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# Guildhall School of Music & Drama

## Prospectus 2025









**Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London.**

We deliver world-leading professional training in performing and production arts in partnership with leading artists, companies and ensembles.



# 1st

*in the 2024 Guardian  
University Guide music  
league table*

# 1st

*in the Arts, Drama & Music  
Complete University Guide  
League Table 2025*

# 1st

*among music conservatoires  
for research in the Research  
Excellence Framework 2021*





# WELCOME

**Welcome to Guildhall School. As one of the world's leading conservatoires, we learn by doing: by creating, performing and collaborating – to the highest professional standards. By choosing to join us, you will embark on a demanding, intense and committed process. In return, you will be empowered to develop your unique creative potential.**

As a Guildhall student, you will experience...

- Internationally-renowned artists, teachers and practitioners, working with you as directors, designers, conductors, coaches and tutors.
- Close connections with industry-leading companies across the performing and production arts, offering exceptional career paths as well as opportunities to learn and collaborate throughout your training.
- Some of the world's best facilities for performance and production arts training, including three state-of-the-art theatres, two concert halls, studios, workshops and rehearsal spaces.
- A collaborative, interdisciplinary environment where creativity can flourish and experimentation is encouraged.
- A commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, creating a welcoming international community where differences are celebrated and we support each other to thrive.
- A vibrant, culturally rich location in the heart of London.

Find out more  
[gsmd.ac.uk](https://gsmd.ac.uk)





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# LOCATION

**Guildhall School has an enviable location in the heart of a vibrant creative quarter in the City of London, meaning our training in music, drama and production arts in this culturally rich and dynamic environment is a unique experience.**

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## **Our city: London**

With West End theatres, the Southbank Centre and Covent Garden's Royal Opera House all close by, Guildhall has an array of world-renowned cultural institutions on its doorstep. As a student, you will be entitled to concessions on virtually all entertainment tickets, plus discounts for shops, restaurants and public transport. For students from abroad, we provide guided tours and excursions to help you find your way around. Other major European cities are easily accessible by train or plane.

Our location is a major destination for culture and creativity, taking in the School, the adjacent Barbican Centre and LSO St Luke's. This means there's a wide range of impressive performance and exhibition spaces within walking distance, and exciting collaborative opportunities. Nestled on the edge of the popular areas of Shoreditch and Clerkenwell, we are close to some of London's most famous landmarks including St Paul's Cathedral, the Gherkin and the Shard.







Cultural School of Music and Drama



# FACILITIES

**Our state-of-the-art buildings offer inspiring spaces to learn, study, rehearse, relax, create and perform. This includes five public performance venues, each with exceptional acoustic properties and extensive seating capacity.**

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## **Milton Court**

Milton Court's world-class performance and training spaces include a state-of-the-art concert hall, a lyric theatre, a studio theatre and several major rehearsal rooms, as well as a cafe and common room.

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## **Silk Street**

Part of the Barbican Centre complex, and situated alongside a peaceful lakeside terrace, our Grade II-listed Silk Street building offers a more intimate music hall, a dedicated lecture recital room, a completely flexible theatre, theatrical workshops and labs, electronic music studios, recording and sound studios, library and over 40 teaching and practice rooms. We also have an Annexe with a further 44 teaching and practice rooms.

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## **Accommodation: Sundial Court**

Our halls of residence, Sundial Court, is located on Chiswell Street, just around the corner from our two main buildings. Full-time students can apply for accommodation; although we can't offer a room to every student, we do try to provide accommodation for first-year undergraduates. The well-established Basement Bar in Sundial Court plays host to gigs and events of all kinds.

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## **Social spaces**

Our spaces for study and relaxation include a library, two student common rooms, two cafes and a peaceful lakeside terrace.







# PARTNERS

**We are proud that collaboration is fundamental to life at Guildhall. We work across disciplines and departments, and with many world-leading external organisations. Through these unique partnerships, you will meet some of the world's most renowned artists, experience some of London's finest venues, and receive the very best preparation for your chosen career.**

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## **Digital and production collaborations**

Guildhall Production Studio, our in-house production unit, works with leading cultural and creative organisations on innovative large-scale public events, with lots of opportunities for students to get involved in event production and performance. This has included OrchestRAM, an award-winning event with RAM Records at the Barbican, featuring orchestral versions of drum & bass classics; and hosting designer Patrick McDowell's London Fashion Week show. A partnership with Target3D has offered students hands-on experience with Holosys, a volumetric video capture system.

Our Production Arts students collaborate with external professionals and clients on 'real world' projects. This has included a workshop led by the visual designer Andi Watson, using lighting, sound and automation to test out staging ideas for a tour by the singer Mitski; a residency by the director and composer Thomas Guthrie and choreographer Katya Jones, working on new material for a musical; and a collaboration with the Central Criminal Courts providing lighting and video for *Trial and Error*, a series of performances at the Old Bailey.





# barbican



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE



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## Barbican Centre

The Barbican is an international arts and learning centre that pushes the boundaries of all major art forms. Situated next to Guildhall School, it houses a concert hall, two theatres, two galleries, three cinemas, a glasshouse conservatory and a library. Our collaboration offers students exceptional learning opportunities, including masterclasses, projects with the Barbican's International Associate ensembles, and the chance to perform or have student work performed on its renowned stages. The Young Barbican scheme offers all Guildhall students discounted access to unmissable art and entertainments.

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## London Symphony Orchestra

Widely regarded as one of the world's best orchestras, the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) has a roster of soloists and conductors who are second to none. An integral partner of Guildhall School for many years and the Resident Orchestra at the Barbican, the LSO helps to deliver the Orchestral Artistry specialism within our Masters programme (see page 34), and provides many performance opportunities for Guildhall students.

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## BBC Symphony Orchestra

The BBC Symphony Orchestra is one of the UK's finest, performing extensively at the Barbican and forming the

backbone of the BBC Proms. Guildhall musicians play a significant role in the orchestra's Total Immersion series, which celebrates the work of contemporary composers; performances are often broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and receive high critical praise.

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## Royal Opera House

The Royal Opera House (ROH) is home to The Royal Opera, one of the world's leading companies, renowned for its outstanding performances of traditional works and its exciting commissions of new productions. Guildhall's relationship with the ROH offers creative opportunities for students on the MA in Opera Making & Writing (see page 38) and previous collaborations have included a Composer in Residence scheme for doctoral researchers.

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## Academy of Ancient Music

Through our partnership with the Academy of Ancient Music (AAM), one of the world's leading period instrument ensembles, we respond to the needs of the next generation of performers. AAM, who are an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican and perform part of their season at Milton Court, offer side-by-side performances, masterclasses, access to rehearsals and a wealth of online resources.

# STUDENT LIFE

**Guildhall School delivers the highest standards of training in music, drama and production arts within a diverse, friendly and supportive community. As you start out at the School, there are bound to be times when you need help or advice. Our support services provide expert guidance on everything from health and wellbeing to learning support, as well as advice on finances, accommodation and international student life. We are also here if things get tough: our dedicated staff provide practical and emotional support if you experience health issues, financial hardship, or any other obstacle to your learning.**

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## **Student Services**

[student.services@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:student.services@gsmd.ac.uk)

Student Services is committed to your wellbeing as a Guildhall student. Our friendly, supportive team will assist you in making the most of your student experience and fulfilling your potential throughout your time at the School. We offer a comprehensive range of support services to meet your academic and wellbeing needs, including health and wellbeing advice, physiotherapy, counselling, disability support, study skills and practice support, financial advice, accommodation advice and international student support.

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## **Accommodation**

[accommodation@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@gsmd.ac.uk)

Once you have been offered a place at Guildhall, you will be given information about accommodation options. Offer holders are provided with an External Accommodation Guide to help you identify the most suitable type of accommodation and guidance on how to go about your search. Student Services is available to offer individual advice and

support. Eligible students are also given information about Sundial Court, the School's halls of residence, located on Chiswell Street just around the corner from our two main buildings. Sundial Court has 38 flats, each with between three and six bedrooms, with 173 rooms in total. For Music students, there is the added advantage of being able to practise in your bedroom during agreed hours. Sundial Court has Wi-Fi access throughout. Security is provided 24 hours a day, seven-days-a-week, and night guards are trained to support students in emergency situations. A team of Residential Assistants live in the building to provide residents with peer support and encourage a sense of community; throughout the year, they organise social events including market trips, museum visits, film nights and exercise clubs.

If you are accepted onto a full-time course at Guildhall School (lasting at least one academic year), you are entitled to apply for a place at Sundial Court. Although we can't offer a room to every student, we do try to provide accommodation for first-year undergraduates.





**For information on fees, funding and scholarships, see page 110**

**For more information on life at Guildhall School, visit [gsm.ac.uk/life](http://gsm.ac.uk/life)**

There are two Underground stations close to Sundial Court and supermarkets, bars, restaurants and sports facilities are all within walking distance. Our Basement area houses the Students' Union bar, a launderette, practice rooms and a communal TV room.

on a wide range of topics, and can provide useful information on Guildhall School, its surrounding area and student life.

Alongside its representative function, the Union is responsible for extra-curricular activities throughout the year and is at the centre of Guildhall's social scene. It organises clubs and societies and a variety of social events, many of which take place around the well-established Basement Bar located in Sundial Court, our halls of residence. Find out more at [guildhallsu.com](http://guildhallsu.com)

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### **Students' Union**

[union@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:union@gsm.ac.uk)

The Guildhall Students' Union actively represents the student body, led by a full-time President (elected annually), with five part-time officers leading on Finance, Diversity, Events & Societies, Marketing & Communications and Academic Affairs. The Union acts as a communication channel between students and staff. From its office on the campus, the Union offers advice

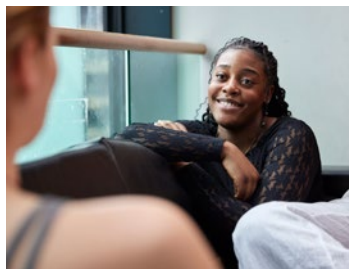
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### **Library**

[library@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:library@gsm.ac.uk)

Our Library has one of the most extensive specialised collections of music and drama electronic



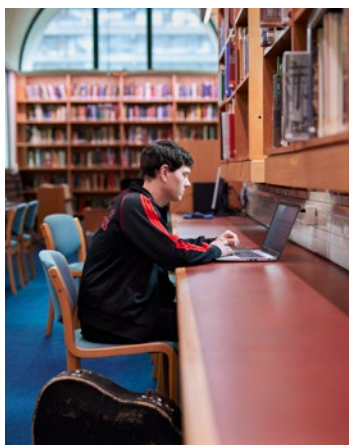


and print resources in Europe, providing an inspiring, supportive and welcoming study environment. Library staff all have specialist knowledge and lending facilities include books on music, theatre, drama criticism, stagecraft, costume and music therapy. You can borrow from a comprehensive collection of plays, poetry, scores, sets of chamber music parts, CDs and DVDs, and can access a wide range of online resources and web-streaming services.

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### **IT resources**

Guildhall has well-equipped IT facilities, including PCs with access to Microsoft Office and Sibelius, A3 colour printer-photocopiers, laptop locker loan units, mobile device powering stations and Wi-Fi provision around the Silk Street, Milton Court, Annexe and Sundial Court buildings. You can remotely access your School email and apps via Microsoft Office 365, and download the latest version of Office to your own devices to work flexibly and securely wherever you are on campus.



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### **Digital technology**

Guildhall's Recording & Audio Visual Department provides audio and video production facilities across the School's venues and large teaching rooms, as well as an industry-standard recording studio and fully equipped TV Studio. Over the last few years the School has invested heavily

in ground-breaking low latency capabilities as well as becoming the first UK conservatoire with Dolby Atmos recording capabilities. The Department has won international awards for its achievements and continues to be at the forefront of digital and audio-visual technology. Many of the School's performances and events are live-streamed or recorded for broadcast, amassing thousands of views from all over the world.

Guildhall Stream is the School's own internal video platform for recorded concerts, performances and other events. The platform also has capability for students to record their practice sessions in teaching rooms and upload them directly to their own Guildhall Stream homepage.

The department also operates an equipment loan service allowing students to borrow cameras, microphones and other equipment for their own projects in a library-style service.

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### **undisciplined**

Push the boundaries of your practice through *undisciplined*, our extra-curricular programme of cross-disciplinary events and opportunities that encourages students to build creative friendships, get inspired, learn new skills and develop new collaborative projects together. Offering talks from industry experts and practitioners, workshops designed to give you the practical, artistic and entrepreneurial skills to make your own collaborative work,



a skills-matching service, resources and even funding, it's all about encouraging experimentation across art forms and unlocking your imagination.

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### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

DEI@gsm.d.ac.uk

At Guildhall, we are committed to advancing equity, embracing and celebrating the diversity of our staff and student community, and fostering a cohesive and inclusive culture for everyone. We believe that the inclusion of diverse voices, skills, lived experience and unique perspectives is what makes our community thrive. This not only enhances our research but enriches our teaching and strengthens our ability to provide an exceptional education to all.

We therefore welcome people from around the world, of all backgrounds and diversity. We work closely with students, specialists and organisations with lived experience and expertise to ensure the School is an actively anti-discriminatory, anti-racist and inclusive organisation.

We offer tailored support for anyone who needs it and encourage and support applications from disabled and neurodiverse students. We are committed to ensuring there are no barriers to deter talented students from coming to the School, and provide a range of advice, financial and application packages to help with applications and transition to the School. For further information regarding our Supported Application Scheme, disability support and funding

support, please see pages 108–110.

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### **Sustainability**

Ensuring the School and the work of students and staff has as little impact on the environment as possible is fundamental to what we do, with a focus on sustainability identified as one of Guildhall's eight aims in our recently published strategic plan.



# CAREERS

**Guildhall School is committed to helping you find the right career path for you. Our training combines academic rigour and artistic skill, with a strong professional focus and unparalleled engagement with the performing arts and creative industries.**

As you move through your programme, your links with the relevant industry will grow through talks and workshops from leading industry figures, work placements and masterclasses. You will receive careers advice within dedicated modules across many programmes, as well as one-to-one guidance from teaching staff and mentors, many of whom work in the performing arts and creative industries and are well-placed to provide insight, advice and contacts.

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### **Career preparation depends on your chosen discipline:**

**Actors** take a Career Preparation module which includes advice on auditions and casting sessions, agents, unions, tax and accounting, CVs and setting up a professional company. We have an in-house Careers Consultant, and each final-year student is mentored by professional actors. Students who have the right to work in the UK are eligible to become student members of British Actors' Equity, the actors' trade union, and are eligible for full membership on completion of training.

**Production artists** take a Professional Development module which includes help with IT skills, CVs and job applications, interview technique, tax and unions. Students on the BA Production

Arts programme also undertake a four-to-six-week professional secondment at venues such as the Royal Opera House, National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe, while students on the BA in Digital Design & Production work on professional commissions throughout their studies.

**Undergraduate musicians** take modules including advice on teaching, business and marketing, and professional portfolios. Electives include workshop skills in hospitals and schools.

**Postgraduate musicians** are required to plan external events and have opportunities for placements and artistic programming. The Integration and Professional Development module provides seminars on freelance work and opportunities to consider longer term artistic development.

Musicians can attend masterclasses and take part in mock auditions, side-by-side schemes and mentoring from professional orchestral players within their specialism.

Students across the School are actively encouraged to pursue a wide range of interests, and are exposed to the School's array of specialisms including entrepreneurship, research, collaboration and pedagogy.

## 92%

*of surveyed Guildhall students who graduated in 2020/21 were in work or further study 15 months later* (Higher Education Statistics Agency, Graduate Outcomes survey 2020/21)

# ALUMNI



**All Guildhall graduates become part of our active and vibrant alumni community, joining thousands of members who make an impact on society using the training they received during their studies. Our alumni work all over the world, so you can find a welcoming Guildhall community wherever you go.**

The Development and Alumni Relations Office is here to keep graduates connected with the School. We host regular reunions and networking sessions around the world, as well as providing professional development opportunities and access to job vacancies and alumni benefits. Alumni receive our annual alumni magazine, *PLAT*, as well as a termly e-newsletter and access to dedicated social media channels. For selected alumni profiles, see:

- page 22 for Acting alumni
- page 70 for Music alumni
- page 98 for Production Arts alumni



**Further alumni biographies and more detail on our alumni programme can be found at [gsmd.ac.uk/alumni](https://gsmd.ac.uk/alumni)**

# DRAMA





### Key staff

Professor Orla O'Loughlin  
BA MA PGCE  
*Vice-Principal & Director of Drama*

Dr David Linton BA PhD  
*Head of Acting & Programme Leader  
(BA Acting)*

Gilly Roche MA PGCert FHEA  
*Head of Interdisciplinary Practice*

Diane Alison-Mitchell BA MA  
*Head of Movement*

Dr Eliot Shrimpton  
BA MA (Cantab) PhD  
*Head of Acting Practice*

Annetette Verspeak BA MA  
*Head of Voice*

### Other core staff

Victoria Beattie  
*Industry Consultant*

Simon Money  
*Voice Tutor*

Leah Muller BA MA  
*Movement Tutor*

Polly Teale  
*Acting Tutor (Reflective Practice)*

Dan Coleman  
*Acting Tutor*

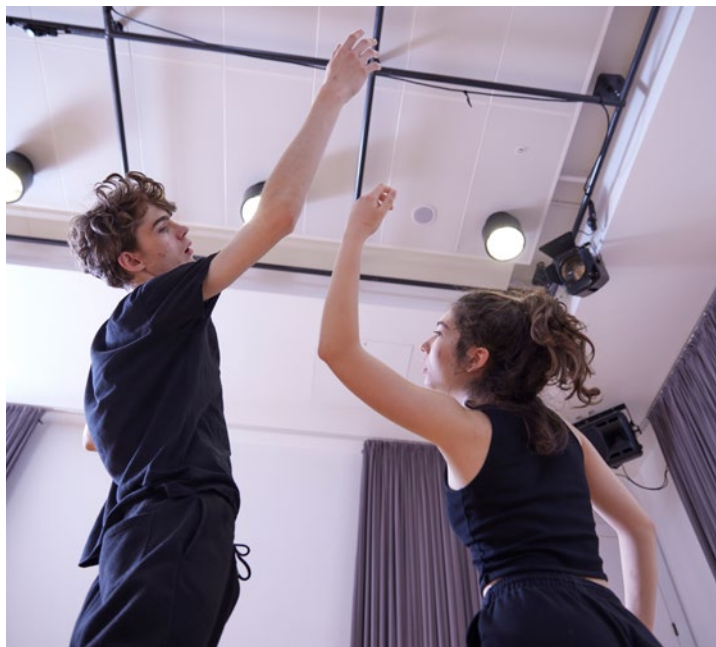
**For a full list of teaching staff  
and visiting directors,  
visit [gsmd.ac.uk/drama](http://gsmd.ac.uk/drama)**

**Guildhall School is a community of actors, performance makers, production artists and musicians. The Drama Department has inclusive and progressive practice at its core. Our BA Acting programme is three years, full-time, and provides a rigorous, ensemble-based and industry-relevant teaching and learning experience.**

Live productions take place in our three distinctive theatres, offering an exciting mix of industry-standard performance spaces to explore: Silk Street Theatre, a large versatile space; Milton Court Theatre, a proscenium arch theatre; and the intimate Milton Court Studio Theatre. In addition, we create productions made for digital platforms, screen and live-streaming.

This is an exciting time to join us, with plans over the coming years for further new programmes and cross-School initiatives, all of which will share the Department's commitment to inclusivity, representation and progressive practice.

Level	Programme	Duration
Undergraduate	BA Honours in Acting	3 years



# BA Honours in Acting

## Duration

Three years full-time

**Innovative in structure and approach, our Acting programme supports students to connect with their authentic selves. We are committed to the development of each student's unique and individual practice.**

Our Acting programme is constantly evolving to meet the demands of the 21st century, while maintaining a deep commitment to craft training.

We believe strongly in the power of the ensemble, with individual actors working together in a coordinated and complementary way, each contributing to a powerful shared outcome. We work in a collaborative atmosphere and encourage actors to connect with each other, society and the wider world.

Our aim is to develop actors who are tenacious and versatile, able to move with confidence between stage, screen, digital and audio platforms and classical, contemporary and experimental repertoire.

There is a generous staff-student ratio and a high number of teaching hours.

During the programme, you will work with a diverse range of teachers and guest practitioners, all with working knowledge of the industry, exploring a broad range of practices and repertoire.

All practitioners are chosen for their particular experience and practice, but we work as a committed team with a common purpose. Together, we work alongside you as an individual (and in groups and productions) to help define, develop and articulate the practices which are most useful to you.


## Applications

Students from a wide range of ages and backgrounds are selected by audition and interview. There is no upper age limit, and previous acting experience is not required. We receive an exceptionally high number of applications for our Acting programme, and you are advised to apply as early as possible.

## Years 1 and 2

The first two years concentrate on acquiring fundamental skills and experience. Your time will be divided between class and





*“At Guildball you’re in a community of love and respect. You don’t need to fit in. You’re here to become the best possible version of yourself, not to be appropriated. You’re empowered to trust yourself and be proud of who you are!”*

**Tanush Gupta**

BA Acting





project work. In the first two terms most of your time will be spent in classes, with more time on projects as the programme progresses. Both class and project work focus on developing and integrating the following main areas of study:

- Acting Practice
- Voice
- Movement
- Screen
- Self-led Practice
- Reflective/Reflexive Practice
- Industry

• **Acting Practice** explores some fundamental questions of, and approaches to, acting. Ensemble and autonomy, spontaneity and repetition, self and character, play and presence all emerge as key areas of investigation. Classes draw on exercises and theories from a diverse range of practitioners, both past and present. Students are encouraged to experiment with a variety of ways to practice, and as a result, to build your own meanings and processes of working.

• **Voice** work focusses on breath, sound and language, aiming to release the natural agility of the voice. Exploration and embodiment of a diverse range of texts enables the actor to find their own artistic voice, while also meeting the vocal demands of a variety of dramatic contexts. Further studies include accents and dialects, singing, and audio, which will prepare you for the demands of working in a range of contexts and across a variety of media.



• **Movement** incorporates a range of techniques and principles that yield connection, awareness and exploration through the actor's body. A palette of expressive practices establish a transformative and embodied actor, and improvisational skills accrue freedom and spontaneity, particularly within the ensemble. Further studies focus on dance, stage combat, and intimacy, and the application of these practices within dramatic contexts.

• **Screen** explores the principles of screen and acting on camera. Classes develop students' understanding of terminology, acting techniques and the specific demands of working on screen including: maintaining continuity, working with marks, eye lines, different lenses and shots, narrative through lines, and managing energy and concentration. You will also develop the skills required for self-taping, to build confidence in meeting the technical expectations and industry standards when auditioning in this way.

• **Self-led Practice** trains students in the skills required to build autonomous, sustainable careers as creators of their own performance work. You'll learn about generating artistic ideas; devising, playwriting and dramaturgy; producing and fundraising; creative access and ethical storytelling; then you'll synthesise these techniques through self-led performance projects.

This element of the training aims to ensure graduates can engage meaningfully in both traditional and non-traditional artistic processes, build sustainable and varied careers, and take agency over your own creative work.

• **Reflective/Reflexive Practice**

develops self-awareness, resilience and critical understanding through a mindful process in which students reflect on diverse histories, theories and discourses, helping to put yourself and your practice into critical context e.g. feminism, colonialism, patriarchy, race. Particular attention is paid to practices which enable a culture of compassion, curiosity and respect for difference in order to facilitate a productive and supportive working environment. Students also consider their relationship with learning and you'll build frameworks for understanding yourself, the creative space, the industry and the wider world as informed and reflective practitioners.

- **Industry** work begins in your second year and follows through until the end of the third year. The focus is on developing your instincts to enable you to manage your professional life as a working actor upon graduation. The work includes interview technique, mock auditions with visiting professionals (for film and theatre), writing and dramaturgy workshops and sessions dedicated to showcase preparation.

**Year 3**

By the third year you will have developed your own working processes. Most of your time will be spent rehearsing and performing to the public and to industry professionals in productions and showcases. You will work on a variety of productions of differing scale, style and genre. You will also have the opportunity to write and perform your own work, and a variety of bespoke showcase opportunities.

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**Preparing for the industry**

In your final year, you will receive support and guidance on starting out in the industry, with regular talks and workshops by directors, agents, casting directors, tax advisers and representatives from actors' trade union, Equity. You will be mentored by actors currently working in the profession, and the programme provides a specialist Industry Consultant to assist you in the transition from training to professional life. Students who have the right to work in the UK are eligible for student membership of British Actors' Equity, and for full Equity membership on completing the training.

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**Cross-School collaboration**

Interdisciplinary collaboration is central to our approach at Guildhall School. We believe that collaboration is fundamental to 21st century artist training and students in the Drama Department have regular opportunities to create work and share learning with their peers in Music and Production Arts. Through a range of regular initiatives, including *undisciplined*, the School's cross-arts programme, students are encouraged and supported to create new collaborative performance projects with seed funding and free access to rehearsal and performance space.

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**After training**

Guildhall Acting graduates can be seen in a wide variety of roles across film, TV and theatre. Many alumni go on to use their training in other fields such as education, social care, law and design. See pages 22–25 for profiles of some of our well-known alumni and recent graduates. The Drama Department supports ongoing training by offering a range of alumni initiatives such as the Alumni Gym and a programme of responsive initiatives, such as play commissions, in association with the Innovation Department.

For further student and alumni profiles, and recent productions, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/drama](https://gsmd.ac.uk/drama)



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# Acting alumni



## **Michelle Dockery (2004)**

Actor, known for her leading performance as Lady Mary Crawley in *Downton Abbey*, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe and three consecutive Primetime Emmys.



## **Paapa Essiedu (2012)**

Actor, known for his role in *I May Destroy You*, which earned him Primetime Emmy and BAFTA nominations. He won the 2016 Ian Charleson Award for his roles in the Royal Shakespeare Company productions of *Hamlet* and *King Lear*.



## **Kristina Tonteri-Young (2019)**

Actor, known for playing Sister Beatrice in *Warrior Nun*, as well as roles in *A Gift from Bob* and *Outside the Wire*.



## **Lily James (2010)**

Actor, known for her leading roles in *Cinderella*, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*, *Yesterday*, *The Darkest Hour* and *Pam & Tommy* which earned her Primetime Emmy and Golden Globe nominations.



**Dominic West (1995)**

Actor, director, and musician, known for playing Jimmy McNulty in *The Wire*, Noah Solloway in *The Affair*, a role which earned him a Golden Globe nomination, and Prince Charles in *The Crown*, which earned him Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations.



**Shubham Saraf (2017)**

Actor, known for *A Suitable Boy*, *Criminal: UK* and *Bodyguard*.



**Toheeb Jimoh (2018)**

Actor, best known for playing Sam Obisanya in *Ted Lasso* which earned him a Primetime Emmy nomination, and Anthony Walker in *Anthony*. He won second prize at the 2024 Ian Charleson Awards for his role in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Almeida Theatre.



**Anya Chalotra (2017)**

Actor, known for her role as Yennefer of Vengerberg in the Netflix original series *The Witcher*.



# Acting alumni



## **Natasha Gordon MBE (1999)**

Award-winning playwright and actor. In 2018, Natasha became the first Black British female playwright to have a play (*Nine Night*) staged in the West End.



## **Nikesh Patel (2010)**

Actor, best known for his role as Aafrin Dalal in *Indian Summers* and Tom Kapoor in *Starstruck*.



## **Daniel Craig (1991)**

Actor, known for playing James Bond from 2006–2021, for which he earned a BAFTA nomination, and Benoit Blanc in *Knives Out* and *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*, for which he earned two Golden Globe nominations.



## **Hayley Atwell (2005)**

Actor, known for her portrayal of Peggy Carter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, including the lead role in *Agent Carter*, as well as Grace in *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning* and Aliena in *The Pillars of Earth*, for which she received a Golden Globe nomination.







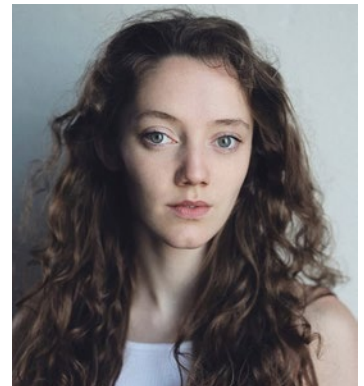
**Lennie James (1988)**

Actor, screenwriter and playwright, known for roles in *Line of Duty* and *The Walking Dead*. Lennie also created and starred in the drama series *Save Me*. Its second season, *Save Me Too*, won the BAFTA for Best Drama Series in 2021.



**Mirren Mack (2019)**

Actor, known for *Sex Education*, and her leading role as Kaya in *The Nest*. Mirren appeared in *The Witcher: Blood Origin* in 2022.



**Jodie Whittaker (2005)**

Actor, known for playing *Doctor Who* from 2017–2022, as well as leading roles in *Broadchurch* and *Venus*.



**Michaela Coel (2012)**

Actor, director, producer and writer, known for creating and starring in *Chewing Gum*, for which she won a BAFTA, and *I May Destroy You*, for which she won the Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Limited Series, Movie, or Dramatic Special, and the BAFTA for Best Actress.



# MUSIC



## Key staff

Armin Zanner FGS MA MPhil (Cantab)  
MMus  
*Vice Principal & Director of Music*

Professor Ronan O'Hora FGS FRNCM  
*Head of Advanced Performance  
Studies & Head of Keyboard*

Louise Hopkins FGS AGSM  
*Head of Strings*

Richard Benjafield FGS GRNCM  
PPRNCM  
*Head of Wind, Brass & Percussion*

Matthew Jones  
*Head of Chamber Music*

Sarah Tynan  
*Head of Vocal Arts*  
(from September 2024)

Dominic Wheeler BA (Cantab) ARCM  
(PG) ARCO HonARAM  
*Head of Opera*

Dr Alessandro Timossi FGS DPhil  
*Head of Music Programmes*

Dr Christopher Suckling DipRAM MA  
(Cantab) MA (Mus Open) DMA LRAM  
*Head of Historical Performance*

Dr Jo Lowry DMA  
*Head of Jazz*

Professor Julian Phillips FGS MA  
(Cantab) PhD  
*Head of Composition*

Ann Sloboda BMus (Hons) (Oxon)  
PGDipMT  
*Head of Music Therapy*

Professor Mike Roberts MA  
*Head of Electronic & Produced Music,  
& Music Technology*

**For a full list of teaching  
staff and visiting artists,  
visit [gsmd.ac.uk/music](https://gsmd.ac.uk/music)**

**At Guildhall School we believe in the transformational power of music, and our mission is to develop artists of the highest calibre. Our students are freethinking problem-solvers with a highly evolved sense of relevance in today's society.**

There are two central principles which will be fundamental to your training:

- **Inspiring the extraordinary in everything you do:** achieving your potential as an outstanding music-maker, whatever your field of expertise.
- **Evolving as an artist in society:** becoming an artist who is curious and whose work is vibrant and relevant to 21st century life. With an ever-growing awareness of your creative values, you will harness your knowledge to define and build your own career and bring transformational change to others.

As an artist who can bring these two elements together, you will have the greatest freedom to

determine your own future, to forge your own career path, curate your own events, establish your unique place in the performing arts, and act as an agent of change in the wider world.

At the heart of your training will be intensive, one-to-one and small ensemble sessions with Guildhall's core staff of over 400 practitioner teachers. You will also work with some of the world's finest international visiting artists and ensembles. Our partnerships with five key organisations – the Barbican Centre, the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Opera House and the Academy of Ancient Music (see page 9) – ensure that you will benefit from links with the profession before you graduate.

Level	Programme	Duration
Undergraduate	BMus	Four years
Postgraduate	MMus	One year (two years part-time)
	MPerf (Guildhall Artist)	Two years (two years part-time and one year full-time)
	MMus: Orchestral Artistry	One year
	MPerf (Guildhall Artist): Orchestral Artistry	Two years
	MMus	One year (two years part-time)
	MComp (Guildhall Artist)	Two years (two years part-time and one year full-time)
	MA in Opera Making & Writing	One year
	Artist Diploma	Two years
	MA in Music Therapy	Two years





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### **Guildhall public performances**

Each year, Guildhall presents over 100 public performances of student concerts, opera and recitals. These feature Guildhall musicians from all courses and year groups. Some concerts are streamed online and many are reviewed by critics from the national press. For an overview of these exciting performance opportunities, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/events](https://gsmd.ac.uk/events)

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### **Ensembles**

There is a vast array of Guildhall ensembles that you can join, from the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, New Music Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra to wind ensembles, brass bands and chamber groups. You will also find dedicated ensembles for jazz, opera and historical performance, and you can form your own groups. Read more about recent ensemble activities in our Principal Study pages (42–69).

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### **Competitions**

You will have the chance to enter many internal and external competitions, the most prestigious of which is the Gold Medal, the School's most significant music prize (previous winners include Jacqueline du Pré, Tasmin Little and Sir Bryn Terfel). For news of recent prizewinners, see our Principal Study pages (42–69).

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### **Masterclasses**

In keeping with our global credentials, each year Guildhall plays host to an array of masterclasses from international visiting artists. Free to attend, these events are also often open to public audiences. Our partnerships with the Barbican and the LSO also lead to regular masterclasses and artist conversations. For news of recent masterclasses, see our Principal Study pages (42–69).

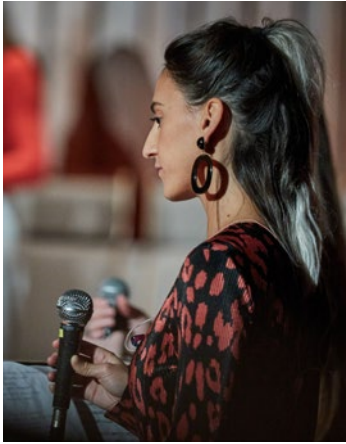
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### **Facilities and venues**

Our Milton Court Concert Hall is the largest conservatoire concert hall in London, with state-of-the-art acoustics and technical facilities. Solo recitals, chamber music and medium-sized orchestral performances all take place here.

Opera productions are staged in the Silk Street Theatre, a large, flexible theatre space with orchestra pit, and occasionally in Milton Court Theatre. Other venues include a smaller Music Hall, a Lecture Recital Room and our Studio Theatre.

As a Guildhall musician, you will have access to over 80 solo practice studios, several medium-sized ensemble rooms, electronic music studios and recording facilities. The recording studio and performance spaces are used for workshops, portfolio recordings and CD/DVD production to fully professional standards.



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### Cross-arts collaborations

Collaboration is a major part of our approach. If you join us as an undergraduate, you will work with students in the Drama and Production Arts Departments during the first year workshop project. Every undergraduate Music student at Guildhall School is trained to work collaboratively in community settings, and the School's cross-arts programme *undisciplined* offers opportunities for students to collaborate, apply for funding and much more.

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### Wider performance opportunities

Our location in the heart of the City, and our partnerships with the Barbican and the LSO, mean we offer exciting performance opportunities in some of the capital's finest venues. The Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and Chorus perform regularly in the 2000-seat Barbican Hall, while chamber musicians give

recitals in many notable venues around the City, including our own Milton Court Concert Hall and the LSO's centre at St Luke's.

Students also perform across London in venues such as Kings Place, Wigmore Hall and the Southbank Centre. Further afield, they often appear at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Additionally, students get involved in Guildhall School's extensive programme of outside engagements. These are paid events, where students perform at company and corporate functions, wedding services, receptions and family occasions, and deliver full recitals and concerto performances for music clubs and societies.

For listings of Guildhall performances and events, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/events](https://gsmd.ac.uk/events)



## Duration

Four years full-time

Strings

Wind

Brass

Percussion

Keyboard

Vocal Studies

Composition

Electronic & Produced Music

Jazz

**The BMus programme is centred around world-leading one-to-one tuition for performers, composers and electronic musicians. Its principal aim is to develop your ability as a practical musician.**

At least two-thirds of the programme is focused on your Principal Study (see pages 42–69). A minimum of 30 individual lessons a year with our renowned professional staff are combined with over 100 hours a year of departmental classes, workshops, coaching and projects with high profile artists, as well as opportunities to perform in some of the country's finest venues.

From the start, you will be treated like a professional, and given the support and encouragement you need to prepare for the industry. You will establish contacts and gain exposure through our

partnership organisations such as the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra (see page 9). A Joint Principal Study pathway is also available.

## Years 1 and 2

In addition to Principal Study, the curriculum includes classes and tutorials for integrated and progressive learning in musicianship and critical/analytical skills. From Year 2, depending on completing the Musicianship courses in Year 1, you can select up to two electives (see box below).

Year 1 also includes the Professional Studies 1 module which explores performance psychology, wellbeing, and improvisation and communication skills. In Year 2 you will also take a course in conducting.

## Years 3 and 4

In Years 3 and 4, Principal Study continues to be the main focus, alongside the culmination of the two core learning areas of critical and analytical skills, and Professional Studies 2. You also choose from a variety of electives (see box on the left), including specialised work in Principal Study if you achieve the required level, and specialised academic or practical/professional courses.

## Elective modules

- Advanced Ensemble
- Historical Performance
- Advanced Principal Study
- Interpretation through Improvisation
- Analysis (Year 2)
- Introduction to Music Therapy
- Artistry in Stylistic Composition
- Jazz Arranging for Large Ensembles (choice of Counterpoint, Fugue, Orchestration, Stylistic Composition)
- Jazz Performance
- Jazz Workshop (Year 2)
- Body Matters
- Keyboard Musicianship (Year 2)
- Brass and Wind Arranging
- Music History (Year 2)
- Collaborative Skills (Year 2)
- Music, Philosophy and the Arts
- Composition (Year 2)
- Opera and Theatre (Year 4 singers)
- Composition for Media
- PianoWorks (for pianists)
- Conducting
- Research Project (Year 4)
- Creative Writing for Musicians (Year 4)
- Second Study
- Electronic Music Composition & Production
- Workshop Skills



*“The question of identity has been a running topic in my life, socially and creatively. Guildball has shown me a sense of belonging and mutual understanding between artists, which I believe has the potential to transcend social barriers. My time at Guildball has made me realise that community and connection are at the heart of how I wish to share and create music, forming my identity as a performer.”*

**Lara Ali**

BMus Flute



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# Master of Music in Performance

## Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist)

### Duration

#### MMus

One year full-time or  
two years part-time

#### MPerf

Two years full-time or  
two years part-time and  
one year full-time

Strings

Wind

Brass

Percussion

Keyboard

Vocal Studies

Opera Studies\*

Repetiteur Training

Piano Accompaniment

Jazz

Historical Performance

Orchestral Artistry

*\*Opera Studies is full-time only,  
and the MMus takes two academic years*

Preparing you for entry to the profession at the highest level, this programme is about developing as an individual, insightful musician and practitioner. You will challenge yourself and take risks in your field of expertise. The MMus and MPerf will give you the technical facility and musical flexibility to explore and refine your individual artistic voice.

The School will provide you with a learning environment that enables you to recognise and nurture your strengths. Our teaching staff includes world-class performers and innovative practitioners, and there are also plenty of opportunities for professional exposure. You will learn from internationally renowned artists and perform in some of the country's finest venues, before your final recitals which are assessed by leading experts.

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### Professional specialisms

Within the Performance pathway, students study one of our professional specialisms according to instrument and area of interest. Many of these specialisms work closely with our partner organisations (see page 9):

#### Advanced Instrumental Studies

*Strings, Wind, Brass,  
Percussion, Keyboard*

Intensive study for soloists and ensemble players.

#### Historical Performance

Inhabit the music of the past; perform for the audiences of today.

#### Jazz

Intensive specialism for instrumentalists and singers.

#### Opera Studies

Award-winning specialism offering advanced operatic training.

#### Orchestral Artistry, in association with the LSO *Strings, Wind, Brass, Percussion*

This ground-breaking specialism offers students seeking a career in orchestral music the opportunity to play alongside LSO players and international artists (see page 34).

#### Piano Accompaniment

Intensive study in collaborative pianism.

#### Repetiteur Training

Specific repetiteur study for pianists within the Opera Department.

#### Vocal Studies

Advanced study for singers, who can specialise in areas of particular interest.

### Elective modules

- Advanced Principal Study
- Artistry in Stylistic Composition (choice of Counterpoint, Fugue, Orchestration, Stylistic Composition)
- Body Matters
- Chamber Music
- Composition for Media
- Conducting
- Contextual Studies: The Forbidden Saxophone
- Creative Writing for Musicians
- Electronic Music Composition & Production
- Historical Performance
- Interpretation through Improvisation
- Introduction to Music Therapy
- Jazz Composition and Arranging (for Jazz students)
- Jazz Improvisation (for Jazz students)
- Music, Philosophy and the Arts
- Opera and Theatre (for singers)
- PianoWorks (for pianists)
- Research Project
- Social Arts Practices
- Song Accompaniment (for pianists)
- Vocal Repertoire (for singers)
- Voiceworks (for singers)



### MMus

This programme focuses on your intense learning in your Principal Study (see pages 42–69). The curriculum includes a core module (Reflective Practice) where you discuss and closely monitor your aims and artistic and professional development. It also includes a number of elective subjects, some led by Principal Study departments, while others are more academic or practical/professional (see box on left).

### MPerf

Building on the shared first year with MMus students, in year two, you will be given more autonomy to arrange part of your assessed projects, while continuing Principal Study-based activities from the first year. These focus on further development of technical and artistic abilities. Breadth of repertoire, individual creative output and professional experience are key features of year two. In addition to

Principal Study work, you will write a critique of your personal development as the culmination of reflective work in year one.

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### Extended Master of Music in Performance and Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist) programmes

Applicants may be offered a place on the extended programme if their Principal Study is not yet at Masters entry level. This extended programme comprises an initial year almost entirely focused on the development of Principal Study which students must pass before progressing to the MMus or MPerf programmes.



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# Master of Music in Performance: Orchestral Artistry

## Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist): Orchestral Artistry

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### Duration

#### MMus

One year full-time

#### MPerf

Two years full-time

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In association with the  
London Symphony Orchestra



Strings  
Wind  
Brass  
Percussion

**Orchestral Artistry is an exciting professional specialism within the MMus and MPerf programmes for exceptional instrumentalists seeking a career in orchestral playing. Delivered in close association with the world-leading London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), the programme is highly distinctive and ground-breaking in scope, in a context akin to a professional environment.**

The programme focuses on orchestral training and repertoire, education and outreach, and early career support. Individual lessons are led by Guildhall School's professors. Students work closely with LSO members, receiving regular coaching in orchestral sectionals, audition experience and instrumental classes.

There are also masterclasses from LSO players, international soloists and members of Barbican International Associates.

Students have sit-in opportunities, either listening to or playing alongside LSO players in orchestral rehearsals conducted by its roster of international conductors, including Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano and Conductor Emeritus Sir Simon Rattle, as well as access to the full range of the LSO's education and community programmes. This will enable you to learn how community-based programmes are delivered, and to meet workshop leaders, performers and administration teams.

Performance opportunities embrace a variety of orchestral contexts, including symphonic concerts at the Barbican, and the productions by the School's acclaimed Opera Department.

#### MMus

Orchestral Artistry focuses on excellence in performance, core musicianship skills, and leadership and communication. A diverse programme of core and elective modules from the MMus and MPerf programmes (see pages 32–33) will enable you to develop your skills in practical subjects and research. You will also devise and deliver an LSO Discovery workshop for primary schoolchildren.

#### MPerf

Building on the shared first year with MMus students, in year two, you will be given more autonomy to arrange your projects. This second year is strongly focused on further development of technical and artistic abilities. Breadth of repertoire, individual creative output and professional experience are key features.

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**For a list of elective modules, see box on page 33.**



# Master of Music in Composition

## Master of Composition (Guildhall Artist)

### Duration

#### MMus

One year full-time or two years part-time

#### MComp

Two years full-time or two-years part time and one year full-time

**The Master of Music in Composition or Master of Composition (Guildhall Artist) is awarded to classical composition students and to students studying with the Electronic & Produced Music department**

**Guildhall School offers some of the most stimulating and creative training for composers in the UK. Studying Composition at Masters level prepares you for professional life as a composer. It allows you to explore and refine your individual artistic voice within the collaborative atmosphere of a busy, modern conservatoire, while also giving you the space for self-reflection.**

The programme centres around weekly one-to-one Principal Study lessons (see pages 42–69). You will be allocated to one of the department's distinguished faculty of composers, who will guide your creative participation on core projects across the year.

The outcomes of core projects are all workshopped, rehearsed, publicly performed and recorded. There is a focus on the collaborative nature of compositional practice and the department benefits from a number of long-standing external partnerships, including with London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS) and the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). Weekly composition seminars and open sessions support technical, aesthetic and professional development, and a choice of elective modules support specific aspects of your development (see box on page 33).

#### MMus

Your weekly one-to-one Principal Study lessons and participation in five creative projects are the core of the programme. Recent projects have included generating new work for EXAUDI, Plus-Minus Ensemble and Voiceworks at

Wigmore Hall, as well as work with choreographers and dancers from LCDS performed at The Place. A range of elective choices complement compositional study and development (see box on page 33).

Students who are enrolled on the extended MMus or MPerf programmes (see page 33) will need to pass an introductory year before progressing to the full Masters programme.

#### MComp

Building on the shared first year with MMus students, in year two, you will be supported to develop three projects across the year including the Creative Platform, an opportunity to curate and produce your own event. There is also the option to write for chamber orchestra, with players drawn from the LSO working alongside instrumentalists from Guildhall's Orchestral Artistry programme (see page 34).

During the second year, creative projects are developed and designed by students themselves, with a greater degree of curatorial freedom; in the first year projects are set, designed and provided by the department.





*“Studying at Guildhall has been a completely transformative experience for my journey not only as a composer, but as a well-rounded musician. This has certainly been the most prolific year of my life and I owe it to my amazing teachers and incredibly supportive cohort.”*

**Maki Gajic Murata**

MMus Composition



# MA in Opera Making & Writing

## Duration

One year full-time

In association with  
the Royal Opera House,  
Covent Garden



**This Masters programme supports composers and writers to develop their artistic practice in contemporary opera, providing them with the technical and professional skills required for its creation, development and performance. Part of an exciting partnership between Guildhall School and the Royal Opera House (see page 9), the programme centres around the creation of a 25-minute chamber opera which is fully staged in Milton Court Studio Theatre.**

The course admits three composers and three writers each year. During an initial induction module, students pair up into composer-writer teams. Each team develops a short opera scene, before going on to create full chamber operas. Other smaller projects allow you to follow your own creative pathway: in poetry, prose, dramatic or film script (writers), and in vocal or instrumental/electronic works with a theatrical/dramatic focus (composers).

The programme focuses on the collaborative nature of opera making and each composer-writer team is supported by collaborative mentoring. Students also take part in one-to-one Principal Study lessons, production seminars and creative development workshops. An elective module allows for further specialisation.

Led by Professor Julian Philips (Head of Composition) and Professor Stephen Plaice (Writer in Residence), teaching is enriched through regular seminars with visiting professionals from the opera world including composers, writers, singers, conductors and directors.

The programme collaborates closely with Guildhall's award-winning Opera Department, led by Dominic Wheeler, with Guildhall opera singers forming the cast for the chamber operas created by composer-writer teams.

Practical experience of opera during the year is hugely augmented by the programme's association with the Royal Opera House (ROH), which provides opportunities to see productions in rehearsal and performance, and to meet and network with key ROH staff and visiting practitioners.

## Student success

In the nine years since its inception, graduates of the course have received commissions from the ROH, the National Opera Studio, Glyndebourne, Mahogany Opera Group, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Académie de Festival d-Aix-en-Provence, Danish National Opera, Casa das Música (Porto), Pittsburgh and Boston Festival Opera, Carnegie Hall, the Eden Project and many more.



# Artist Diploma

## Duration

Two years full-time

Strings

Wind

Brass

Percussion

Keyboard

Vocal Studies

Opera Studies

(including répétiteurs)

Historical Performance

Please note, this programme is undergoing periodic review during the 2024/25 academic year and is therefore subject to change.

**This programme is for advanced students with exceptional aptitude in their specialism and strong professional and artistic ambitions. It provides specialist, professional training if you are looking to embark on a national and international career.**

The Artist Diploma represents post-Masters progression, and is designed to meet the specialised needs and aspirations of outstanding performance students, and to support them with the competence and sensitivity required.

Applicants should have obtained an MMus or international equivalent, and the programme is open to specialisms in Instrumental, Vocal, Opera Studies (both voice and répétiteur) and Historical Performance. As an Artist Diploma student, your contact time will be as bespoke as possible in order to meet your highly individual needs, and to support you in achieving your professional and artistic goals.

The assessment consists of performances supported by a submission log of activities and an interview. At the end of the two years, these performances comprise a full-length recital in Milton Court or a fully-staged opera production (Opera Studies, voice). The assessment of répétiteurs is split between a recital and a mock audition.

You will be involved in performances throughout both years, from platforms to formal and informal recitals and productions. You will also be expected and encouraged to be active outside the School if your visa allows, taking proactive steps to promote a freelance career.

**Further information on departmental opportunities at this level is available on the Principal Study pages (44–70).**





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# MA in Music Therapy

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## Duration

Two years full-time

**The Masters in Music Therapy aims to develop students' musicianship and personal potential, and equip them with the knowledge and skills to work as a registered music therapist. You will join one of the world's leading conservatoires, and build your therapeutic and theoretical knowledge through an intensive programme of lectures and seminars. Weekly musicianship, improvisation and voice classes will help you acquire highly-developed skills in therapeutic musical communication.**

Studying with qualified music therapists, you will gain experience working with adults and children on placements in a variety of settings including healthcare units, SEN and mainstream schools, and with people who experience mental health issues, dementia, learning disabilities and communication disorders.

The programme is influenced by psychodynamic approaches to therapy, and all Music Therapy students undertake their own personal therapy during training. A high degree of self-reflection and self-awareness is required, and gaining experience of personal psychotherapy prior to training is highly recommended.

Tuition is complemented by one-to-one conservatoire-level training in your First Instrument and Second Study lessons with the School's teachers. The programme provides access to leading specialists in improvisation and an active research community, with the possibility of taking part in research events.

## Year 1

You will gain clinical experience in at least two different placement settings, supervised by Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered music therapists. Seminars, theoretical studies, instrumental lessons and classes in musicianship, vocal and improvisational skills will support and integrate your clinical work.

## Year 2

An extended placement offers further in-depth clinical experience, supported by seminars and classes on professional practice and current approaches. An Applied Theoretical and Research Studies module will introduce research methods and support you in carrying out your chosen research project.

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## Future careers

Graduates have an excellent record of employment in health, education, social and community service and the voluntary sector, and are eligible to register as arts therapists with the HCPC and as professional members of the British Association for Music Therapy.





*“The Music Therapy programme at Guildball has been a truly transformative experience for me. The quality of professional training, together with the teaching staff’s knowledge, skills, and care and support for students have been impressive and I now feel very confident in starting my professional journey. The programme’s unique location in a conservatoire enhanced students’ musicianship and meant we benefitted from instrumental lessons with conservatoire teachers. I feel very grateful to have been part of this cohort.”*

**Tom Huet**  
MA Music Therapy

## Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp, Guitar

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### Programmes

**BMus**  
**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**  
**Artist Diploma**  
**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

The Strings Department focuses on individual tuition underpinned by intensive chamber coaching and orchestral training, and studies will prepare you for a rewarding future in all areas of the profession. Led by Louise Hopkins, the Department is supported by a staff of pre-eminent world-class performers and professors who share a passion to guide and support the talented, creative and intensely motivated musicians that enter Guildhall School. Guildhall Strings alumni are members of leading chamber ensembles and orchestras internationally, and are among the most sought-after string performers and teachers.

The Harp Department, led by Imogen Barford, combines individual teaching of the highest calibre with stimulating, wide-ranging study covering all aspects of harp playing. Our aim is to produce self-starting, versatile and creative musicians, at home in every part of the profession.

The Guitar Department is led by the eminent international soloists Sasha Savaloni, Sean Shibe and Toby Carr. We offer comprehensive training at the highest level in both solo and chamber music performance, across the repertoire of the last four centuries. Chamber music and concerto playing are essential parts of the syllabus.

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### Undergraduate

**BMus**  
*See page 30 for programme structure.*

Performance is a core component of the Principal Study pathway, with regular opportunities to play in both public and internal solo and chamber music platforms and concerts. Students receive at least 45 hours of individual lessons a year. Intensive chamber music coaching and performance is central to the Department's ethos and is compulsory for all string players.

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### Postgraduate

**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32. Choose from the specialisms listed below.*

**Orchestral Artistry in association with the London Symphony Orchestra**  
*See page 34 for details of this specialism.*

**Advanced Instrumental Studies**  
This specialism is for players wishing to focus intensively on instrumental and musical progression, and offers a high number of contact hours in individual lessons with your Principal Study professor. There are a broad range of both internal and public solo and ensemble performance opportunities. Chamber music performance is a primary focus within the School. A broad variety of orchestral projects (opera, chamber, symphony, new music, historical performance) provide exploration of a wide variety of techniques and styles.





## Chamber Music

*See page 56.*

## Artist Diploma

*See page 39.*

## MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD

*See page 103.*

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### Study highlights

- Extensive chamber music coaching (inter- and cross-departmental)
- Public solo and chamber music concerts
- Solo and chamber music competitions
- Participation in New Music Ensemble (by audition)
- Second Study (by audition)
- Repertoire orchestra
- Side-by-side reading sessions with members of professional orchestras
- Studio orchestra
- Chamber and symphony orchestra projects, with orchestra sectional rehearsals led by London Symphony Orchestra players

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### Recent Department highlights

- Side-by-side sessions and performances with London Symphony Orchestra members
- Side-by-side performance projects with the Australian Chamber Orchestra (Barbican International Associate ensemble)
- Masterclasses with Los Angeles Philharmonic principal players (Barbican International Associate Orchestra)
- String masterclasses and workshops with Patricia Kopachinskaja, Patrick Jüdt, Christian Tetzlaff, Gary Hoffman, Andrés Keller, Janine Jansen, Rodrigo Moro, Lorraine Campet, Joel Quarrington, Leonidas

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. For selected Strings, Harp and Guitar alumni, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/strings](https://gsmd.ac.uk/strings)**

Kavakos, Bruno Giuranna and Antoine Tamestit

- Harp Masterclasses with Anneleen Lenaerts, Sylvain Blassel, Isabelle Perrin, Masumi Nagasawa, Gwyneth Wentinck, Park Stickney and Marie-Pierre Langlamet
- Guitar masterclasses with David Russell, Sean Shibe, Manus Noble, Sasha Savaloni, Ignacio Rodes, Berta Rojas and Maximo Pujol
- Guitar workshops with David Jaggs, Douglas Rogers and Arne Richards
- LSO Platforms Guildhall Artists: performances by senior student chamber ensembles in pre-London Symphony Orchestra concerts on the Barbican Concert Hall stage
- Joint projects with the Composition Department (see page 36), where string and harp players alongside other performance students work with composers and perform newly created works

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### Recent student success

Recent competition first prizes and young artists awards include:

- Bordeaux and Banff International String Quartet competitions
- Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition
- Cavatina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition
- Borletti-Buitoni Trust Artists award
- Young Concert Artist Trust and Concert Artists Guild (New York)
- Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artists award
- London Sinfonietta Academy (harp)
- Royal Overseas League
- BBC New Generation Artists
- Young Concert Artists Trust

## Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani and Percussion, Saxophone, Recorder

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### Programmes

**BMus**  
**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**  
**Artist Diploma**  
**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

The Wind, Brass and Percussion Department provides exciting opportunities for learning and performing. Led by Richard Benjafield (Head of Department), Fraser MacAulay (Deputy Head, Woodwind) and Beth Randell (Deputy Head, Brass), our world-class team of instrumental professors are leaders in orchestral, solo and chamber performance.

Our alumni hold top orchestral jobs, are international competition winners and are successfully employed across the music business. Our courses offer many options to help shape your future career, professional skills and artistic voice. Through a supportive and dynamic environment, we focus on highly specialised skills, versatility, and individual development guided by your professors, visiting artists and the pastoral support of your personal tutor.



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### Undergraduate

**BMus**  
*See page 30 for programme structure.*

Your journey as a student in the Wind, Brass and Percussion Department will be an individual one, offering a rich and diverse programme of opportunities to enable you to become the very best musician you can be. During the course, you can have lessons from a range of Principal Study professors in addition to those with your main professor. All students also join Wind, Brass and Percussion Orchestral Repertoire classes, enjoy chamber music opportunities, and take part in professional development classes. You'll also be allocated roles in the School's orchestras and ensembles.

The Department runs weekly classes for all instruments, and there are plenty of opportunities to perform at Guildhall, the Barbican, and further afield. Visiting UK and international artists give frequent masterclasses on solo, chamber and orchestral repertoire. There are several annual instrumental competitions.

Progressing through the programme, you develop an individualised study pathway, according to your skills and ambitions. There are opportunities to play contemporary, jazz or early music, in ensembles and specialist classes; you can gain teaching skills and take part in outreach work.



Collaboration is a key element, both in performance projects and work with our external partners.

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### Postgraduate

#### **Master of Music in Performance Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32. Choose from the specialisms listed below.*

#### **Orchestral Artistry in association with the London Symphony Orchestra**

Playing and learning alongside LSO players, and in Guildhall projects and classes, you will follow an intensive programme of orchestrally-focused training. *See page 34 for details of this exciting specialism.*

#### **Advanced Instrumental Studies**

This specialism is for talented students who want a rounded Masters programme including orchestral study, but with more extensive time for solo playing, contemporary music or historical performance.

#### **Chamber Music**

A unique programme which offers every student a regular ensemble and guaranteed coaching from professors. *See page 56 for details.*

#### **Artist Diploma**

*See page 39.*

#### **MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

*See page 103.*

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. For selected Wind, Brass and Percussion alumni, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/wbp](http://gsmd.ac.uk/wbp)**

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### Study highlights

- Up to 45 individual Principal Study lessons each year
- Weekly orchestral repertoire classes
- Scheduled weekly chamber music coaching and rehearsals
- Platform performance classes
- Symphony, Opera and Chamber orchestras
- Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Guildhall Brass Ensembles, Guildhall Wind Soloists
- Guildhall Ubu Ensemble – contemporary music
- Saxophone Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Big Band, Recorder Consort, Baroque Orchestra
- Projects with the Jazz, Historical Performance and Composition Departments

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### Recent Department highlights

- Recent visiting artists include Mariam Adam, Yazz Ahmed, Radek Baborek, Canadian Brass, Joshua Batty, Juliette Bausor, Bence Boganyi, Sergio Carolina, Philip Cobb, Jacob Collier, Abbie Conant, Olivier Darbellay, Claude Delangle, Clara Dent-Boganyi, Martin Fröst, Kris Garfitt, Mohammed Gueye, Perry Hoogendijk, Diego Incertis, Carole Jarvis, Katy Jones, Julianna Koch, Musicians of the LA Philharmonic, Mike Lovatt, Maura Marinucci, Anthony McGill, Victor Mendoza, Musicians of the New York Philharmonic, Gianandrea Noseda, Dorothee Oberlinger, Peter Steiner, Mathis Stier and David Walter.
- Joint performance projects with Jazz, Composition and Historical Performance
- Repertoire classes on *Sweeney Todd* and *Into the Woods*
- Concerts in Barbican Hall, Milton Court and on BBC Radio 3



## Piano, Piano Accompaniment

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### Programmes

**BMus**  
**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**  
**Artist Diploma**  
**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

Offering a wide array of solo, ensemble and accompaniment training, the Keyboard Department is headed by internationally acclaimed pianist Ronan O’Hora. Visiting artists have included Leif Ove Andsnes, Emanuel Ax, Imogen Cooper, Richard Goode, Paul Lewis, Murray Perahia and András Schiff.

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### Undergraduate

**BMus**  
*See page 30 for programme structure.*

One-to-one lessons with our piano faculty are at the heart of the Keyboard Department’s work. You will receive 45 hours in each of the first two years of study, increasing to 60 in the next two years. In addition to studying with your own professor, you will have the opportunity to work with most of the keyboard staff in a variety of performance classes, as well as with a large number of distinguished visitors.

All practical assessments take place through performances, as mid-year and end-of-year recitals or as concerts of ensemble work with instrumentalists and singers. You will play a concerto with piano in your third year and have the opportunity to work on chamber

music, vocal accompaniment, contemporary repertoire and fortepiano with leading performers in these fields.

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### Postgraduate

**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32. Choose from the specialisms listed below.*

#### Advanced Instrumental Studies

This specialism is for pianists intending to focus intensely on performance and who demonstrate career potential as soloists or chamber players. You will receive 60 hours of one-to-one Principal Study tuition over the year, and opportunities to play in masterclasses with a range of distinguished visiting pianists. There is a broad range of performance opportunities in-person and online, both within and outside the School, including competitions such as the Gold Medal and the annual Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize for a debut Wigmore Hall recital, as well as participation in international partnerships with other conservatoires and performance centres.

#### Piano Accompaniment

This specialism is for students who want to develop a career in collaborative pianism. The pathway combines intensive one-to-one instruction, group classes covering essential skills for the profession and a wealth of duo and ensemble performance opportunities throughout the year.



Our engaged and dynamic faculty are at the forefront of the profession and include such artists as Professor Graham Johnson (who leads an annual Song Guild programme for auditioned singers and pianists), Julius Drake and Carole Presland. Collaborative piano sits at the heart of the School's diverse music offering, and our pianists benefit from close collaboration across the School's vocal and instrumental faculties.

Our alumni are visible nationally and internationally and have won first prizes and pianist prizes at the Wigmore Hall Song Competition, the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the International Nadia and Lili Boulanger Competition (among others), and have also earned places in studio programmes at major opera houses around the world.

**Chamber Music**  
*See page 56.*

**Repetiteur Training**  
*See page 52.*

**Historical Performance**  
*See page 54.*

**Artist Diploma**  
*See page 39.*

**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**  
*See page 103.*

- Projects for accompanists with Graham Johnson
- Faculty Artist Series recitals by Ronan O'Hora, Martin Roscoe, Noriko Ogawa, Charles Owen, Caroline Palmer and Graham Johnson
- Student pianists performing as soloists with chamber and symphony orchestras on the Barbican stage

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### Recent student success

Recent competition prizes and young artists awards include:

- Leeds International Piano Competition
- Chopin International Piano Competition
- Città di Cantù International Competition
- Honens International Piano Competition
- Scottish International Piano Competition
- Dublin International Piano Competition
- British Contemporary Piano Competition
- Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition
- Das Lied International Song Competition
- Kathleen Ferrier Awards
- Young Concert Artists Trust (YCAT)

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### Recent Department highlights

- Masterclasses with Lang Lang, Richard Goode, Imogen Cooper, Jeremy Denk, Emanuel Ax, Paul Lewis, Leon Fleischer, Aleksandar Madžar, Malcolm Martineau, Julius Drake, Ralf Gothoni and Martin Katz

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. For selected Keyboard alumni, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/keyboard](http://gsmd.ac.uk/keyboard)**

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## Programmes

### **BMus**

**Master of Music in Performance**

**Master of Performance**

**(Guildhall Artist)**

**Artist Diploma**

**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

Guildhall School is internationally renowned for training singers.

At the heart of Vocal Studies is the development of each student's individuality as a performer.

Through an intensive programme of one-to-one lessons, performance projects and classes, you will gain the knowledge and practical experience necessary to forge your own artistic path.

Vocal and Opera Studies alumni (see pages 70–73) achieve success on opera and concert stages around the world, and work with major opera companies, concert promoters and festivals. Alumni also hold positions in opera management, artist management and arts marketing. Many are leaders in music education or in music for health. Others have established music technology, non-profit and performance companies.

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## Undergraduate

### **BMus**

*See page 30 for programme structure.*

Guildhall's undergraduate Vocal Studies programme establishes the disciplines necessary for you as a singer and integrates these in practical performance settings.

In Years 1 and 2, the vocal-technical foundations are set in one-to-one singing lessons alongside an array of classes in acting, movement,

repertoire, musicianship and languages. Performance activities include in-house platforms and showings earlier in the programme, and public performance opportunities by Year 2.

Years 3 and 4 take your skills to the next level in various staged opera projects and specialist repertoire classes. Regular individual coaching complements the one-to-one singing lessons, supporting your integration of technique, music, language and performance. By Year 4, your professional development includes Teaching Skills as well as regular encounters with visiting industry figures in Professional and Performance Skills.

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## Postgraduate

The Vocal Studies course attracts postgraduate singers with diverse previous experiences and the multiple study options cater for this diversity. For all postgraduates, intensive work in performance projects is supported by advanced classes in acting, movement, opera, song and performance. Regular encounters with visiting artists and industry figures further enhance your professional development.

### **Master of Music in Performance**

**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32: Vocal Studies.*

### **Extended MMus or MPerf**

For singers with limited previous experience, the extended masters includes a preliminary year to consolidate vocal technique and performance skills. In this year, alongside your one-to-one singing lessons and individual coaching, a study and performance



*“Studying at Guildhall has been one of the best decisions I’ve made for my career. The School has an amazing team of staff who are dedicated to bringing out the best in every student. The School’s flexible approach allows students to cultivate their own unique artistic identities, which is important during early training. The guidance I’ve received has led me to opportunities that I had never envisioned, such as competitions, young artist programmes and working on opera roles. Beyond support from the School, I’ve also met talented musicians from around the world who encourage and support each other on our musical journeys.”*

**Cheung Tsz Yau Michelle**

BMus Vocal Studies



programme will be devised to suit your particular training needs.

### **MMus or MPerf**

For singers already at an advanced level of development, the Masters programmes in Vocal Studies are designed to build your professional expertise. One-to-one singing lessons deepen your technical mastery, supported by individual coaching to refine your expertise in vocal performance.

An extensive selection of elective projects offers specialist guidance and opportunities for public performance in opera, song, historical, 20th-century and contemporary repertoire. For MPerf students, in addition to taking advantage of performances at the School, you create projects and establish professional connections that lead to public performing engagements.

### **Artist Diploma**

*See page 39.*

The Artist Diploma in Vocal Studies is for singers beyond Masters level with the profile of an early-career professional in opera or concert performance. The flexible structure allows you to focus on areas of vocal arts most relevant to your emerging career. One-to-one singing lessons, specialist coaching and opportunities in opera or concert performance sit alongside encounters with visiting artists and industry figures which open professional doors for success at an international level of performance.

### **MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

*See page 103.*

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## **Recent Department highlights**

- Projects with Artist in Residence Julia Bullock
- Masterclasses with Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Lise Davidsen, and alumnus Roderick Williams
- Recitals at the Barbican, Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall
- BBC Symphony Orchestra Total Immersion broadcasts
- London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra concert opportunities, with Sir Simon Rattle, Marin Alsop and Sir Antonio Pappano
- In Conversations with Jonas Kaufmann, Hera Hyesang Park and Davóne Tines

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## **Recent student success**

Recent Opera and Vocal Studies competition prizes and young artists awards include:

- Cardiff Singer of the World
- Kathleen Ferrier Awards
- Kathleen Ferrier Society Bursary for Young Singers
- International Vocal Competition 's-Hertogenbosch
- Queen Sonja International Music Competition
- Nadia and Lili Boulanger International Voice-Piano Competition
- Young artists programmes at the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Dutch National Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Berlin State Opera, Lyon National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Scottish Opera, Zurich Opera, Opéra de Montréal
- European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO) Rising Stars
- BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists
- Operalia

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**Music alumni are highlighted on pages 70–73. Further Vocal Studies competition and award winners can be found at [gsmd.ac.uk/vocal](http://gsmd.ac.uk/vocal)**







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## Programmes

### **Master of Music in Performance Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist) Artist Diploma**

Opera Studies provides intensive postgraduate training for up to 24 singers and four student répétiteurs at any one time. It offers advanced vocal training and operates at a professional level, presenting a range of productions from opera scenes and chamber opera to full-scale operas over the two years of study.

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## Postgraduate

### **Master of Music in Performance Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32. Choose from the specialisms listed below.*

#### Opera Studies

The Opera Studies specialism is for singers with a developed vocal technique, vocal maturity and potential for development. Experienced visiting professionals will provide you with vocal and dramatic training including singing lessons, individual coaching in roles and repertoire, acting and stage techniques (such as movement, dance, make-up and drama), dedicated language coaching and career guidance.



Performance is central to the programme. The department stages three full public productions each year and three programmes of operatic excerpts in workshop settings, developed in partnership with the Production Arts Department. In the Summer term, these collaborations include new work by composers and librettists on the MA in Opera Making & Writing programme (see page 38).

#### Repetiteur Training

This specialism is for highly accomplished pianists and sight-readers with knowledge of the operatic repertoire and experience of accompanying singers. This one- or two-year programme includes providing accompaniment for opera production rehearsals and coaching for singers on the Opera programme, as well as coaching and training in répétiteur techniques, piano lessons and language coaching, harpsichord tuition and continuo playing.

Accompaniment for coaching sessions and introductory training in opera conducting are also available.

#### Artist Diploma

*See page 39.*

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## Recent Department productions

- Handel, *Alcina*
- McNeff, *A Star Next to the Moon* (world premiere)
- Respighi, *Maria egiziaca* and *La bella dormite nel bosco* (Double Bill)
- Heggie, *Dead Man Walking*
- Weir, *Miss Fortune*
- Paterson, *The Angel Esmeralda* (world premiere)
- Mozart, *Così fan tutte*
- Britten, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Handel, *Aminta e Fillide*



- Blow, *Venus and Adonis*
- Poulenc, *Dialogues des Carmélites*
- Menotti, *The Consul*
- Philips, *The Tale of Januaria* (world premiere)
- Handel, *Radamisto*
- Stravinsky, *Mavra*
- Tchaikovsky, *Iolanta*
- Britten, *The Rape of Lucretia*

- English National Opera Harewood Artists programme
- Bavarian State Opera Opernstudio
- Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists programme

Graduates have secured performing roles with:

- Royal Opera House
- Opera Holland Park
- State Theatre Nuremberg International Opera Studio
- Garsington Opera
- Grange Park Opera
- Glyndebourne Festival Opera
- Welsh National Opera

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### Recent student success

Recent Opera and Vocal Studies competition prizes and young artist programme success include:

- Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition
- Kathleen Ferrier Awards
- London Handel Festival, Handel Singing Competition
- Josep Mirabent I Magrans Singing and Chamber Music Contest
- Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform
- Berlin State Opera International Opera Studio

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**Music alumni are highlighted on pages 70–73. Opera Studies alumni can be found at [gsmd.ac.uk/opera](http://gsmd.ac.uk/opera)**

## Keyboard and plucked continuo instruments

Historical Performance specialism is also available to singers through the Vocal Studies Department (see page 48). Study of historical string, wind and brass instruments is available through elective modules.

advantage of the breadth of technical and performance training necessary for a singer, while also being able to choose performance projects, masterclasses and electives that are led by the Historical Performance Department.

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### Programmes

**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**  
**Artist Diploma**  
**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

Historical Performance at Guildhall encourages students to inhabit music from the past and explore ways of communicating with a modern audience.

Three study pathways are designed to support anticipated professional career-paths:

*Historical Performance Principal Study: Keyboard and plucked continuo instruments*

Postgraduate performers on keyboards and plucked continuo instruments (including those who also have an interest in vocal accompaniment, coaching and directing) find their home within the Historical Performance Department. Generous scholarships and fee-reductions are available in return for their weekly work with Vocal Studies and their support of cross-School ensembles.

*Vocal students working with the Historical Performance department*  
 Singers interested in historical performance should join the Vocal Studies Department, taking

*Undergraduate & Postgraduate second study electives: historical winds, strings and keyboard instruments*

Performers of historical instruments are increasingly expected to be fluent in multiple idioms and on both modern and historical instruments. Players of orchestral instruments opt to develop their skills on historical instruments through the Historical Performance elective modules of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; their Principal Study remains within the Strings, Keyboard or Wind, Brass and Percussion Departments. The School has a collection of historical instruments to lend to students.

**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 32: Historical Performance specialism.*

**Artist Diploma**

*See page 39.*

**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

*See page 103.*

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### Teaching

Under the supervision of Head of Historical Performance, Christopher Suckling, the department provides opportunities for students to critically engage with and challenge





current performance practices before entering an evolving profession.

Through a combination of ensemble and project-based learning, supported by individual tuition from some of the country's leading performers, studies centred around rhetorical delivery and historical stagecraft provide an introduction to a different ethos to performing music, giving you the experience necessary to continue your development as you embark on a varied career.

Collaborative work, ranging from weekly classes to intimate chamber music and fully-staged opera scenes, fosters close and lasting relationships between principal study continuo players and singers and instrumentalists from across the School. Projects are mutually supportive, for example, vocalists developing stylistically through performing with experienced continuo players, while keyboard players and instrumentalists gain insight into physical gesture through working on stage with singers.

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### Associations

Our relationship with the Academy of Ancient Music (AAM, see page 9) offers side-by-side performance and masterclasses with principal players. The partnership also allows access to major artists working with the AAM, to AAM open rehearsals and to networking opportunities.

The Guildhall Consort is directed by Eamonn Dougan, Associate Conductor of The Sixteen, and offers excellent opportunities for refining vocal ensemble techniques.

For continuo players, working with Eamonn and his colleagues offers an intensive experience in coaching and directing. The Consort has also formed the chorus for performances in the Barbican Hall with visiting ensembles such as the Venice Baroque Orchestra and the English Concert.

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### Recent student success

Recent competition prizes include:

- London International Festival of Early Music Competition
- International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition Leipzig
- York International Young Artists
- Early Music Competition
- Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition

Students and recent graduates have joined ensembles including:

- Academy of Ancient Music
- Arcangelo
- Opera North
- Early Opera Company
- La Nuova Musica
- Gabrieli Consort
- Dunedin Consort
- Pygmalion
- Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
- Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique

Student ensembles are regularly selected for BREMF Live!, part of the Brighton Early Music Festival, while students, Fellows, and recent alumni have featured in every year of the Handel House Talent scheme since its inception.

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. Selected Historical Performance alumni are listed at [gsmd.ac.uk/historical\\_performance](http://gsmd.ac.uk/historical_performance)**

# CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber music has a special place in the School as a core or elective element of the curriculum according to the programme of study; regular engagement in chamber music-making is strongly encouraged. Our belief is that students learn fundamental individual and professional skills through ensemble work, and that these skills constitute a unique understanding of music and of students' own artistic motivations and creativity.

At BMus level, chamber music forms a core strand of our Principal Study instrumental programmes, and there is additional opportunity for students to immerse themselves in our advanced ensemble elective. At postgraduate level, our chamber music elective provides substantial training to develop students' collaborative performance skills.

We offer almost unparalleled coaching and a wide range of performance opportunities for students who wish to hone their ensemble and interpretative skills in small chamber group combinations. Our provision helps to enhance students' chamber music expertise with the aim of developing students' skills to a professional level. Cross-departmental chamber work is considered as important as more traditional combinations.

Regular coaching is provided by international teaching staff and visiting chamber musicians. Though each Department may have slightly different requirements, the core emphasis is on fostering individual engagement and responsibility within chamber groups, challenging and developing interpersonal skills, and musical dialogue.

Guildhall selects one or two exceptionally gifted young ensembles to be Chamber Music Fellows, providing them with performance opportunities and intensive coaching with international professorial staff while they develop their careers.

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## Activities and Ensembles

- Regular coaching and lessons from core chamber music staff including Levon Chilingirian, Simon Rowland-Jones, Caroline Palmer, Philippa Davies, Ursula Smith, Carole Presland, Matthew Jones, Graham Sheen, Krysia Osostowicz, Richard Lester, Simon Blendis, Adrian Brendel and Gary Pomeroy
- Regular coaching opportunities from visiting artists and groups
- Masterclasses with international visiting artists and chairs of chamber music
- Active chamber music exchange programmes
- Chamber music prizes offering external performance opportunities
- Numerous international performing opportunities for successful groups

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## The Hans Keller Chamber Fellows

Since September 2021, the Cosman Keller Art & Music Trust has supported the Chamber Fellowships offered at the School, in memory of the musician and writer Hans Keller, who taught at Guildhall in the 1980s.

At the core of the Chamber Fellowships at Guildhall is the opportunity for a young professional group with a base at the School to be inspired by Guildhall's world renowned chamber music professors and in turn to inspire current students through performances and seminars, providing invaluable development in their careers.

*“Chamber Music is one of our absolute favourite aspects of being musicians – every different combination of people and instruments is unique. Guildhall offered us open space to grow into our unique sound and encouraged us to make our own decisions, while coaches enhanced our knowledge and perspective on the art of quartet playing. An extensive amount of coaching, both as regular sessions and with visiting artists, as well as performance opportunities has given us invaluable experience for now and the future”*

**Aquilae Quartet**





The Hans Keller Chamber Fellows for the 2023-24 academic year are the Elmore String Quartet.

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### Recent Department highlights

- Masterclasses with Takács Quartet (International Visiting Artists), Endellion String Quartet (Visiting Quartet in Association) and Alasdair Tait
- Meet the Ensemble series with Gould Piano Trio and Brodsky Quartet
- Performance projects/side-by-side workshops with Nicholas Daniel, Andrew Marriner and Janine Jansen
- Public recitals involving staff/student collaborations throughout the year and within the Guildhall Chamber Music Summer Festival
- BBC Radio 3 Total Immersion projects in Milton Court Concert Hall and in the Barbican Hall
- Exchange performances at Mozarteum University Salzburg, McGill University Musical Chairs Chamber Music Festival, Concert Hall at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest
- Training groups in delivery of workshop skills
- Three annual Guildhall chamber music competitions
- Three-day Chamber Music Festival with student/professor collaborations featuring renowned performers from the Chamber Music faculty

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### Recent visiting ensembles and artists

- Endellion Quartet - Visiting Quartet in Association
- Takács Quartet - International Visiting Artists
- András Keller
- Ralf Gothoni
- Gould Piano Trio

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### Recent student and alumni successes

Ensembles from the Department have been recognised in the following competitions:

- Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition
- Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition
- St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition
- Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition
- Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition
- Cavatina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition
- Hattori Foundation Senior Awards
- Martin Musical Scholarship Award
- Mozarteum University Salzburg, June Emerson Wind Music, McGill University Musical Chairs Chamber Music Festival, Concert Hall at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest
- Training groups in delivery of workshop skills
- Three annual Guildhall chamber music competitions
- Three-day Chamber Music Festival with student/professor collaborations featuring renowned performers from the Chamber Music faculty
- Launchpad Prize
- Park Lane Group (PLG) Music Trust Young Artists
- Tunnell Trust Awards
- ChamberStudio Mentorship
- Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT)

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70-73.**



# COMPOSITION

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## Programmes

### **BMus**

**Master of Music in Composition  
Master of Composition  
(Guildhall Artist)**

**MA in Opera Making & Writing  
MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

Guildhall offers some of the most stimulating and creative training for composers available in the UK. Our guiding principle is that composers should develop in collaboration with technically-proficient, sympathetic instrumentalists under the expert guidance of experienced practitioners. Our commitment to developing your unique voice as a composer means that we will workshop every composition that you write.

By studying at Guildhall you will benefit from a range of unique opportunities. These include access to performers, an outstanding faculty of professional composers distinguished in a wide-ranging field of compositional activity, specialism and artistic approach, and a host of external partners. You will be based in a lively arts complex, and our focus on innovation and

collaboration will help you take full advantage of Guildhall's multi-disciplinary environment, working within a constant cross-departmental flow of ideas, skills and creativity.

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## Undergraduate

### **BMus**

*See page 30 for programme structure.*

The undergraduate composition pathway is intended to support your creative development as a composer, whatever your interests or sources of inspiration. There is no 'house style'; we are not looking for one kind of composer. Consequently, our community of student composers is very diverse, but with a shared sense of commitment, purpose and mutual respect.

The programme is built on two complementary strands of academic activity: Original Composition and Techniques.

**Original Composition** activity follows a four-year trajectory that builds from small-scale chamber projects in Year 1 (monody, duo, voice and instrument, percussion ensemble), through to the more ambitious demands of working with wind quintet, string quartet and 14-piece ensemble. The programme culminates in Year 4 with works for full orchestra, vocal ensemble and live sounds and electronics. All compositions are workshopped either by your fellow students in the School or by professional, world-renowned visiting ensembles and soloists.

The **Techniques** strand is intended to equip you with a high level of skill and expertise in the craft and technique of musical composition.





In the first two years, topics range from harmony and counterpoint to pastiche composition; 20th century materials explores core concepts in 20th and 21st century harmonic and rhythmic practice, and provides practical experience of working with percussion. In addition, composers write for and perform in 'Creative Ensemble' and collaborate to develop new works for, and with, each other, offering a chance to engage with ideas and possibilities of experimental, and often transmedial, practice. Topics in Years 3 and 4 range more widely and include aesthetics, workshop skills and orchestration.

In all four years of Techniques work, you will also take classes in electronic music and analysis.

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### Postgraduate

#### **Master of Music in Composition Master of Composition (Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 36.*

#### **MA in Opera Making & Writing**

*See page 38.*

#### **MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

*See page 103.*

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### Recent Department highlights

- The department has a long-standing partnership with EXAUDI and PlusMinus, and composers work with both ensembles as MMus students
- Presentations and Q&As from visiting composers including John Adams, Anna Meredith, Michel van der Aa, Catherine Lamb, Steve Reich, Helmut Lachenmann, Neil Luck,

- Tristan Murial and Judith Weir
- Each year, Composition students work with writers from the MA in Opera Making & Writing programme on Voiceworks, a collaborative writer/composer/singer project culminating in new vocal works performed in Milton Court Concert Hall
- The Composition Department has a partnership in place with the Royal Opera House for the development of contemporary opera, with students on the MA in Opera Making & Writing programme (see page 38) enjoying formative creative opportunities with this renowned company
- Each year, MMus students collaborate with choreographers at London Contemporary Dance School to develop new works which receive two public performances at The Place, the UK's premiere centre for contemporary dance

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### Recent alumni

Recent alumni include:

- Mica Levi
- Oliver Leith
- Philip Venables
- Jack Sheen
- Bushra El-Turk
- Daniel Kidane
- Raymond Yiu
- Edmund Finnis
- Mark Simpson
- Sylvia Lim
- Na'ama Zisser
- Francisco Coll
- Lara Agar
- Matthew Kaner
- Christina Athinodorou

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. For selected Composition alumni, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/composition](http://gsmd.ac.uk/composition)**

# ELECTRONIC & PRODUCED MUSIC

## Electronic Music, Film Music, Popular Music Production, Sonic Art, Song Writing, Game Audio, Produced Music, Live Electronics, New Media

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### Programmes

#### BMus

#### Master of Music in Composition Master of Composition (Guildhall Artist)

Electronic and Produced Music represents the largest growth area in the music industry today, and suitably skilled musicians and producers enjoy a wealth of viable career opportunities. Guildhall's dedicated world-class teaching and real-world vocational approach prepare you for a rewarding career in this fast-paced, rapidly evolving industry.

Our Principal Study disciplines reflect specific career paths that demand a specialist technical and artistic focus. Undergraduates choose one Principal Study discipline on entry to set the bias of your studies, but may incorporate elements of others in line with your career goals. Postgraduates tailor their studies and may combine a variety of our disciplines:

- **Electronic Music:** a broad curriculum involving activity across all disciplines
- **Film Music:** music for films, commercials and animations working with emerging directors and major film schools
- **Popular Music Production:** songwriting and production across all genres
- **Sonic Arts:** electroacoustic composition, sound art, installations, experimental music

- **Songwriting:** specialist study of Songwriting in a commercial production context
- **Game Audio:** music, sound and programming for games
- **Produced Music:** the creative production of music as a recorded, broadcasted and live-streamed transmission
- **Live Electronics:** live performance with electronics (from DJing to experimental performance)
- **New Media:** creative musical expression with new technology

Cross-departmental collaboration is actively encouraged and all students have the opportunity to work on major public projects in fulfilment of their curriculum. Visiting professionals deliver regular masterclasses to enrich the curriculum and provide industry insights, and partnerships with major film, animation and game schools enhance opportunities further.

Our vocational approach means that we prioritise major projects that respond to real-world opportunities, often working hand in hand with the School's commercial arm, Guildhall Production Studio, and the Production Arts Department (see page 74). In producing music 'to brief', there are termly opportunities to record with the ground-breaking Guildhall Session Orchestra and the newly-formed Guildhall Session Singers – both fully professional ensembles established to record student music for commercial opportunity.

*“My first year at Guildhall has been amazing, filled with great learning experiences and a supportive community.”*

**Nicole Dalgado**

BMus Electronic & Produced Music







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## Undergraduate

### **BMus**

*See page 30 for programme structure.*

As an undergraduate student, weekly one-to-one lessons in your specific discipline with one of the Department's expert professors will allow for a totally individualised approach to developing your artistic excellence and skills. This core learning is supported by a range of classes in common techniques and whole-department creative workshops. Each year, you will submit two folios of individual work, a series of technical exercises and a portfolio of contributions to cross-departmental projects.

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## Postgraduate

### **Master of Music in Composition Master of Composition (Guildhall Artist)**

*See page 36 for programme structure.*

The postgraduate programme provides a fast-paced and diverse preparation for professional life, allowing you to explore and refine your individual artistic specialism in or across several of the department's Principal Study disciplines.

### **MMus**

You will spend the year producing three portfolios of musical activity: original artistic output, collaborative projects and project leadership. This is supported through one-to-one lessons, classes and collaborative sessions. You will also have the opportunity to diversify your studies through elective modules (see page 33).

### **MComp**

Building on the shared first year with MMus students, in year two, students independently undertake a portfolio of three self-directed artistic projects.

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## Department facilities

The Department's core studios are designed for the front and back end of the production process (recording and mixing/mastering), featuring acoustically isolated control rooms, recording booths and tie lines to multiple spaces for recording of larger ensembles.

We run Quested, Genelec and PMC monitors, a collection of high-quality microphones and preamps, and Macintosh computers with Pro Tools, Logic Pro X, Max/MSP, Sibelius, IRCAM ForumSoftware, Cubase, Ableton and a growing collection of additional software to aid compatibility.

Our exciting range of live equipment includes state-of-the-art DJing rigs, ROLI Seaboard ensembles and portable DAW facilities, to ensure that our music reaches far beyond the studio.

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## Recent Department highlights

- Masterclasses delivered by Harry Gregson-Williams, Steve Reich, Tory Miller, Imogen Heap, Stephen Endelman, Kevin Kerrigan, Leafcutter John, Rupert Collinson (AIR), Trevor Wishart, Robert Henke, Debbie Wiseman, Richard Tognetti, Kathinka Pasveer, Mica Levi, Matt Black (Goldcut), David Wrench and more
- Official music for the Illuminated River project – London's largest public art commission
- Soundtrack for the Museum of London immersive experience, *Beasts of London*
- Projects with Waddesdon Manor, including soundtracks and sonic installations for Waddesdon

Christmas Carnival and music for the Waddesdon Manor Imaginarium

- Music to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Tower Bridge
- Silent film projects with Barbican Film
- Performances at Glastonbury Festival
- Performances at the Barbican Centre
- Partnerships with RAM Records, Musicity, Met Film School, London Film Academy, Courtauld Gallery, National Gallery, National Theatre, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Gresham Centre, Musicity, National Trust and more

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. For selected Electronic & Produced Music alumni, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/electronic\\_music](http://gsmd.ac.uk/electronic_music)**



## **Bass, Bowed Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello), Clarinet, Drums, Flute, Guitar, Percussion, Piano, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Voice**

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### **Programmes**

**BMus**  
**Master of Music in Performance**  
**Master of Performance**  
**(Guildhall Artist)**  
**MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

The Jazz Department at Guildhall School is among the most renowned and established of its kind. Now in its fourth decade, the Department is made up of an inspirational team of professors who are uniquely placed to oversee the development of creative jazz musicians. With origins and tradition making up the foundation of our teaching method, students are enabled on a journey into jazz as a diverse, ever-evolving and social art form.

Dedicated to empowering musicians to fulfil their creative ambitions, we support students to contribute to the global jazz community and prepare them for high-profile careers in the music industry

The course is broad in style and discipline, and you will learn in a collaborative and nurturing environment. We celebrate the diversity of skills and experience needed to build a fulfilling musical life as a professional musician

The comprehensive programme of musicianship places improvisation at its centre. Alongside one-to-one lessons, you will play weekly in creative, collaborative combos, closely led by members of our world-class faculty.

A wide range of classes will deepen and broaden your skills and knowledge as an improvising musician, including aural and transcription, harmony and repertoire, rhythm, keyboard Skills, style and lineage, and improvisation. In addition to these core classes, you may choose electives such as songwriting. These regular class offerings are augmented throughout the year by a wide range of workshops, masterclasses and teaching residencies led by prominent UK and international artists.

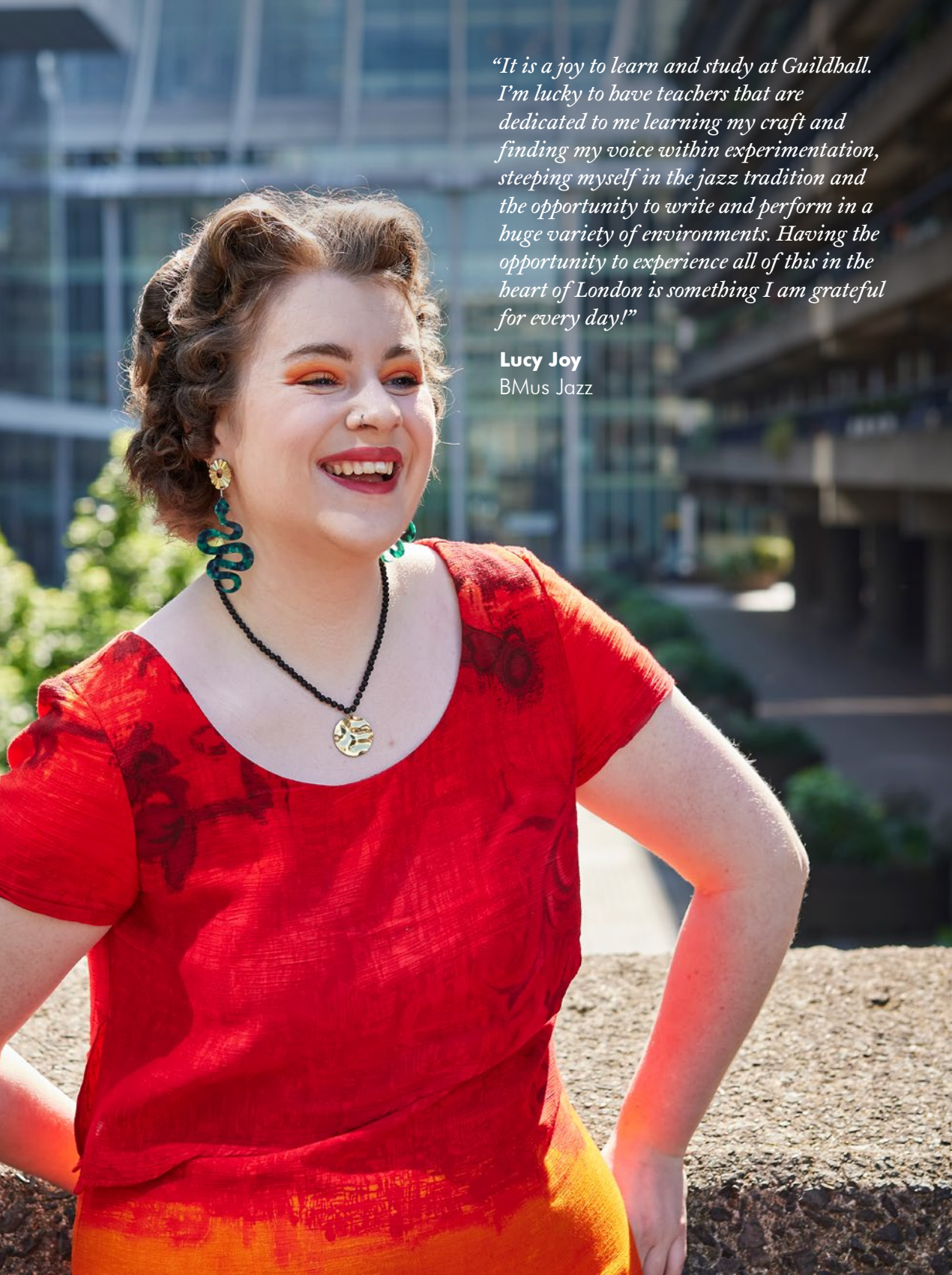
Our flagship cross-school ensemble, Guildhall Studio Orchestra, is unique. Combining voices, rhythm section, big band, strings, orchestral woodwind and percussion, it gives students the skills required to work in a commercial recording environment.

Our annual jazz festival is produced in association with EFG London Jazz Festival, and the award-winning Guildhall Jazz Orchestra and Guildhall Big Band offer varied opportunities for both School and student-led performance.

Jazz vocal study is a longstanding beacon of our work. In addition to classes in songwriting, we run three vocal ensembles for Jazz students: Guildhall Jazz Singers, Guildhall Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Guildhall Jazz Choir.

Guildhall is perfectly located for easy access to central and east





*“It is a joy to learn and study at Guildhall. I’m lucky to have teachers that are dedicated to me learning my craft and finding my voice within experimentation, steeping myself in the jazz tradition and the opportunity to write and perform in a huge variety of environments. Having the opportunity to experience all of this in the heart of London is something I am grateful for every day!”*

**Lucy Joy**  
BMus Jazz



London's thriving and eclectic jazz scene; there are jam sessions and a huge number of gig opportunities on our doorstep.

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## Undergraduate

### **BMus**

*See page 30 for programme structure.*

As a BMus Jazz student, you join a long and illustrious list of some of the world's finest improvising musicians. At Guildhall School, we place your specialism front and centre as we support your core discipline and wider musicianship. Tailored to your individual needs, Principal Study lessons provide core instrumental and improvisational training.

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## Postgraduate

### **Master of Music in Performance Master of Performance (Guildhall Artist)**

*See also page 32: Jazz Studies specialism.*

These programmes offer innovative and highly personalised training for musicians at an advanced level. The programme is designed to elevate your core discipline and enhance all aspects of musicianship in support of your career as a contemporary musician. The programme encourages a holistic approach to musicianship, offering training in the processes and styles relevant to 21st-century improvising musicians.

In addition to core classes, discipline-specific provision ensures regular, intensive contact with a dedicated and world-class teaching team.

### **MPhil/DMus, MPhil/PhD**

*See page 103.*

## Recent Department highlights

- Visits from artists including Rufus Reid, Jean Toussaint, Wayne Escoffery, Callum Au, Trevor Watkis, Byron Wallen, Josephine Davies, Liane Carroll, Giacomo Smith, Tim Garland, Joe Stilgoe, Iain Ballamy, Julian Joseph, Yazz Ahmed, Jovino Santos Neto, Jim McNeely, Norma Winstone, Elliot Mason and Mark-Anthony Turnage.
- Through our partnership with the Barbican (see page 9), we ran masterclasses with members of Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra during their residency.
- Masterclasses with Danny Grissett, Elaine Delmar, Peter Erskine, Ari Hoenig, Jerry Bergonzi, Larry Grenadier, Yahael Camara Onono, Xhosa Cole, Katherine Windfeld, Jeff Tain Watts, Kenny Werner, Eric Harland, Ben Wendel, Women in Jazz, Steve Arguelles, Omar Puente, Mark Mondesir, Katie Thiroux and the Tim Berne/Matt Mitchell Duo.

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**Music alumni highlights can be found on pages 70–73. Selected Jazz alumni are listed at [gsmd.ac.uk/jazz](http://gsmd.ac.uk/jazz)**







# Music alumni



## **Alison Balsom OBE (2001, Trumpet)**

Alison has a four-album exclusive contract with EMI Classics, and has won a Gramophone award for a disc of works by J.S. Bach, a Classic BRIT award for Best Young British Performer 2006, and the Classic BRIT for Best Female Artist 2009.



## **Natalya Romaniw (2009, Vocal and Opera)**

Natalya is a highly praised Welsh-Ukrainian soprano, who won the 2016 Critic's Choice Award for Music. Recent highlights include her house debut in the title role of *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House.



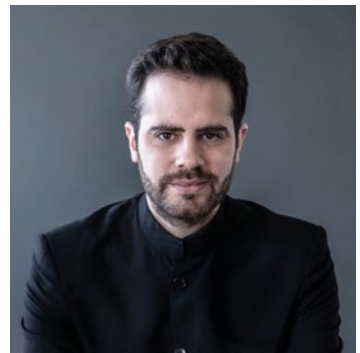
## **Shabaka Hutchings (2007, Clarinet)**

Shabaka has established himself as a central figure within the London jazz scene. Shabaka has played in a variety of groups – most notably, Sons of Kemet, The Comet Is Coming, and Shabaka and the Ancestors, with whom he recently released a critically acclaimed album, playing the Japanese shakuhachi, and other types of flute.



## **Dinis Sousa (2019, Piano)**

Dinis is the Principal Conductor of the Royal Northern Sinfonia, as well as the Associate Conductor of the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras. Dinis is also the Founder and Artistic Director of Orquestra XXI, an award-winning orchestra which brings together some of the best young Portuguese musicians from around Europe.





**Dave Arch (1984, Piano)**

Dave is a pianist, conductor, arranger and composer. He is known for his role as Musical Director and arranger for BBC Television's BAFTA-winning *Strictly Come Dancing*.



**Francesca Chiejina (2016, Vocal)**

Francesca won a place on the Royal Opera House's prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists programme, and has since performed regularly on the Covent Garden stage. Other recent highlights include appearances with Nevill Holt Opera, English Touring Opera, and the Sinfonia of London and John Wilson.



**Anthony Marwood MBE (1986, Violin)**

As a solo violinist, Anthony collaborates with orchestras worldwide. He was a member of the Florestan Trio until 2012, and is co-Artistic Director of the Peasmarch Chamber Music Festival. He was named Instrumentalist of the Year by the Royal Philharmonic Society in 2006, and awarded an MBE in 2018.

**Jennifer Pike MBE (2009, Violin)**

Jennifer has built a successful international career playing as soloist with top orchestras around the world. She has recently performed at the BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, and Wigmore Hall and is a Chandos recording artist. She was awarded an MBE in 2020 for her services to classical music, and is an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and the Foundation for Children & the Arts, and a patron of City Music Foundation.

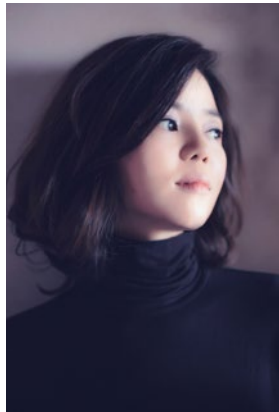


# Music alumni



↑ **Andrea Eklund (2017, Historical Performance)**  
Andrea wrote, arranged and sang the title song to the 2017 film *Moomins and the Winter Wonderland*. Andrea's music, performed by the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, was shortlisted for an Oscar nomination. She now maintains an eclectic career, singing early music alongside Nordic folk, and composing music for film and choirs; in 2020 she was awarded the Kurt-Erik Långbacka Foundation's conducting award.

→ **Sa Chen (2001, Piano)**  
Sa is an award-winning pianist who came to prominence in 1996 when she was selected for the final of the Leeds International Piano Competition aged only 16. Since graduating, Sa has performed with prestigious orchestras around the world.



↓ **Zara McFarlane (2009, Jazz Vocal)**  
Zara is a jazz and soul singer and songwriter. In October 2014, Zara won Best Jazz Act at the MOBO Awards, and has had three albums released by Brownswood Recordings.



↓ **Sir Bryn Terfel CBE (1989, Vocal and Opera)**  
Welsh bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel has regularly performed at the world's most prestigious concert stages and opera houses. Sir Bryn made his professional operatic debut as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with Welsh National Opera in 1990. He is a Grammy, Classic BRIT and Gramophone Award winner and received a Knighthood for his service to music in 2017.







**Lucy Osborne (2019, Music Therapy)**

Lucy volunteers with ABCD (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability), a charity in Palestine supporting children with disabilities, many of whom have experienced trauma in their young lives. When working from the UK, Lucy sends resources, session plans and recordings of songs for the mental health teams in Palestine.



**Ema Nikolovska (2019, Opera)**

Ema was a BBC New Generation Artist from 2019–2022 and in 2022 was a recipient of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. From 2020–2022, Ema was a member of the Internationale Opernstudio of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, where she returned in 2023 to make her debut as Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*.



**Roberto Gonzalez (2013, Violin)**

Roberto is a conductor and violinist, and is Chief Conductor of the Musikkollegium Winterthur in Switzerland, Music Director of the Galicia Symphony Orchestra in Spain, and designate Chief Conductor of the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, (beginning 2024/25). The Dalasinfoniettan in Sweden named him Honorary Conductor following a four-year tenure as their Chief Conductor.



**James Newby (2018, Vocal)**

James is a former BBC New Generation Artist and Rising Star for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He was nominated by the Barbican Hall for the European Concert Hall Organisation Rising Star scheme and was presented by them in recitals throughout Europe in the 2022–23 season.



# PRODUCTION ARTS



## Key staff

Professor Andy Lavender  
BA (Hons) PhD  
*Vice Principal & Director  
of Production Arts*

Hansjörg Schmidt BA (Hons) MSc  
*Deputy Director of Production Arts  
Programme Leader, BA Production  
Arts*

Helen Barratt BA (Hons)  
*Head of Stage Management*

Vanessa Cass FGS BA (Hons)  
PGCert FHEA  
*Head of Design Realisation*

Dr Susannah Henry BA (Hons) MA  
PhD FHEA  
*Interim Programme Leader,  
BA Performance Design*

Andy Taylor MA GMus PGCE FHEA  
*Programme Leader,  
BA Digital Design & Production  
Head of Theatre Technology*

Rachel Young BA (Hons) PGCert FHEA  
*Head of Costume*

Dr Emily Orley PhD PGCHE  
*Programme Leader, MA Collaborative  
Performance Making*

Stuart Calder FGS CSMGSM FHEA  
*Associate Producer*

**For a full list of  
teaching and visiting  
staff, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/  
production\\_arts](http://gsmd.ac.uk/production_arts)**

**The Production Arts Department at Guildhall has a longstanding international reputation for providing some of the most innovative vocational theatre and live event training. With technical production and performance facilities among the best in the world, you'll work on public live events with professional directors, designers, media artists and conductors, participating in the creation of acclaimed dramas, operas, screen and digital projects, and large-scale open-air video events.**

The School has a number of professional-standard performance venues with state-of-the-art equipment.

These ensure our programmes are always in line with current practice and new technology. Students use the School's onsite theatres, rehearsal rooms, workshops and digital and media facilities to collaborate on major productions and a range of smaller projects and events.

You'll have the opportunity to work on productions for live-streaming or recording for online, providing you with the most up-to-date industry skills. Our programmes have been designed to immerse you completely in the complex art of theatre and live performance. They bring together writers, designers, actors, musicians, composers, choreographers and technicians to achieve outstanding production values and impact. Your training will provide you with a firm practical knowledge

of theatre crafts and managerial skills, and prepare you for professional life in the theatre and live performance industry.

In Production Arts, we break down traditional boundaries and challenge convention, giving you the chance to work with students from other art forms. If you join us as an undergraduate, you will work with students on the Acting and Music programmes during the first-year cross-School project. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with other students and develop your own designs, installations and creative outputs in dedicated projects slots and an end-of-year Festival. You can also work with Guildhall Production Studio on a range of leading-edge digital production projects, as well as have the opportunity to collaborate with students across the School as part of *undisciplined*, our cross-arts programme.

Level	Programme	Duration
Undergraduate	BA Honours in Production Arts	Three years
	BA Honours in Digital Design & Production	Three years
	BA Honours in Performance Design	Three years
Postgraduate	MA Collaborative Performance Making	One year



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### **Programme facilities and teaching support**

Whichever Production Arts programme you choose, you will receive expert training in our well-equipped, flexible performance spaces:

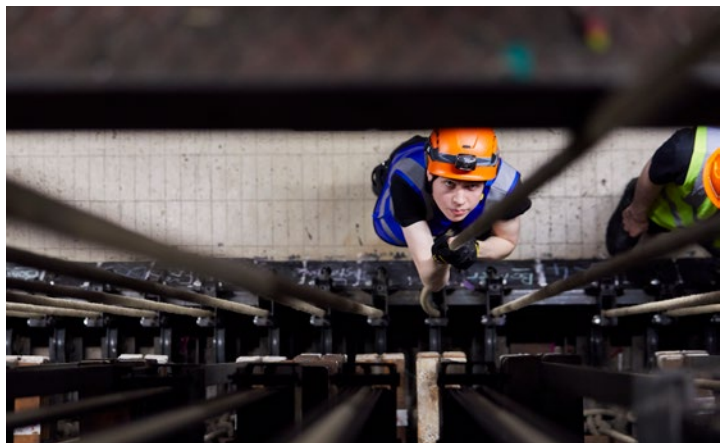
**Milton Court Theatre:** a proscenium arch theatre seating 223, with a fully-automated flying system which is unique in theatre schools around the world.

**Silk Street Theatre:** a flexible theatre seating up to 308 in various formats, including proscenium, promenade, thrust and in-the-round. With a counterweight flying system and orchestra pit, this is the venue for our major operas.

**Milton Court Studio Theatre:** a flexible studio theatre seating up to 128. This space has a tension wire grid, allowing easy and safe positioning and focusing of lighting equipment and rigging of scenic elements.

**Milton Court Concert Hall:** this impressive performance hall has world-class acoustics and can seat up to 608. The concert platform is composed of a series of automated lifts, allowing for a wide variety of formats from solo performances to a full symphony orchestra.

All of our venues are particularly well-equipped for lighting, sound and video projection, and provide dramatic and adaptable environments. They are stimulating and exciting while being practical, safe and ideal for learning.





Other Guildhall facilities you will use include the scenic workshop, paintshop, props workshop, design realisation studio, costume workshop and dye room, and sound and video editing studios. You will also have access to the lighting and theatre technology lab, stage electrics workshop, and production and stage management offices. Additionally, Milton Court includes new rehearsal rooms, a TV studio with green-screen and Virtual Reality (VR) capacity, teaching rooms, and a well-equipped computer room with CAD and media production software. The School's volumetric capture suite is housed with an industry partner nearby.

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### **Core teaching staff**

There are 24 teaching staff and a further 15 technicians in the Production Arts Department. All the teaching staff have extensive and varied experience in professional theatre or live events. The Department maintains current industry contacts through the engagement of a range of professional directors, designers and production artists, including freelance digital/media artists, costume supervisors, scenic artists, prop makers, production managers and lighting programmers. It also has strong links with professional colleagues and former students working with all major UK theatre and opera companies, productions and suppliers. The Production Arts Department works with Tonic who provide

training in leading-edge cultural practices geared around equity, inclusion, resilience and responsibility.

### **Professional creatives who have worked at the School include:**

**Directors:** Anna Morrissey, Karen Tomlin, Chelsea Walker, Paul Foster, Mumba Dodwell, Ashley Zhangazha, Georgia Graham, Martin Lloyd-Evans, Ashley Dean, Rodula Gaitanou, Victoria Newlyn, Olivia Fuchs

**Designers:** Libby Watson, Carla Goodwin, Louie Whitemore, Peiyao Wang, Liam Bunster, Anna Reid, Caitlin Abbott, Amy Jane Cook, Laura Stanfield, Zahra Mansouri

**Conductors/Musical Directors:** Dominic Wheeler, Steven Edis, Chris Hopkins

**Lighting designers:** Kevin Treachy, Johanna Town, Anthony Doran, Rajiv Pattani, Jake Wiltshire, Peter Robinson

# BA Honours in Production Arts

## Duration

Three years full-time

## Pathways

Stage Management  
(see page 82)

Theatre Technology  
(see page 83)

Costume  
(see page 84)

Design Realisation  
(see page 86)

**The Production Arts undergraduate programme equips you with the skills you need to succeed in the professional arts industry, with graduates going on to work in theatre, events, television and film. We strongly believe that your training should be tailored to your individual career aims.**

For this reason, at application stage, you will select one of four pathways, each with a different emphasis: **Stage Management**, **Costume**, **Theatre Technology** (Sound, Lighting, Video and Automation), or **Design Realisation** (Scenic Art, Scenic Construction and Prop Making).

Within each pathway you can study elements of the other three. For example, if you want to learn about props and scenery construction but retain an interest in lighting, or gain experience in sound while focusing mainly on stage management, you can choose accordingly. The programme is flexible enough to allow for a wide range of interests, or a more specialised approach.

## Year 1

The first year of the programme brings all students to the same threshold of knowledge. In addition to classes and project work in your chosen pathway, you will study a broad range of core subjects including History of Theatre, Contextual Studies, Contemporary Theatre, Health and Safety, and Stagecraft and Production Process. Classes are practical and project-based, and you will be encouraged to enhance and inform your work by engaging with the profession externally.

For example, when studying trends in contemporary theatre you will see a wide range of shows, including leading international productions at the Barbican Centre. The department has outstanding industry links and students regularly work with, and learn from, industry mentors and visiting professionals on a variety of projects both at Guildhall and beyond.

In this first year, you will also take a core module called Associated Studies, which allows you to take three short taster courses in areas of interest from one of the other three pathways.









## Year 2

From the second year onwards, you will be immersed in Guildhall School's extraordinary productions, films and events, working alongside professional directors, designers and lighting designers on a full-time basis. Work on productions is complemented by talks delivered by industry professionals as well as ongoing pathway-specific training and learning.

## Year 3

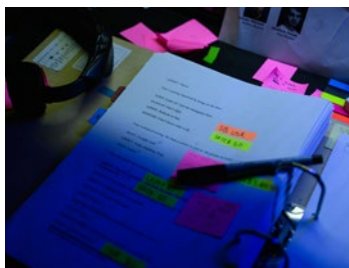
The final year provides you with true exposure to professional theatre, film projects and live events and the opportunity to make essential future contacts. All students are encouraged to undertake leading roles in their chosen fields, and some go on to lead a whole team in, for example, a production management role.

You will also complete a personal graduation project as well as work experience with a professional company or practitioner.

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## Preparing for work

Career preparation includes lectures, masterclasses and advice on how to apply for work, CV preparation, working as a freelancer, invoicing and self-employment, and interview preparation. Throughout the programme you will have the opportunity to collaborate with actors, singers and musicians from other programmes to generate your own projects.



Key development areas which are essential for employment include:

- Learning to be part of the team of technicians, production artists, designers, stage managers, costumiers, actors, singers and musicians, working alongside professional directors, designers and conductors to participate in the creation and public performance of acclaimed dramas and operas
- Using information technology to plan and manage productions, developing transferable skills in the latest software and using specialist packages
- Gaining detailed knowledge of current industry developments and trends
- Developing core transferable skills

A particularly high staff-student ratio is one of the strengths of the programme. As you progress, staff will shift from formal teaching roles to empowering and supporting your production work. This gives you the freedom to demonstrate and develop your professional standards and skills.

Regardless of their year, all students work together on all productions. Peer learning is an essential element of the programme.







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# BA Production Arts: Stage Management pathway



Central to any production or event, Stage Managers are organised and creative individuals who require the skills and competencies to manage a project. These indispensable professionals are at the heart of the collaborative process, working with all production arts departments, creative teams and performers to realise the event from initial concept to final production.

As a Stage Management student, you will learn about rehearsal and performance management, props sourcing and show calling, team management, budgeting and working with creative teams and performers in different performance settings. As well as professional directors, designers, lighting, sound and video designers, you will also have the opportunity to work with Intimacy, Fight and Movement directors, musicians, musical directors and conductors.

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**For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/stage\\_management](https://gsmd.ac.uk/stage_management)**



The pathway's focus is on developing you as a professional, enabling you to take leading roles on fully-realised projects and productions with professional creative teams.

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## Recent work placements

- *Hamilton* (West End)
- Punchdrunk Immersive Theatre Company
- Televideo – outside broadcasting
- Hampstead Theatre
- Donmar Warehouse
- Smyle Events
- Royal Opera House
- Opera Holland Park

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## Recent graduate employment

- TV Production Runner: *Peaky Blinders* and *Killing Eve*
- Donmar Warehouse
- *Cabaret* and *TINA, The Tina Turner Musical* (West End)
- *Beauty and the Beast* (European Tour)
- English National Ballet

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## Future careers

- Stage and production management in drama, opera and dance
- Show Caller
- Event management
- Production runner/ADs in film and television
- Script supervisors
- Arts administration

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# BA Production Arts: Theatre Technology pathway

## Sound, Lighting, Automation

In Theatre Technology you will learn about design and production in lighting, sound, video engineering and stage technology (automation and technical management), with opportunities to specialise in your final year. In this area, production artists – designers, engineers and technicians – need to be good team players with advanced specialist skills. As you develop your own craft, you will progress from learning about technology and software to programming and show operation, and finally to managing and designing productions.

*For our programme focusing on video design, engineering and production, see BA in Digital Design & Production (page 88).*

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**For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/theatre\\_technology](http://gsmd.ac.uk/theatre_technology)**

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## Recent work placements

Recent work placements undertaken by Theatre Technology students include:

- Automation for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End
- Production management at the National Theatre, Cirque du Soleil and Autograph Sound
- AV/video at Glynedebourne Festival Theatre
- Lighting department at the Kiln Theatre and for *The Prince of Egypt* in the West End
- Rigging department for *The House of Dancing Water*, Macau

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## Future careers

Potential careers for Theatre Technology students include:

- Production manager
- Technical manager
- Video designer/operator
- Automation programmer
- Sound designer and operator
- Live mixer
- Lighting designer and programmer



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# BA Production Arts: Costume pathway



Students at Guildhall School gain an overall understanding of costume for performance, from design to realisation and for stage and screen. Through this unique pathway, you will explore a broad range of the craftwork involved in the costume process. As a costume student, you will explore how to design, make and use costumes by learning about:

- Research and design process
- Working with performers through all stages of the realisation process
- Production budgeting and administration
- Dyeing and breaking down
- Hiring, buying and sourcing costumes
- Draping and cutting
- Sourcing fabric, haberdashery and accessories
- Pattern cutting
- Sewing and alterations
- Embellishment
- Running performances – dressing and running wardrobe

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**For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/costume](http://gsmd.ac.uk/costume)**



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## Recent work placements

- *Sunset Boulevard*
- *Hamilton*
- *Unfortunate*
- The Bridge Theatre
- *The Crown* (Sloane Square Films)
- Shakespeare's Globe
- English National Ballet, Dyeing and Breaking Department
- *Prince of Egypt* (West End)
- *‘t Juliet* (West End)

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## Recent graduate employment

- *The Crown*
- *Newsies*
- *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*
- *Wonka* (Heyday Films)
- *Cabaret* and *Jersey Boys* (West End)
- Shakespeare's Globe
- *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical* (West End)
- Gifford's Circus

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## Future careers

- Designer
- Supervisor
- Buyer
- Maker/cutter
- Standby in film and TV
- Dyeing and breaking down artist
- Coordinator
- Production running wardrobe
- Dresser



*“I have really enjoyed my time at Guildhall so far – there is a real sense of community here and everyone is willing to help everyone. I have had many amazing opportunities since being here, both within costume and across departments. I have also had the chance to work alongside brilliant industry professionals and learn so much from them. I am able to utilise the facilities at Guildhall to develop my skills to the best of my ability.”*

**Tara Duffy**

BA Production Arts (Costume)



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# BA Production Arts: Design Realisation pathway

## Scenic Art, Scenic Construction, Prop Making



Design realisation is about making and painting the scenery and props that have been designed by the set designer.

Students following this pathway need good creative and practical skills, with strong problem-solving abilities. Each year you will develop your skills across prop making, scenery construction and scenic art, arriving at a clear idea of how far you would like to specialise in your final year.

- Yoko Hama Theatre Group, Japan
- National Theatre scenic workshops
- Shakespeare's Globe construction workshop
- Royal Opera House scenic workshops
- Leavesden Studios
- Royal Shakespeare Company props department

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For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/design\\_realisation](http://gsmd.ac.uk/design_realisation)



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### Recent work placements

Recent work placements undertaken by Design Realisation students include:

- *The Lion King* Workshops, Lyceum Theatre
- Richard Nutbourne Scenic Studio
- Propworks
- Leeds Playhouse

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### Future careers

Potential careers for Design Realisation students include working in theatre, events, film, theming, festivals and TV in the following roles:

- Prop maker
- Scenic artist
- Scenic carpenter/construction manager





*“Working with my peers in Design Realisation and collaborating with students across multiple departments has been the biggest highlight for me at Guildball. My tutors and friends have encouraged me to explore a wide variety of avenues and their support has helped me to become a thoughtful and well-rounded industry professional.”*

**Johan Berendsen**

BA Production Arts  
(Design Realisation)



# BA Honours in Digital Design & Production

## Duration

Three years full-time

*The BA Digital Design & Production programme was previously named BA Video Design for Live Performance.*

\*Please note, this programme is undergoing periodic review during the 2024/25 academic year and is therefore subject to change.

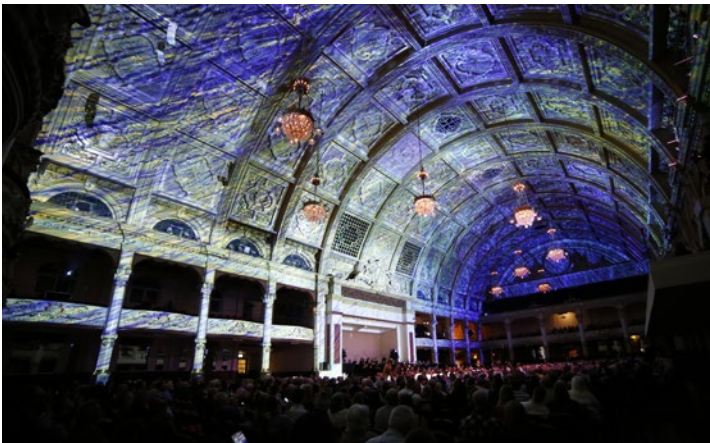
**This dynamic and innovative programme is for students interested in the fast-moving world of digital design and production for events and live performance. Shaped by the practical, hands-on ethos of Guildhall School's Production Arts Department, it extends that ethos into work with new technologies that underpin current productions and will shape the future of performance, media and entertainment.**

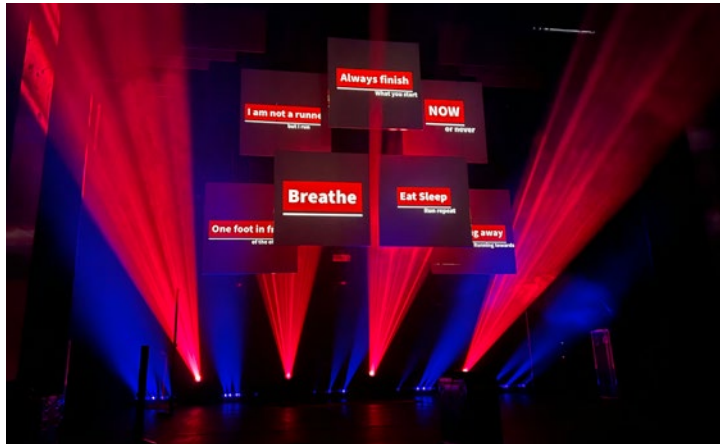
The programme will provide you with specialist training in the rapidly expanding field of digital design and production across event and entertainment artforms, such as theatre, live performance and VJing; installations and outdoor events; and animation and motion-graphics. Teaching is practical and project-based, using state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, in line with the latest industry developments. You will work with professional designers, programmers and animators on a range of projects, such as video design and operation for Guildhall theatre, opera and concert productions, and

conceiving and realising gallery installations. There are also exciting opportunities to work on a broad range of commercial projects with Guildhall Production Studio, which creates site-specific, immersive and interactive digital experiences across live and VR/XR settings with external partners, providing excellent industry experience.

The programme shares some of the professional theatre/live performance skills and theory modules with BA in Production Arts (see page 78) and BA in Performance Design (see page 92). These are complemented by a more specialised series of modules related to interactive digital design, video design and content creation, technical management, system design and live operation/programming.

Throughout the programme you will be able to attend cross-year seminars and lectures given by visiting guest artists.






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## Festivals and arts commissions

Recent work created and presented by the Department includes:

- *Beasts of London*, an immersive multimedia exhibition telling the story of how animals have helped to shape the history of the capital, presented in partnership with the Museum of London and visited by around 60,000 people
- Installations at Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, including large-scale projections on the façade of the Manor’s stables, a sculptural light tunnel and an ambitious audio trail. The installation ran for nine weeks and was visited by over 181,000 people
- *Light Odyssey*, “an epic journey of light, space and sound”, for which students created 3D animations to transform the opulent interior of Blackpool’s Empress Ballroom, and assisted QED Productions with technical delivery of the show
- Immersive performance events at Tower Bridge

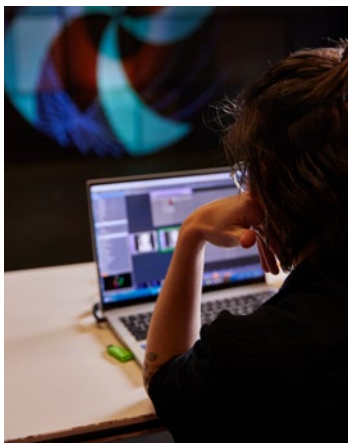


## Year 1

The core focus in Year 1 is on familiarisation with software and hardware, while nurturing your design skills and building confidence in a professional setting. There is a range of opportunities to make the most of our extensive resources as you learn your trade, becoming directly involved in a supportive role as a member of the crew.

## Year 2

In Year 2 you will continue to take a series of classes to help develop your creative skills and hardware competency, but there is a switch in emphasis to give you an increasing role in practical projects. You will gain more responsibility as you progress, moving from a supportive crew member to a more distinct role within the team. You will have responsibility for processes such as system checks and maintenance and content production (working with third-year designers or visiting professionals). You will also have more of a say in the selection of equipment and how projects are planned.



### Year 3

In the final year you will refine your digital design skillset through classes. You will have opportunities to make content and design materials that may then be used on real-world projects. You will lead a team of second and first year students who help you to realise your artistic and technical objectives, while still receiving guidance and support from your tutors and visiting professionals.

Alongside your production work, you will complete a portfolio, which will be invaluable when seeking employment at the end of your studies, and complete a self-directed graduation project that will allow you to focus on a chosen area of specialism.

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### Future careers

As a Guildhall School graduate in Digital Design & Production, you may expect to pursue a career as a video designer, animator, video engineer/technician, VJ, video operator/programmer or 3D designer.

Our graduates have an excellent track record of achieving employment at industry-leading organisations.

Former students work in roles at companies such as PixelArtworks, QED, iMag, Immersive-me, Bild Studio, 59 Productions, D3 Technologies and XL Video (now part of PRG), as well as in successful West End shows. The ongoing development of this specialised programme is expected to further enhance our relationship with these employers.





*“Guildball has been so accommodating and helpful with things both in and outside the classroom. It really feels like they are there to help you in any way they can and if the first person you speak to can’t help, you’ll always be directed to someone who can. Digital Design & Production is a community where someone’s always willing and happy to sit down and help you, whether that’s a student from a year above or in a 1-to-1 with a teacher.”*

**Sid Worth**

BA Digital Design & Production



# BA Honours in Performance Design

## Duration

Three years full-time

*This is a new programme, with the first cohort of students joining in Autumn 2025.*

Please note, this programme shares modules with the BA Production Arts and BA Digital Design & Production. These programmes will be undergoing periodic review during the 2024/25 academic year, which may result in changes to modules offered as part of this programme.



**Our new BA Performance Design programme will equip you with the practical and imaginative tools to bring stage productions, live and filmed events to life. The programme blends studio-based design work with hands-on experience collaborating on a wide range of performances using our state-of-the-art facilities. You will emerge from the programme with a range of speculative and fully-realised projects under your belt, and a clear sense of your own values and individual approach to performance design. You will be an experienced collaborator, with an emerging industry profile and network.**

## As a Performance Design student, you will:

- Develop a unique understanding of the creative, collaborative and practical elements of performance design learning the practical skills and knowledge they require
- Use our world-leading facilities to develop your performance design skills, from studio-based projects to fully-realised designs for public performance
- Undertake a research project that reflects your individual interests, values and aspirations as an emerging artist
- Explore the influence of the histories of art, design and theatre on your own identity as a performance designer
- Make connections with established professional theatre practitioners, unions and societies that support professional practice

Performance Design students work on a variety of different productions, filmed and live

events and digital ventures. They also engage with and instigate projects of their own. The programme is aligned with the BA Production Arts (see page 78) and BA Digital Design & Production (see page 88) programmes, sharing certain modules which means you will foster connections between undergraduate students within the Production Arts department. This will provide you with the opportunity to develop design skills in areas such as video and lighting, plus learn about the technologies and processes needed to make a performance happen.

## Programme Structure

### Year 1

In Year 1, you focus on gaining a grounding in the practice and theory of Performance Design. You will be introduced to the fundamentals of stage design studio practice, with opportunities to develop your conceptual and imaginative skills, alongside consideration of the practical parameters for



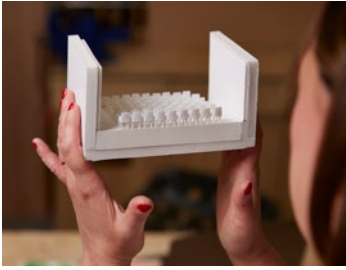


*“All designers are different, we have different strengths, make different choices about materials or the way we communicate our ideas. The programme at Guildhall has been designed to make space for a spectrum of approaches, while delivering strong training in the fundamental skills shared by performance designers. It is designed to nurture a lifelong relationship between the things that inspire creativity (seeing shows, exhibitions, going places) and professional practice.”*

**Dr Susannah Henry**

Interim Programme Leader,  
BA Performance Design





performance design. As well as being inducted into working in Guildhall's theatre spaces and introduced to the fundamentals of backstage practice, you will be introduced to a spectrum of contemporary performance and artworks, alongside aspects of the history and theory of stage design and professional artistic practices.

### **Year 2**

In Year 2, programme-specific modules aim to enhance your confidence in realising design proposals through collaboration, while also introducing you to various contemporary design practices. Additionally, participating in a Guildhall School production in an alternative discipline, based on your Associated Studies choices in Year 1, is required.

A major studio-based project will see you create a full professional design proposal and present it in a professional context. There will also be opportunities to connect the history, theory, and contemporary practice of art and design with your own creative identity and aspirations. Opportunities to practice collaborative skills in small-scale Guildhall projects and assisting professional designers working at Guildhall will be available.

### **Year 3**

In Year 3, you will focus on modules that are particular to your area of specialism, while continuing to work with other areas of the School.

You will have the opportunity to instigate your own piece of work, where Performance Design leads the process.





Working with a director, visiting professional artists, students and staff on the Production Arts and Digital Design & Production programmes, you will design a public-facing Guildhall School production. Exploring a range of practitioners, events and practices, while reflecting on your research, extra-curricular interests and plans beyond the programme, are an important part of the course. You will have an opportunity to propose, plan and execute a research project of your own choosing.

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### Future Careers

This new programme has been designed to enable you to pursue a career as a designer for live performance, working across a wide field of disciplines and sectors. It could

prepare you for a career as a set and/or costume designer, creative director, lighting or visual designer. Possible projects could be productions in theatres, immersive or site-specific work and live music events or festivals.

The BA Performance Design is a new programme, but graduates from our other Production Arts programmes have gone on to achieve employment at industry-leading organisations. Guildhall School has strong partnerships, including with the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre, Treatment Studio (visual designers for Adele and U2), TAIT Towers and Punchdrunk. Ongoing development of this specialised programme is expected to further enhance our relationship with these employers.



# MA Collaborative Performance Making

## Duration

One year full-time

**This one year Masters programme brings together early-career theatre practitioners (including set, lighting and sound designers, video designers, directors, dramaturgs, performers, production and stage managers) to develop a series of new performance works.**

Students form an ensemble at the beginning of the year and work together to devise, design and produce a series of new performances. The programme aims to offer a laboratory-style environment, which values, first and foremost, collaboration and process-based learning.

## The programme

This 180-credit Masters programme is comprised of four modules and runs from September to September. It is open to all early-career practitioners interested in making performance collaboratively. Building on your existing experience and skill set, you will work as a collective to create four shows over the year in different contexts and venues. You will discover how you work best in a group, what drives you and inspires you as a practitioner, and where your creative and practical strengths lie. You will also complete an individual research project, develop a professional portfolio and be assigned a mentor from a pool of professional practitioners with whom the School has strong working relationships.

As well as making two performances in different theatre venues within Guildhall School, you will embark on a project in collaboration with the Little Angel Puppet Theatre in London, and also spend a month at the Centre de Creation in Bergerac, France, where you will create a circus show.





*“Studying at Guildhall has been transformative. The faculty’s expertise and dedication have honed my skills beyond what I imagined. The collaborative environment and state-of-the-art facilities have provided me with unparalleled opportunities to grow as a lighting designer and theatre practitioner. It’s a place where the freedom of creativity thrives, and I’m grateful for the incredible experiences and lifelong connections I’ve made here, which I will carry with me every day.”*

**Amirul Azmi**

MA Collaborative Performance Making



# Production Arts alumni



## **Gemma Tonge (2002)**

Gemma is Head of Company Management at the National Theatre.



## **Jessica Case (2019, Design Realisation)**

Jessica has worked as a Scenic Artist at the Royal Opera House and the National Theatre.



## **Katie Jenkinson (2014, Costume)**

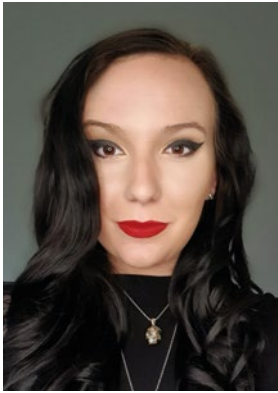
Katie works at Marvel Studios, Los Angeles and has worked on feature films including *Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol.2* and *Captain America*.



## **Sam Peace Dawson (2021, Stage Management)**

Sam has worked as an Assistant Stage Manager on with Glyndebourne on Tour, in the West End in the Automation team on *TINA, The Tina Turner Musical*, on a UK and Ireland tour of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and on a China tour of *Love Never Dies*.





**Lydia Comer-Narrowway (2019, Costume)**

Lydia has worked as a Costume Assistant at the Royal Shakespeare Company and as a Dresser on *Moulin Rouge*.



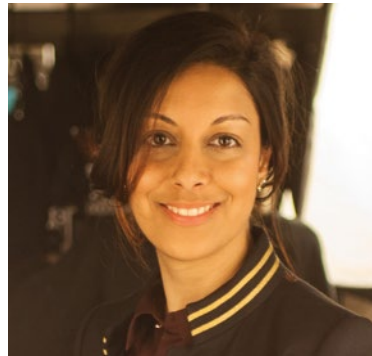
**Jordan Lindsey (2019, Theatre Technology)**

Jordan has worked in the West End as an Automation Operator on *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and as Automation & SFX No 2 on *Back to the Future*.



**Prema Mehta (2004)**

Prema is a lighting designer for theatre, and has designed the lighting for over 150 productions. Recent work includes productions at the Royal Court, Sheffield Theatres, Shakespeare's Globe and the Young Vic. She is also the founder of Stage Sight, a collaborative network which aims to create an off-stage workforce more reflective of our society today, inclusive of ethnicity, class and disability.



**Rury Nelson (2018, Video Design for Live Performance)**

Rury is working as a Senior Project Engineer at Bild Studios.





# Production Arts alumni



## **Sian Clare (2018, Costume)**

Sian has recently worked as a Costume Buyer on *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End.



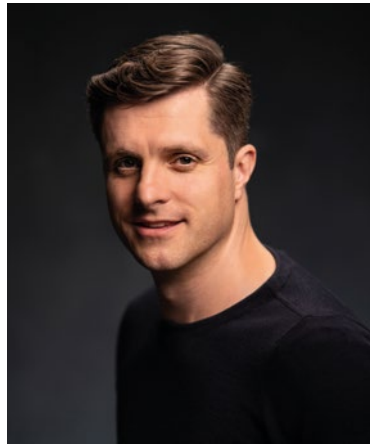
## **Simon Baker (1992)**

Simon has worked in almost every corner of the theatre sound industry, spending his early career at both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre. Simon has received several Olivier and Tony nominations, and the 2012 Olivier Award for Best Sound Design for *Matilda The Musical* in the West End.



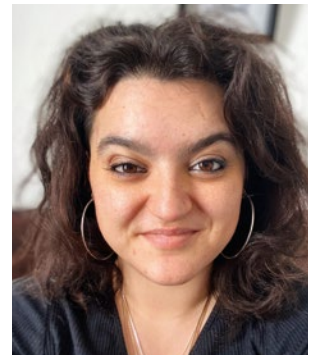
## **Neil Austin (1992)**

Neil is a Lighting Designer who has worked internationally on plays, musicals, opera and dance productions, including regularly working at the National Theatre, the Royal Court, the Donmar Warehouse and in the West End. He is the recipient of three Tony Awards and two Olivier Awards.



## **Amelia Kosminsky (2019, Video Design for Live Performance)**

Mia is currently working as a visual artist.





**Tom Bosworth (2017,  
Theatre Technology)**

Tom has worked as a Sound Operator on *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* in the West End.



**Neil Constable OBE (1985)**

Neil was Chief Executive of Shakespeare's Globe from 2010–2023, and has been appointed as Clerk/CEO of The Musicians' Company (from November 2024).



**Olivia Whittaker (2016,  
Stage Management)**

Olivia has worked at Smyle Events as a Digital Project Manager, and as a Runner for BBC television, working on *Eastenders*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Holby City*.



**Julia Whittle (1989)**

Julia was Showcaller for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies at the 2012 London Olympic Games and has worked as a Showcaller on large scale concerts and tours including Adele, Take That, Spice Girls and Coldplay.



# RESEARCH AND TEACHING





# Postgraduate Research Degrees

## MPhil/DMus/PhD

### Duration

Three years full-time  
(+ up to one year 'writing up')

Six years part-time  
(+ up to one year 'writing up')

Validated by City,  
University of London



**Guildhall School's research programme is distinctive in that it is dedicated to the performing arts. Researchers pursue self-directed projects that connect creative practice with scholarly enquiry in an outstanding conservatoire with world-class facilities.**

The postgraduate research programme reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the School, with researchers in a range of disciplines coming together to find inspiration in the sharing of work and approaches to research. Our researchers investigate a wide range of topics – often through an interdisciplinary lens – in music, theatre and related

artistic and pedagogic practices, including composition, instrumental performance, historical performance, opera studies and theatre making, as well as performing arts pedagogies, institutions and cultures. We share a strong focus on exploring the role and impact of the performing arts practitioner in society.

### Research environment

In recent years, the School's research has attracted increasing external recognition: in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF2021), the national assessment of research in UK universities, the School was rated top music conservatoire for research. The School was found to have the highest percentage of world-leading research amongst its music conservatoire peers and the second-highest of all conservatoires across Drama, Music and Production Arts.

Postgraduate work is the foundation of this flourishing research culture, which encompasses more than 70 postgraduate researchers and around 75 research-active staff and associates. Opportunities to engage in this community include our regular Research Works seminar series (with a postgraduate researcher panel each term) and our Institute for Social Impact Research, which explores how musical practice



can contribute to positive social change. Research is also supported by:

- Specialist libraries at Guildhall School, the Barbican and City, University of London
- Comprehensive student support services
- Outstanding facilities
- Strong relationships with external bodies such as the Theatre and Performance Research Association and
- The Capital Culture Exchange

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### Supervision and training

Postgraduate researchers on the programme are allocated a supervisory team, typically made up of two supervisors who have the appropriate combination of academic and artistic expertise. You will regularly meet with your supervisors to discuss your progress, get feedback on your ideas and draft material, cover key debates in your field of research and prepare for examination.

Research training is provided through a programme of weekly seminars. Offering up to 120 hours a year, this provides some of the most comprehensive training in the sector. As well as introducing key study skills and methodologies, the training programme provides opportunities to share your research with your peers, attend guest sessions with leading researchers, and develop professional skills such as conference presentation and academic publishing.

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### Funding support

Researchers can apply for partial fee bursaries, awarded on the basis of need or merit, or to support research in priority areas. We occasionally also offer prestigious studentships (full fee bursary and stipend) in partnership with high profile arts and research institutions. These have previously included the Guildhall-Barbican Studentship and the Royal Opera House Doctoral Composer in Residence Studentship. Please see our website for the current studentship offer.



*“The rigorous yet open-minded approach taken by Guildhall’s Research department really helped me to fully engage in my project and connect with other researchers in adjacent fields. The practice-based nature of the programme ensured that my musical development was at the forefront of my research, encouraging me to always analyse and reflect deeply on my position as a music researcher. I especially enjoyed making connections with other musicians and departments through interdisciplinary projects and such varied performance opportunities.”*

**Rachael Shipard**

MPhil/DMus





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# PGCert in Performance Teaching

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## Duration

One year part-time

*A distance learning programme delivered online.*

**The PGCert in Performance Teaching is designed to support professional musicians, actors, production artists and dancers who teach as part of their practice, either as their main employment or as part of a portfolio career. Taught entirely online, it offers a unique opportunity to develop creative and reflective practice in teaching in performing arts contexts.**

Using your existing expertise and experience as a starting point, we enable you to bring practice and theory together through cutting-edge education techniques. You will be part of a community of artist-educators, learning from each other and building practical skills. You will embrace diverse perspectives and different learning styles.

- Facilitation and feedback
- Creativity and pedagogical improvisation
- Partnership and collaborative working
- Reflective practice
- Inclusion and working with groups
- Curriculum and assessment issues

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## Who is it for?

The programme attracts applicants who are interested in creative, innovative and evidencebased teaching. You can be at any stage of your career as long as you are willing to take a fresh look at your practice. We welcome people from a wide range of contexts, including schools, higher education, junior conservatoires, community and lifelong learning.

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## Highlights

- A strong focus on critically reflective practice
- Interdisciplinary perspectives with a rich exchange of ideas
- Robust feedback on practical work
- An experienced team of educators, performers and researchers
- An educational philosophy that celebrates professionalism, international perspectives, creativity and innovation

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## How you'll learn

Learning takes place online with approximately 13 days of online workshops combined with shorter webinars, and support from a one-to-one tutor. Content covers areas such as:

- Theories of learning and motivation

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## Where can this lead?

Participants have been promoted in their existing working contexts or have branched out into new teaching areas. Others have gone on to further study, including PhD programmes (see page 103) and Guildhall Ignite's executive coaching (see page 112).

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a blue blazer over a white t-shirt, is sitting at a white table. He is looking down at a silver laptop with a joyful expression, his eyes closed and a wide smile. His hands are resting on the laptop. In the background, there is a black and white digital piano on a stand, a framed picture on the wall, and a green plant on the left side. The lighting is warm and indoor.

*“This course has been fantastic for increasing my confidence as a teacher and validating my current practice. The sessions are well organised, with plenty of materials and support always available. As the course is online it is compatible with life as a working professional, while still enabling me to make long lasting connections and progress.”*

**Chris Bland**

PGCert Performance Teaching

# Applications, auditions, interviews and Open Days

**At Guildhall School we value our diverse culture and welcome talented applicants from any background and any part of the world.**

Applications and enquiries about attending Guildhall are made directly to the School and not via any outside intermediary or agency. This means you benefit from the simplicity of only dealing with our friendly Admissions team. Our bespoke online application process will help make your application journey as straightforward as possible.

## Online applications

You can find our online application form and detailed application information at [gsmd.ac.uk/apply](https://gsmd.ac.uk/apply)

This includes:

- Application deadlines
- Application fees and how to pay them
- Eligibility criteria
- Application guidance notes
- Audition and interview arrangements
- Audition repertoire and what to expect at your audition/interview
- Entry criteria

If you have a question about your application, please email the Admissions team at [registry@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsmd.ac.uk)

## Entry requirements

The minimum academic requirements are normally:

- **BA/BMus:** pass grade (A-E) in 2 A-Levels (GCE Advanced A2) (or equivalent). There are additional academic criteria for our Production Arts BA programmes
- **MMus/MPerf/MComp:** an undergraduate degree with Honours (or equivalent)
- **MA:** an undergraduate degree with Honours in music (or equivalent). For the MA in Opera Making & Writing and MA Collaborative Performance Making, Upper Second-Class Honours (2:1) are normally required (in an arts subject for the Writing pathway, and in composition for the Composition pathway)
- **Artist Diploma:** a two-year full-time Masters of Music degree (or equivalent)
- **MPhil/DMus and MPhil/PhD:** a Master's degree in a relevant subject or in any subject for Drama, alongside evidence of relevant professional theatre activity (or equivalent)
- **PGCert in Performance Teaching:** an undergraduate degree in music, acting, dance or production arts (or equivalent)

There are also separate English language requirements for all programmes. All applicants are offered an audition, interview or portfolio assessment designed to assess attainment and potential.





For full information on entry criteria, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/entry](https://gsmd.ac.uk/entry)

### **International applications**

We are proud of our large international student community. Around 35% of our students come from outside the UK, representing more than 50 countries, and we hold a number of international auditions in addition to those at our London campus.

For information on visas, accommodation, English language requirements and support, and details of our ‘buddy’ programme, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/international](https://gsmd.ac.uk/international)

### **Supported Application Scheme**

We are committed to ensuring there are no barriers to deter talented students from coming to Guildhall, and we welcome applications from students who are underrepresented in higher education. The Supported Application Scheme offers eligible undergraduate applicants a free application, invitations to workshops and events, advice and guidance, travel bursaries for on-site auditions and interviews, free tickets to shows and help with scholarship applications and transition to the School if an offer of study is made.

Participants who enrol at the School are also invited to apply for a Start-up Fund, to support with the costs of equipment and home essentials when the programme commences.

Eligibility criteria, the application process and relevant deadlines can be found at [gsmd.ac.uk/supportedapp](https://gsmd.ac.uk/supportedapp)

### **Disability support**

Guildhall School is committed to facilitating equality of opportunity and providing inclusive and enabling learning environments. We encourage applications from disabled students, as well as those with physical and mental health conditions, sensory impairments and neurodiversity (such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD and Autism). If you would like to discover more about how the School supports students to access and enjoy studying, or to discuss whether our courses and environments are appropriate for you, please contact our dedicated Learning Support and Disability Coordinator. For further details of what we can offer and who to contact, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/disabilitysupport](https://gsmd.ac.uk/disabilitysupport)

### **Open Events**

We hold a number of open days and events each year, many of which are programme-specific, with some open days also taking place online. Our open days are a fantastic way to find out more about particular courses and meet current students and staff, and there is often an opportunity to join a workshop or see our students in action. Bookings for open days are available at [gsmd.ac.uk/opendays](https://gsmd.ac.uk/opendays)

You can also use the online video tour at [gsmd.ac.uk/online-tour](https://gsmd.ac.uk/online-tour) to explore the school.

Performances at Guildhall, many of which are free, are a great way to see the results of our training. View our calendar of events at [gsmd.ac.uk/events](https://gsmd.ac.uk/events)

## Fees, funding and scholarships

**Studying at Guildhall is affordable, and the School is committed to ensuring that the cost of tuition should not deter anyone from applying.**

The amount you will pay depends on which programme you apply for, and whether you are a student from the UK or overseas.

There are many measures in place to help you meet the cost of training:

- If you are a Home undergraduate student eligible for a UK government tuition fee loan, there are **no upfront tuition fees**. You will only have to repay the loan once you have left Guildhall and your income goes above a specific threshold.
- For all other students, tuition fees for a given academic year are advertised well in advance to help you plan your finances. You can pay your fees in three instalments a year, plus deposit
- The School offers a wide range of scholarships to all students through its Scholarships Fund

Details of tuition fees and measures to help you meet costs can be found at [gsmd.ac.uk/funding](https://gsmd.ac.uk/funding)

### Home students

A UK government tuition fee loan is available to undergraduate students from the UK (subject to residency requirements). For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/feeassessment](https://gsmd.ac.uk/feeassessment)

If you are a Home undergraduate student (from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) other support may be available in the form of a maintenance loan and/or grant (actual amounts will depend on your household income).

A UK government loan is available to Home students registered on specific Masters degree programmes, and full-time or part-time MPhil/DMus or MPhil/PhD programmes. This is subject to meeting residency and other requirements. For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/funding](https://gsmd.ac.uk/funding)

### Funding guidance & scholarship support

Guildhall School has a dedicated Student Funding Officer who can help you identify sources of funding to support your studies, such as government and non-government loans and grants.

The School also offers a wide range of scholarships to students each year through our own Scholarships Fund. These awards are supported by a variety of external donors including City Livery Companies, grant-making trusts and foundations, businesses and individuals.



Tuition fee and maintenance awards are offered to applicants on the basis of talent, potential and personal financial need.

These elements are assessed at audition and interview, and on the basis of a comprehensive application form available to applicants who accept a place at the School.

### **Additional funding support**

UK undergraduate students who are from a low-income household may also be eligible for a Guildhall Access Bursary, which they can apply for annually. For further information please email [access@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto:access@gsmd.ac.uk)

### **Access and Participation**

The School offers a wide range of free activity, including intensive subject-specific training, suitable for young people considering a Guildhall School degree. To find out more about the activity, and who is eligible for it, please visit [gsmd.ac.uk/access](http://gsmd.ac.uk/access)

### **Fee status assessment**

All successful applicants will be asked to complete a Fee Assessment Form before commencing their studies, to establish whether tuition fees should be at the Home or Overseas rate.

If you already have a degree or diploma at or above the level of the programme you wish to study and would usually pay Home fees, you will still be charged the Home fee rate, but it is unlikely that you will be eligible for either a tuition fee or maintenance loan from Student Finance England.

### **International students**

The UK's decision to leave the EU means that students from the EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals who want to study abroad in the UK will likely need to have pre-settled or settled status to be eligible for home tuition fees and financial support from Student Finance England. For more information, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/EUFAQS](http://gsmd.ac.uk/EUFAQS)

For students requiring a visa to study in the UK, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requires, as part of the visa application process, that students demonstrate they have the means to pay for their tuition for their first year of study and the means to support themselves. For further details visit [www.gov.uk/student-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

Non-UK applicants may find the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website of interest; visit [ukcisa.org.uk](http://ukcisa.org.uk)

**For a full list of tuition fees and further guidance on funding, visit [gsmd.ac.uk/funding](http://gsmd.ac.uk/funding)**

# £2m

*of support for students from our Scholarship Fund each year*

*All students who accept a place at Guildhall School can apply for scholarship support*



## Other learning opportunities

**Guildhall School offers a host of opportunities for people of all ages to explore music, drama and production arts. Whether you are taking your first steps or aiming to build a professional career, our accessible youth and adult courses will help you pursue your passion as part of a vibrant learning community.**

### Supporting creative practitioners & career development

[gsmd.ac.uk/engagement](https://gsmd.ac.uk/engagement)

Guildhall provides a range of opportunities and support for artists and creative practitioners. The Guildhall Futures Fund is a scheme open to recent Guildhall graduates, and enables artists to consider, adapt and redefine their practice in line with a rapidly shifting arts industry. Elevate provides online workshops for our alumni artists, helping them to expand their skills and top up their knowledge.

Our Creative Business Support strand offers training, support and resources to anyone working within the creative industries who has the ambition to upscale their career, or start a business.

### Guildhall Ignite

[ignite.gsmd.ac.uk](https://ignite.gsmd.ac.uk)

Guildhall Ignite is the only EMCC-accredited executive and professional training consultancy coaching in and through the performing arts, supported by Guildhall School.

We combine excellence in coaching and mentoring with the School's world-class performing arts offer, using experienced specialist coaches to deliver outstanding professional performance training to all those across the arts, education, charity and business sectors.

We offer coach and professional development training with a suite of programmes enabling leaders to respond to the contemporary challenges of today and be ready for those of tomorrow.

### Short courses

[gsmd.ac.uk/shortcourses](https://gsmd.ac.uk/shortcourses)

Guildhall School offers a wealth of online and in-person short courses and summer schools for a variety of ages, disciplines and skill levels. In Music, courses include Jazz & Rock, Conducting, Composition, Music Theory and Music Production. In Drama, courses include Acting Summer Schools, Shakespeare and Audition Technique. In Production Arts, courses include Prop Making, Stage Management, Sound Design and Costume.



Participation Bursaries are available for a number of courses, offering full and partial funding to eligible applicants from low-income households.

**Guildhall Young Artists**  
[gsmd.ac.uk/guildhallyoungartists](https://gsmd.ac.uk/guildhallyoungartists)

Guildhall Young Artists is our network of centres across the UK providing inspiring performing and production arts training for children and young people aged 4–18. Centres are based in London, Taunton and Norwich, with an online centre for those who prefer to study remotely, and are led by top practitioners and industry professionals. Bursaries are available for means-tested students. Guildhall School is the UK’s leading provider of specialist music training at the under 18-level.

**National Open Youth Orchestra**  
[gsmd.ac.uk/noyo](https://gsmd.ac.uk/noyo)

The National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO) offers an environment where talented young disabled and non-disabled musicians rehearse and perform together, promoting a more diverse orchestra for the 21st century. If you are aged 11–25, have a passion for music, can demonstrate significant musical potential and have the determination to persevere, NOYO could be the orchestra for you.

**Patron**

The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor  
of the City of London

**Chair of the Board of  
Governors**

Emily Benn

**Principal**

Professor Jonathan Vaughan  
FGS DipRCM (Perf) DipRCM (Teach)

**Chief Operating Officer**

Dr Robert Bennett  
BSc PhD

**Vice-Principal & Director  
of Drama**

Professor Orla O'Loughlin  
BA (Hons) MA PGCE

**Vice-Principal & Director  
of Music**

Armin Zanner  
FGS MA MPhil (Cantab) MMus

**Vice-Principal & Director  
of Production Arts**

Professor Andy Lavender  
BA (Hons) PhD

**Vice-Principal & Director of  
Innovation and Engagement**

Professor Sean Gregory  
FGS BA (Hons) LGSM (PCS) MPhil

**Director of Guildhall Young  
Artists & Safeguarding**

Alison Mears  
FGS BMus (Hons) PGCE FISM

**Secretary & Dean of Students**

Merlin Harries  
BA (Hons) MRes MAUA

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**Drama Department**

+44(0)20 7382 2323  
[drama@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:drama@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Accommodation**

+44 (0)20 7382 6132  
[accommodation@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Music Department**

+44(0)20 7382 7144  
[music@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:music@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Applications**

+44(0)20 7382 7183  
[registry@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Production Arts Department**

+44(0)20 7382 2323  
[productionarts@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:productionarts@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Finance**

+44(0)20 7382 7208  
[finance@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:finance@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Research Department**

+44 (0)20 7628 2571 ext. 5104  
[doctorate@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:doctorate@gsm.ac.uk)

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**Student Services**

+44 (0)20 7382 7219  
[student.services@gsm.ac.uk](mailto:student.services@gsm.ac.uk)



# HOW TO FIND US



**Guildhall School  
of Music & Drama**  
Silk Street, Barbican,  
London EC2Y 8DT  
+44 (0)20 7628 2571  
[gsmd.ac.uk](http://gsmd.ac.uk)

**By underground/train**  
Barbican, Moorgate, Liverpool  
Street, St Paul's and Bank  
stations are all nearby.

**By bus**  
Bus numbers 4, 43, 55, 76,  
100 and 153 stop nearby.

**By road**  
The School falls within the  
Congestion Charge zone.  
Visit [cclondon.com](http://cclondon.com) or  
telephone 0845 900 1234  
for further information.

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## Follow us on social media

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## Inside back cover

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## Disclaimer

This Prospectus was published in June 2024 and is intended to provide general information only concerning Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Full and up-to-date details for all programmes and services are available at the School's website [gsmd.ac.uk](https://www.gsmd.ac.uk)

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**Guildhall School of Music & Drama is a vibrant, international community of musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London.**

**Our courses:**

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### **Undergraduate**

- **BA Acting**
- **BMus**
- **BA Production Arts**
  - Costume
  - Design Realisation
  - Stage Management
  - Theatre Technology
- **BA Digital Design & Production**
- **BA Performance Design**

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### **Postgraduate**

- **MMus/MPerf**
- **MMus/MComp**
- **MA Music Therapy**
- **MA Opera Making & Writing**
- **Advanced Certificate**
- **Artist Diploma**
- **MA Collaborative Performance Making**
- **PGCert Performance Teaching**
- **MPhil/DMus/PhD**

**GUILD  
HALL  
SCHOOL**



Guildhall School is provided by the City of London as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.