

# RNCM

ROYAL NORTHERN  
COLLEGE of MUSIC

## ***THE Awards 2019 – Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year***

Institution/Nominee	Royal Northern College of Music
Title	RNCM Pathfinder
Key personnel	Professor Linda Merrick, RNCM Principal
Submission	<p>As a world-leading conservatoire, the RNCM trains highly gifted young musicians who have dedicated many years and thousands of pounds to reaching the highest echelons of the profession.</p> <p>There is no shortcut to achieving this goal, and we see how challenging it is for those with limited financial means, minimal family support and a resulting ceiling on their levels of confidence and ambition.</p> <p>Without targeted interventions, many are unable to realise their potential to study at degree-level. In 2017 the College launched RNCM Pathfinder, an innovative, scheme enabling young people to overcome financial, social and cultural barriers to progressing their musical talent.</p> <p>Following a six month pilot, Pathfinder developed into a three-year programme in partnership with two Manchester Music Education Hubs and the BBC Philharmonic. It aims to enable young people to develop their musical skills and aptitude and become confident, independent learners supported and motivated to progress their music-making.</p>