



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*



# MASTER OF PERFORMANCE



# SINGAPORE'S PIONEER ARTS EDUCATION INSTITUTION MEETS A WORLD-LEADING MUSIC CONSERVATOIRE



## You get the best of both worlds

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and the Royal College of Music (RCM) was signed in 2009 to encourage the exchange of teaching and learning practices between the two institutions. Subsequently, a two-year Bachelor of Music (Honours) top-up degree was launched in 2011. It was the first time in the RCM's prestigious 130-year history that its degrees were awarded outside the United Kingdom. The RCM-NAFA programme is generously supported by the Singapore government, enabling talented musicians in Singapore to develop and build their careers, to sustain and build on the thriving and growing musical life of Singapore and Southeast Asia.



Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is a premier arts institution in Southeast Asia. The academy is known for its rigorous and current curriculum, innovative and practitioners-led teaching approach, diverse artistic creations and proactive community outreach. Our courses are designed and delivered by experienced art educators and leading industry practitioners. With a rich culture, illustrious heritage and an unwavering dedication to the highest standards of arts education, NAFA strives to live up to its mission of inspiring learning and growth through the arts.



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Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music London (RCM) is a worldleading music conservatoire based in London with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. The RCM boasts a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians who are taught in a dynamic environment, many of whom graduate from the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future. The RCM is ranked as the global top institution for performing arts in the 2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject.



# MASTER OF PERFORMANCE

The RCM-NAFA Master of Performance course is designed to allow performers to develop their skills to a professional level. The course offers intensive training in practical skills, complemented by a range of targeted options which reflect current industry and professional needs. Such skills are aimed at performers who aspire to enter the profession as practitioners at the highest level.

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## Learning Outcomes:

- Perform at a level expected of a professional musician in terms of technique, musical insight, imagination, interpretation and communication
- Apply personal research, analysis, reflection, listening and the application of theory to practice in the process of forming a musical interpretation
- Demonstrate a strong grasp of musical traditions, while embracing or seeking new innovations in musical styles, media, performance and practice
- Execute projects requiring written and/or verbal presentation, as well as for musical performance, in a confident and independent manner
- Work effectively as part of a team, often in a leadership role, taking spontaneous decisions and responding to the decisions of others
- Be self-motivated and disciplined, and promote projects/performances with critical self-awareness
- Demonstrate in-depth understanding of professional environments and protocols



# YOUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

## The unique partnership between NAFA, RCM and CCOM

With the seven-week International Placement at the Royal College of Music (London) or ten weeks at the Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing), you will have the unique opportunity to experience living and studying in another environment for a period of time. You will gain exposure to artistic and cultural practices in a new environment and acquire valuable learning experiences, which will widen your perspectives towards your own musical practice and learning.

## NAFA's artistic and cultural diversity

For the first time, Chinese instrumentalists will have the option of undertaking a performance degree course at the Master's level in Singapore. For our Western and Chinese instrumentalists and composers, you will co-exist in a synergetic relationship, experiencing and reflecting on your cultural practices in the arts as you relate to performance and research. For our musicians, this provides a rich cultural environment and collaborative opportunities.

## Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations

NAFA's position as a multidisciplinary arts institution gives our music students the opportunities for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations with other artistic disciplines within the academy and the new University of the Arts.





## International Placement

Take part in the international placement at the Royal College of Music in London for seven weeks, or ten weeks at the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing for Chinese instrumentalists. The placement provides you with the opportunity to study and immerse yourself in a foreign environment, both as a musical and personal experience.



*The RCM trains gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors and composers and other significant leadership roles within the arts. Many of our graduates are at the very forefront of the international music scene.*

- Professor Colin Lawson (Director, Royal College of Music)

# FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr Ernest Lim**  
Dean  
Faculty of  
Performing Arts

Dr Ernest Lim is a strong advocate for making music education

programs accessible to the community. He has spearheaded significant collaborative educational and community initiatives both locally and internationally. His work is driven by his research interests in intercultural studies and pedagogy skills as he aligns curriculum design in music education with a focus on students' developmental needs alongside industry relevance.



**Dr Nellie Seng**  
Associate Dean  
School of Music

Dr Nellie Seng is an educator, performing artist, and mother. She views the world

of music and education as an ecosystem that is co-dependent on every level as she aims to aid in fulfilling the potentialities of individuals to build the musical ecosystem from within. Nellie firmly believes that every individual has a role to play-from performer to audience, teacher to student, parent to child; to ensure the future of music for many generations beyond.



**Lim Yau**  
Artistic Director  
School of Music

A Cultural Medallion winner, Mr Lim Yau is a beacon in the music community. His passion and enthusiasm for choral

music led to the formation of The Philharmonic Chamber Choir; recognized as one of the most prominent chamber choirs in the region. Mr Lim Yau is also a keen advocate of Singapore composers, having premiered works by every major Singaporean composer.



**Lena Ching**  
Deputy  
Associate Dean  
School of Music

Ms Lena Ching is a notable and sought-after pedagogue that

has mentored many generations of pianists. She is passionate about cultivating in young people, a love and understanding of music and life. A driven individual, she is motivated by seeing students develop their potential to become valued members of the musical profession.



**Dr Rebecca Kan**  
Associate Dean  
(Degree Studies)  
Faculty of  
Performing Arts

Dr Kan is passionate about teaching and

learning the arts. Her key interests are in professional education, signature pedagogies, and everything that lies in between. A trained musician and musicologist, she specializes in the creative musical processes of the Baroque concerto.



**Dr Nicholas Ong**  
Head of Keyboard  
School of Music

Dr Nicholas Ong is a highly sought-after pedagogue and adjudicator. He is a fervent

believer in contemporary music, often collaborating with fellow musicians in premiering works by upcoming composers. A prolific and versatile performer, Dr Nicholas Ong has performed in concerts across the United States, Europe and Asia.

## Modules

- Principal Study Level 7
- Orchestration Portfolio Level 7
- Conducting Level 7





**Dr Tan Wee-Hsin**  
**Head of Strings**  
**School of Music**

Dr Tan Wee-Hsin is highly regarded in the strings community. He is known for his work in the field of music

through varied and thoughtful programs that strive to make music accessible to the community and for all stages of learning. Dr Tan is also an advocate for interdisciplinary and multicultural arts, often presenting performances featuring soundscapes from both the East and West as well as large-scale performances incorporating different dance forms along with music.



**Mark Suter**  
**Head of Studies**  
**Percussion**  
**School of Music**

Mr Mark Suter is an internationally renowned percussionist and

chamber artist. His musical projects reflect a diverse background, having collaborated with an eclectic array of musicians and ensembles. He has mentored young musicians alongside his fellow musicians from the Silk Road Ensemble, and also created cross-disciplinary studies workshops featuring percussion and dance.



**Sunny Wong**  
**Head of Chinese**  
**Instrumental Studies**  
**School of Music**

Mr Sunny Wong is a highly sought-after Erhu performing artist. Having won many

accolades and prizes in Erhu performances, he has concertized and brought the sounds of the Erhu to the international stage. As a pedagogue, he is focused on developing versatility in young musicians.



**Dayn Ng Chee Yao**  
**Adjunct Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Mr Dayn Ng is a composer, music technologist and audio engineer. A NAFA alumnus, Dayn has been

commissioned to compose for the Singapore Youth Festival. He has also written original works and arrangements for the Singapore Chinese Orchestra; designed music and sound productions to the Central Academy of Drama (China), Beijing Film Academy, and Dance Ensemble Singapore. Dayn is currently the Composer-in-Residence in MUSA.



**Dr Lee Ming-Yen**  
**Senior Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Dr Lee Ming-Yen is an ethnomusicologist of Chinese and Southeast Asian Music. Her research interests include

Indonesian music, as well as pedagogy in world music. A prolific writer, Dr Lee's articles have been widely published in journals such as Asian Culture, Journal of Aesthetic Education and many more.

- Advanced Schenkerian Analysis Level 7
- Composition Level 7

- Orchestration for Chinese Orchestra Level 7
- Chamber Music Level 7

**And more**

# YOUR **STEP BY STEP** ADMISSION GUIDE



## Entry Requirements

- A relevant undergraduate degree from RCM-NAFA or a recognised institution, usually in Music
- Degree transcripts must indicate passing grades in equivalent RCM-NAFA Bachelor of Music modules
- 20 years of age or older
- English language proficiency - IELTS Academic Band 5.5 or equivalent



## Audition, Personal Statement & Interview

- Prepare a varied programme and show a range of styles, periods and characters. Visit website for specific audition requirements for each faculty of study.
- Submit a personal statement (250 – 350 words) to support their application for the Master of Performance programme
- Attend an interview



## If you can't make it for a live audition,

- Submit a video recording (please visit website for complete guidelines). An interview via Zoom will be arranged by the Student Admissions Office should you pass the video screening round.

### Annual Course Fees (AY2023)

	Full-time per year 2 years	Part-time per year 3 years
Singapore Citizens	S\$31,800	S\$21,800
Singapore Permanent Residents	S\$33,800	S\$23,800
International Students / Other Residents	S\$35,800	S\$24,800

All fees are inclusive of GST at prevailing rate and are subject to revision. Please refer to the NAFA website for the latest.



Scan the QR code to visit our website for additional information on admissions requirements, audition, fees and curriculum.