

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

Take the lead

Make it happen

rwcmd.ac.uk



Why study at a conservatoire?

Conservatoires are small, specialist higher education organisations that offer training in the performing arts to the most talented students with a focus on practical, vocational learning for a sustainable, long-term career in the arts.

Industry-ready

Our courses are designed in close collaboration with industry and have a strong focus on professional development. We have strong links with industry. With an emphasis on practical learning to prepare students for careers, our courses often include side-by-side opportunities with leading arts organisations, orchestras and opera companies, as well as masterclasses and workshops with industry experts.

Specialist teaching facilities

We have specialist teaching facilities dedicated to the areas of specific training students need. At the College, this includes the Richard Burton and Bute theatres, dance and drama studios, practice rooms and our world-class Dora Stoutzker concert hall – the only purpose-built chamber recital hall in Wales.

Small class sizes and higher contact hours than at a university

Our intimate class sizes mean personalised attention where students can truly hone their craft.

We are one of three conservatoires in the UK that offer training in both music and drama providing opportunities for collaboration across disciplines.

As a working arts centre, we also present over 500 performances a year, giving students the chance to perform, produce and get involved in a wide range of public-facing work.

Music and Drama: More than just a music school

At RWCMD, musicians don't just study music – they're immersed in a creative community. The opportunity to study alongside drama students (not to mention the art school we house here for our award-winning design students) opens up unique opportunities for you to collaborate, explore and grow.

Enhanced performance skills

Musicians at RWCMD develop a deeper understanding of stage presence, movement and audience connection through close interaction with drama students and specialist teaching. Whether it's learning to own the space or expressing yourself physically, these experiences build confidence and performance skills, helping you grow as an integrated musician.

Broader artistic perspective

Studying at a conservatoire and working alongside actors and directors helps musicians develop a deeper understanding of storytelling, pacing and dramatic structure. These are all elements that enrich musical interpretation, especially in opera, musical theatre, and contemporary performance.

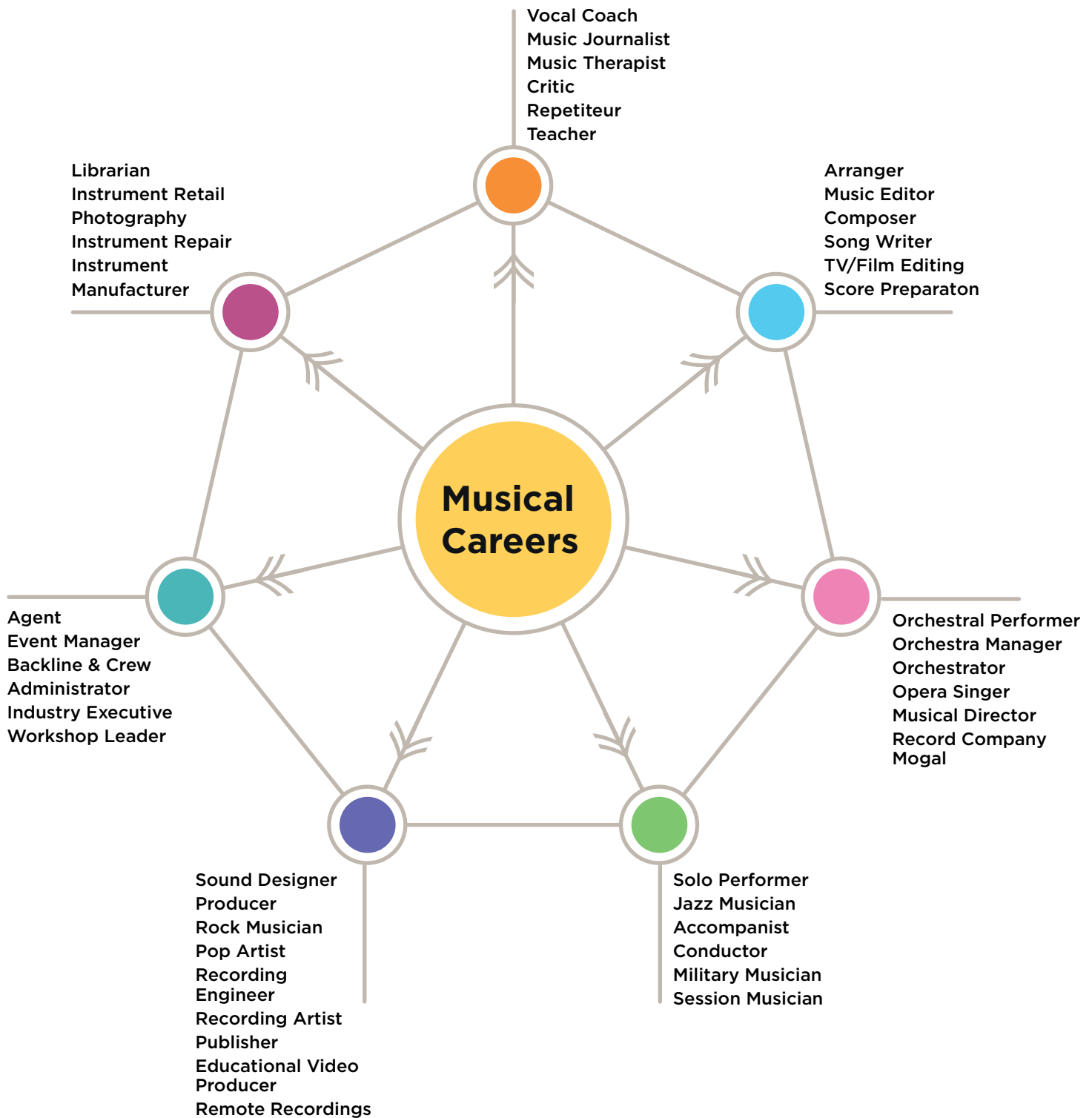
We actively encourage cross-disciplinary projects, giving you the chance to collaborate with actors on productions, recitals and devised works. These experiences reflect real-world professional settings, helping you build essential skills in teamwork, adaptability, and creative problem-solving.

Career versatility

Musicians who understand dramatic principles are well-equipped for diverse roles, from solo performance and chamber music to theatre pit work and multimedia composition. At RWCMD, our integrated training helps you broaden your career options and fosters entrepreneurial thinking.



What jobs can you do with a music degree from a conservatoire?





Who we are

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama nurtures and challenges the best creative talent from across the globe, empowering excellence, firing imagination and driving innovation.

As Wales' national conservatoire and largest producing house, we train more than 900 actors, musicians, designers, technicians and arts managers from over 40 countries, training them for a sustainable career in the arts as leaders of the next generation of artists.

Our students are immersed in a live industry environment from the moment they arrive, pushing the boundaries of what the arts can do to make society better, collaborating and creating new work across a range of professional and community settings.

We are a space for everyone, creative ambition and collaboration are central to our excellence.





A vibrant capital city

Cardiff, the capital city of Wales is one of the UK's most popular university cities so it is buzzing with youthful creative energy. Cardiff is a growing hub for the creative industries. It is home to BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Welsh National Opera, Bad Wolf productions, BBC Studios, BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, Wales Millennium Centre and Principality Stadium.

Many TV and film productions are filmed in Cardiff including Doctor Who, Philip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials', Industry and Sex Education. It continues to attract global names like Lucasfilm, NBC Universal and Disney+ to film here.

The city centre is packed with restaurants, bars and shops to cater to everyone's needs. The College is surrounded by the beautiful nature of Bute Park and 5 mins walk from Cardiff Castle. There are more national parks just an hour away from the city centre and miles of coastline.

Cardiff is one of the most cost-effective and affordable cities of the UK for students.



Sustainable careers in music

We focus on you and the musician you want to be, developing your skills as an individual, a collaborative artist and as a musician who will contribute to society.

We offer a wide range of playing opportunities, including musical theatre, opera, acting showcases, as well as symphony orchestra. Partnerships with BBC National Orchestra of Wales & Welsh National Opera together with ensembles in residence, the Carducci Quartet and the Fibonacci Quartet offer a unique opportunity for professional development through masterclasses and workshops. The College attracts internationally-renowned visiting artists and staff including Nicola Benedetti CBE and The Kanneh-Masons.

Sir Bryn Terfel CBE's Foundation called *Cronfa* (Welsh for fund), supports new artists and will see a new song prize being launched in November 2025.



'It's so exciting because I took part in a real opera production and this has infinite value in terms of experience. I saw that as soon as I went into the real life of opera, because sometimes College is even more professional than real professional life'.

Lluís Calvet i Pey, Baritone
RWCMD Graduate



Ten top tips for auditions

→|01

Pick pieces you connect with and feel confident performing. You'll feel more relaxed and we'll get to hear the real you.

→|02

Show us contrast, for example, pair something lyrical and expressive with something bold and energetic.

→|03

Wear something comfortable but smart – and rehearse in your audition outfit (especially the shoes!).

→|04

Avoid too much coffee, eat a good breakfast, and make sure you're well-rested.

→|05

In the two weeks before your audition, practise at the same time of day, in your audition clothes, running your full programme.

→|06

Channel nerves into energy. Preparation helps turn anxiety into performance power.

→|07

Practise steady, deep breathing before entering the room.

→|08

Set yourself up for success. Keep your head up, make eye contact, greet the panel confidently.

→|09

Be ready to talk about yourself, your musical interests, goals, and why you want to study at RWCMD.

→|10

We're looking for your potential, not perfection – don't worry about mistakes.



'I believe deeply in the College and its position to create the next generation of courageous, empathetic artists in our changing world, and I am proud to help raise its unique international profile as an institution that leads the way in international conservatoire practice.'

Tianyi Lu, Conductor
RWCMD graduate



'If you have the talent, the dedication, the motivation to be the best musician you can possibly be, you're welcome here. We believe in you from the moment you arrive.'

Tim Rhys-Evans, Director of Music



- 1** Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
- 2** Principality Stadium
- 3** Cardiff Castle
- 4** New Theatre

- 5** National Museum & Gallery of Wales
- 6** St David's Hall
- 7** Sherman Cymru
- 8** Wales Millennium Centre*
- 9** Bad Wolf studios**

* Home of Welsh National Opera, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and National Dance Company Wales

** Home of Doctor Who and productions such as His Dark Materials

For further details about all our courses, please visit our website:

www.rwcmd.ac.uk

Please contact the Admissions Office with any queries:

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