how their personal data is used, should put their request to the Privacy and Compliance Officer in writing at compliance@royalhospitalschool.org or via the School mailing address at footnote 1.

¹ Located in Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2RX.

² Greenwich Hospital’s head office is located at 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG.

³ Available at www.royalhospitalschool.org

⁴ General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 25 May 2018.

⁵ Through GDPR Article 6 and a recorded Legitimate Interest Assessment (LIA).

BOOKING INFORMATION



**Managed and operated by RHS Music
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PHONE

Music School Administrator
01473 326222
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4.30pm
(Term time only)



- A** Burns Recital Hall
- B** School Chapel
- C** Assembly Hall

GETTING TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL, HOLBROOK, IPSWICH IP9 2RX

By Car

The Royal Hospital School is located on the B1080 between the villages of Stutton and Holbrook and has ample free parking.

Access to the parking area is via the road leading to the Music School.

Disabled parking is available outside the chapel.

From the A14 take the exit signposted A137 towards Ipswich. At the roundabout you will see a sign to the Royal Hospital School which will direct you under the Orwell Bridge on the B1456 from which take a right on to the B1080 through the village of Holbrook and onwards to the school.

From the A12 take the exit for the B1070 towards East Bergholt and continue towards Manningtree where a sign to the Royal Hospital School will direct you from the roundabout on the A137 towards Ipswich. From the A137 turn right towards Stutton, passing through the village and onwards to the school.

By train

The nearest train stations are at Ipswich and Manningtree and taxis are readily available. Also within easy reach are the ferry port of Harwich and Stansted, Luton, Gatwick and Heathrow Airports.

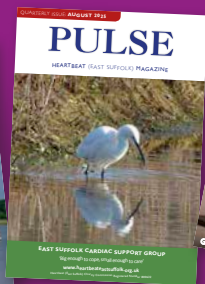
Disabled facilities

Guide Dogs are welcome, please advise the Royal Hospital School Music School when booking so that an appropriate aisle seat can be provided. Disabled car parking is available around the chapel, which is next to the Music School.

Level access venue with seating for disabled patrons. Patrons who need the assistance of a wheelchair, a frame or crutches should book a disabled space in the auditorium and, if required, an adjoining seat for a companion.

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TASTER DAYS AVAILABLE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Independent / Co-educational / Boarding & Day / Ages 11-18