

# Case Studies

Conservatoires UK

Long-term outreach and  
progression programmes

# Conservatoires promote progression in the performing arts and bring people together through the arts

## Conservatoires UK

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RNCM  
ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC



ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC & DRAMA  
COLEG BRENHINOL  
CERDD A DRAMA CYMRU



TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE  
OF MUSIC AND DANCE

## The inclusive origins and nature of conservatoire education

We firmly believe that a career in the performing arts should not be the preserve of the privileged few. At their inception conservatoires were non-elitist to the core; the societal role of the conservatoire is embedded within our DNA. When the first Italian conservatorio appeared around 1560 it was an institution for foundlings and orphans in which music and declamation were the foundation for learning. The Paris Conservatoire is the precursor to our modern conservatoires and, significantly, this was formed in revolutionary Paris in 1795 as part of sweeping social reforms. It set out to train performing artists to the highest professional standards. The Paris model prevailed throughout Europe and the New World in the nineteenth century and Asia in the twentieth.

This fundamental inclusivity continues today. Conservatoires have pre-HE programmes, community outreach projects, and specialist 'junior' departments mirroring the 'senior' provision. Across the complex diversity and geography of our islands even more children should enjoy access to our specialist conservatoire teaching methods: this is one of our key aims at CUK. This will provide a fairer preparation in the high technical standards needed to qualify for undergraduate programmes at a conservatoire. What's more, early exposure to conservatoire education benefits everyone, whether or not they develop a life-long interest in the arts and culture. Learning in this way develops many skills and qualities:

- The core ability to collaborate and work as part of a team or an ensemble
- Leadership and self-confidence
- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Communication and presentational skills
- The ability to receive and offer constructive criticism
- Powers of reflection

## Conservatoires are outward-looking

Our members frequently partner with other providers in the formal and informal youth arts. As well as staging public performances, conferences, talks, workshops and other events, conservatoire staff and students play a significant part in the cultural life and arts education framework of their local and regional communities. Extensive programmes of courses, summer schools and other outreach opportunities enable a sharing of their unique resources with the community at large. In so doing, conservatoires deliver broader and complex benefits for education, culture and society.

Almost 77,000 people of all ages attended community outreach and school age programmes at our conservatoires in 2011-12

# Case Studies

## Long-term outreach and progression programmes

### Birmingham Conservatoire

Birmingham Conservatoire is highly conscious of the need to support and develop music education provision for school age children. To that end, it has around 250 students in the Junior Conservatoire with considerable financial support available. The Conservatoire is also a major supporter of Aston Performing Arts Academy helping to deliver music tuition to children from one of the most deprived areas of the city. In partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and 14 regional music services, the Conservatoire organises Sparks days to enthuse and help gifted and talented young musicians. Birmingham Conservatoire acknowledges the therapeutic value of music too. Special Virtuosi is a student-led project run in partnership with the charity 'Melody' for children and young people with learning disabilities to enable them to benefit from musical games and activities, and give them the opportunity to play a musical instrument. Finally, our 3Dom soundbeam project is designed to provide an inspiring and creative musical environment for people with isolating physical disabilities by bringing them together with experienced and passionate musicians and by using exciting innovative modern technology.

### Leeds College of Music

LCM students earn course credits by working in a variety of community contexts across the region. This is made possible by partnerships with numerous organisations such as the music hub for Leeds (The Leeds Music Education Partnership) and the National Centre for Early Music in York. New in 2012 was an innovative partnership with the Leeds Cathedral Choir School that seeks to raise aspiration and attainment amongst children in one of the most underprivileged areas of the City.



**Image** Aston Performing Arts Academy in the Adrian Boulton Hall.



**Image** Thomas Gibbins playing the drums in his ensemble lesson at Saturday Music School. Photo by Sara Teresa.

## Guildhall School of Music & Drama

During 2011–12, the work of the Guildhall School's joint Creative Learning division with the Barbican Centre reached over 35,000 people as participants and audiences.

Creative Learning gives Guildhall students exceptional opportunities to develop the portfolio of skills required of artists in the 21st century, and to work in communities, schools, and other settings across East London. It leads a Masters in Leadership programme and works with all undergraduate students, including modules and electives encompassing cross-arts and community projects. One project, Dialogue, took the shape of a large-scale community festival where students worked with a number of organisations over six weeks leading to performances at the Barbican Centre, featuring 170 children from schools in Tower Hamlets, workshops with 90 nursery school children and their parents, theatre workshops in the Pit with mothers and toddlers, and workshops and performances with the Sanctuary of Voices Refugee Choir and elderly people from the Gateway Housing Association.

The Guildhall School is also one of the UK's leading providers of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians.

## Royal Academy of Music

Open Academy: delivers creative projects to allow students to discover performative skills beyond the traditional concert platform. Undergraduates can gain experience through Music in Community projects, devising and delivering professional education projects while receiving extensive training 'on the job'. Project partners include Wigmore Hall, Spitalfields Music, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, English Touring Opera, Glyndebourne Opera and Kings Place.

**Image** *Globetown*, a project run by the Guildhall School and Barbican's joint Creative Learning division as part of the 2012 Dialogue festival. Guildhall School Masters in Leadership and postgraduate elective students collaborated with over 200 participants from schools and communities across Tower Hamlets to create a series of performances, happenings and participatory events. Photo by Katie Henfrey.



**Image** Open Academy community event in the Duke's Hall at the Royal Academy of Music. Photo by Hana Zushi, Royal Academy of Music.



### Royal College of Music

RCM's Sparks learning and participation programme reaches 3,700 children in schools and the wider community, providing opportunities to learn about or make music, regardless of musical ability. From weekend workshops for children to holiday courses for teenagers, vocal days for families to opera matinees for schools, RCM Sparks offers a musically enriching experience for all, many of whom would have little or no experience of live music. The RCM is a key partner in the Arts Council-funded tri-borough Music Education Hub, along with Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, and Hammersmith and Fulham, the Royal Albert Hall and the Aurora Orchestra. Other Sparks partners include the BBC Proms, English Chamber Orchestra and English Touring Opera.

### Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

4,000 children participate in programmes across dance, drama, music, production and screen, from a geographic region as diverse as Stornoway to the west, Dornoch to the north and Carlisle to the south. The transformational aspect of conservatoire education has been recognised by the Scottish Funding Council, who have invested in a new programme, Open Conservatoire, targeted at children originating from areas recognised as being challenged by the issues of multiple deprivation.

Arts Interventions in prisons has included the Lifelines project: young offenders at HM Polmont in Scotland working closely with students from BA Acting and BA Digital Film and TV to create a dramatic film based on their collective experiences. As well as learning how to articulate their experiences and create a narrative, the participants learned how to use a camera and direct. Six young offenders gained an SQA in Working With Others by taking part.

**Image** RCM Sparks Juniors, a collaboration with the RCM Junior Department and allows children from local boroughs to access the excellent teaching and learning resources of the RCM. Photo by Sheila Burnett.



**Image** Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Drama Short Courses. Photo by KK Dundas.



## Royal Northern College of Music

The RNCM works with an extensive network of professional partners to offer a vast range of musical opportunities. Work-related learning is embedded within the College's programmes, and is an essential element in the professional development of its students. RNCM students work with organisations including Artis, Band on the Wall, BBC Philharmonic, Brighter Sound, Fodens Youth Band, The Hallé Orchestra, Lime Music for Health, Live Music Now, Making Music, Manchester Camerata, Music and the Deaf, Music in Hospitals, Musicians without Borders, National Children's Orchestra, One Education Music, Seashell Trust, and Special Virtuosi. Junior RNCM provides training to 200 musically gifted young people and the Young Projects schemes support open-access activities and events for school-age musicians.

RNCM Outreach offers around 4,000 people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality music projects each year. RNCM Youth Perform and The Children's Opera work alongside industry professionals and students to produce sell-out shows and site-specific performances. RNCM students work with Manchester International Roots Orchestra to harness the talent of refugee musicians. An iPad app, developed in conjunction with Britten-Pears Foundation, exploring the orchestra and composition through Britten's *Young Persons' Guide to the Orchestra* was recorded by the RNCM Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, and was designed and trialled by RNCM students working with local children and young people. The RNCM also established Music for Health which delivers training and support to professional musicians, students, healthcare workers and volunteers, interacting with hundreds of patients in different healthcare settings and collaborating with national and international partners.

## Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

In addition to its role within the Higher Education sector, the Royal Welsh College undertakes a unique role in Wales through the provision of tailored specialist training for young people between the ages of 8–19 who demonstrate exceptional talent or exceptional potential in Music or Acting.

This training is delivered at weekends across the academic year by leading arts practitioners employed by the College, using the College's facilities, and is tailored to the needs of 180 young musicians who attend for up to seven hours each Saturday, and 140 actors who attend for up to six hours each Sunday. Students travel in some cases for up to six hours from across Wales and the South West of England to access this specialist training.

**Image** The RNCM Music for Health project. Photo by RNCM.



**Image** RWCMD Young Actors Studio Showcase. Photo by Kiran Ridley.



### Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

The depth of Trinity Laban's commitment to widening access to music and dance education was cited recently by the Office for Fair Access. The Office praised the conservatoire's Learning and Participation programmes as examples of national good practice for the way they target and support participants from early years through to adults in FE colleges and the informal learning sector. Participants are signposted towards progression pathways including Trinity Laban's regular youth classes and Centres for Advanced Training, ultimately with the potential to lead to higher education in music and dance. More than 16,000 people on these open access courses sang, danced, played, created or performed in live music and dance activities from 2011 to 2012 – and over 7,500 of these were children and young people up to the age of 19.

A radical new approach to dancers' healthcare aims to address one of the most pressing issues affecting the entire dance industry. Injury treatment costs the subsidised dance sector on average £900,000 a year and £1 million in lost time. The National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science is a visionary partnership between six major dance organisations, universities and a hospital, including Dance UK, Birmingham Royal Ballet's Jerwood Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Dance Injuries, University of Wolverhampton, University of Birmingham, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. A symbiotic element of this project is the MSc in Dance Science at Trinity Laban.

**Image** Trinity Laban's Junior Trinity. Photo by Belinda Lawley.



## Where we are

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