



1886~2025

**A GUIDE TO
THE RCM CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM and ACHIEVEMENTS**



NO.1



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**On behalf of The Royal Conservatory,
I sincerely thank you for helping to
teach and inspire the next generation
of musicians across North America.**



On behalf of The Royal Conservatory, thank you for inspiring the next generation of musicians. The mission of The Royal Conservatory is to develop human potential through music education and the arts, and your commitment to join us in this pursuit is appreciated.

As teachers you have the power to change the very direction, the nature, and the quality of a person's life. There are few pursuits that offer this potential for such impact and even fewer that are as meaningful. Consider that your work through music awakens and stimulates the three greatest attributes of humankind – emotion, curiosity, and imagination – all the while opening the door to a sublime realm of beauty and a higher purpose for humanity. This is what you do.

The RCM Certificate Program prepares students for excellence in their academic and professional careers, and under your guidance, fosters students' curiosity and creativity and instills a lifelong understanding, appreciation, and love of music. Learning through our Program will help your students develop the discipline, imagination, and perseverance that will serve them well in all areas of their lives.

Thank you for your support and partnership in ensuring a bright and sustained future for music education and the arts.

Together, we will succeed.



Dr. Peter Simon

Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO
The Royal Conservatory of Music

WELCOME TO THE RCM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The mission of The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) — to develop human potential through music education and the arts — is based on the conviction that the arts are humanity’s greatest means to achieve personal growth and social cohesion.

For more than 130 years, the standardized and structured curriculum of the RCM Certificate Program has served as a guided path of achievement and assessment for musicians from around the world. The RCM Certificate Program is available for more than twenty instruments, speech arts and drama, and voice and is used by more than 500,000 students and 30,000 teachers across North America alone. Be a part of the national conversation.

20+ INSTRUMENTS

accordian	percussion
bassoon	piano
cello	recorder
clarinet	saxophone
double bass	speech arts and drama
euphonium	trombone
flute	trumpet
guitar	tuba
harp	viola
harpsichord	violin
horn	voice
organ	



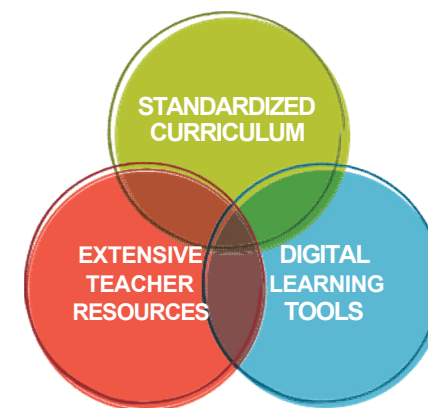
ADOPTING THE RCM CURRICULUM

The RCM program utilizes a prescribed curriculum that provides you with a complete teaching portfolio. The standardized program is designed by master pedagogues and is ideal for:

- New teachers who do not have years of resources to draw upon
- Teachers who take a holistic approach to developing musicians
- Teachers who want to provide their students with a variety of repertoire, and a solid foundation in theory
- Teachers with students interested in taking exams to track their progress and becoming eligible for awards



The RCM Certificate program is designed to assist teachers in achieving their professional goals, as well as providing a path for students. Whether an experienced teacher or brand new to the teaching profession, the RCM has the framework to help you establish your studio, and the resources to assist in your continued growth as a musician, and as a teacher.



WHY TEACH THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY CURRICULUM?

The RCM Certificate Program provides a recognized international standard of musical success through an effectively sequenced course of study — from elementary through advanced levels.

The integrated curriculum of the RCM program lends itself to a blended learning approach that includes:

- Award winning educational resources
- Digital learning tools vetted by leading North American educators
- Assessments provided by accredited third-party examiners

With a focus on nurturing creativity and developing self-confidence, this comprehensive program allows students to progress at their own pace. Examinations enable students to track their progress and celebrate their accomplishments.

The Certificate Program provides a comprehensive path for musical development, encompassing three main areas:

1. Repertoire

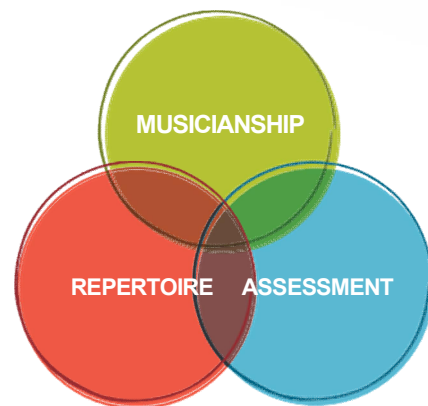
- Students explore a variety of styles and periods, ensuring they gain a breadth of knowledge.

2. Musicianship

- A thoughtful and consistent approach to the development of ear training and sight reading provides students with a solid foundation for independent creative musical exploration.
- Musicianship skills support both practical performance and theoretical understanding.

3. Assessment

- An International standard for exams, with independent, third-party assessment provides students with goals to work towards and challenges them to perform at their highest abilities.
- Successfully completing exams builds confidence and offers students the opportunity to celebrate achievements.



AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF MUSIC STUDY

The RCM Certificate Program provides a sequenced path for well-rounded musical training, and a consistent and meaningful structure for recognizing achievement, and rewarding excellence.

Extensive and Engaging Repertoire

The RCM has an extensive selection of repertoire – more than 20,000 pieces across the Conservatory's 24 Practical disciplines.

Each piece of music is carefully selected for each level by distinguished international artists and educators. Repertoire reflects all style periods of classical music – Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary – and also offers opportunities to learn jazz, folk, and popular music.

The classical training provided by the Certificate Program provides the strongest possible foundation upon which to build musical explorations into all genres of music.

Comprehensive Musicianship

The development of musicianship skills is an integral component of the RCM Certificate Program.

Enhancing aural and reading skills lays the groundwork for lifelong learning. In the RCM Program, theory levels are tied to practical (performance) levels, and reinforce concepts encountered in repertoire,



technique, and musicianship studies. The exploration of the language of music combines these skills to increase music literacy and ensure the development of well-rounded musicians.

An International Standard of Assessment

Exams provide an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to track and measure progress and achievement against a international standard. Preparing for and successfully completing an examination builds self-confidence, encourages students to strive for

excellence, and ultimately serves as motivation for further study.

The RCM College of Examiners consists of more than 350 distinguished professional teachers and performers from across North America. Examiners are esteemed pedagogues who are trained to maintain consistency in evaluation and uphold the high standards of the Certificate Program.

An accredited adjudicator from the RCM's College of Examiners provides objective feedback and commentary to support student development.

RCM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM EXAMS

Exam Requirements

RCM Syllabi include a sequenced course of study and guidelines for preparing students for exams. Teachers can access RCM syllabi online anytime.

We encourage all teachers to prepare students for exams at regular intervals. Regular testing supports student success by:

- Providing goals to work toward
- Challenging students to practice and perform at their highest abilities
- Tracking student progress and celebrating achievement
- Building confidence

Scheduling an In-Person Exam

- Either a parent or teacher may register a student for an exam. Teachers can book several students at once using the Group Bookings option in their My RCM Account.
- Exams take place up to four times per year and are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Access the Exam Calendar to learn more and find an exam center near you.
- Current exam pricing can be found on the RCM website.



RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Students who succeed at music exams realize many benefits:

- They are eligible to win Gold Medals and other recognition from The Royal Conservatory.
- Achievement in RCM Certificate Program examinations is an impressive addition to any résumé, demonstrating creativity, a willingness to learn, and an ability to achieve short- and long-term goals.
- The Associate Diploma (ARCT) from the RCM is recognized internationally as one of the highest academic credentials awarded for the study of music.
- Secondary school credits from RCM Certificate Program examinations may be available in your state or province. Many Canadian high schools recognize RCM Certificate Program examinations for credit toward graduation.

REMOTE EXAMS

The RCM offers both practical (instrumental) and theory (written) exams online providing the opportunity for students to achieve their recognition remotely. The rigors of the College of Examiners remain the same for in-person, and online exams, but the format offers increased flexibility. Students can complete an exam in their own practice space, use their own instrument, and have no need to travel to a testing location. Remote Exams are not bound to any schedule, students can take an exam whenever they feel they are prepared.

There can be additional benefits to students who choose to do their exams remotely. According to research, memories are linked to the context in which they are

created, so if you study for a test in a specific room, you may perform better on that test if you take it in the same room. Learn more about this Encoding

Specificity Principle as it relates to teaching music in the research portion of the **RCM Teacher Portal**: rcmusic.com/TeacherPortal

If your students are interested in taking a Remote Exam there are a few technical requirements that must be met. The student must have a reliable high-speed internet connection, a smartphone or tablet, and the appropriate instrument. Specifications are outlined on our Remote Exam webpage: rcmusic.com/RemoteExams

IN-PERSON EXAM SCHEDULING

EXAMINATION SESSIONS – CANADA

DECEMBER/JANUARY (WINTER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: November
Theory Examinations: December
Practical Examinations: January

MAY/JUNE (SPRING) SESSION

Registration Deadline: March
Theory Examinations: May
Practical Examinations: June

APRIL SESSION

Registration Deadline: January
Practical Examinations: April exams are piano only

AUGUST (SUMMER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: June
Theory Examinations: August
Practical Examinations: August

For specific dates, please visit: rcmusic.com/exams

EXAMINATION SESSIONS – US

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER (WINTER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: October
Theory Examinations: December
Practical Examinations: November/December

AUGUST (SUMMER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: May
Theory Examinations: August
Practical Examinations: July/August

For specific dates, please visit rcmusic.com/ExamInfo

MAY/JUNE (SPRING) SESSION

Registration Deadline: February
Theory Examinations: May
Practical Examinations: May/June

Please note: All examinations must be completed prior to June 30 to be included in the academic year.

INTEGRATING THEORY

Celebrate Theory is a comprehensive series that supports the study of music theory at every stage of a student's development.

Encompassing rudiments, harmony & counterpoint, analysis, and music history, *Celebrate Theory* is an essential resource for enriching practical studies and developing well-rounded musicianship. Alignment with the *Theory Syllabus* ensures student success in preparing for examinations of the RCM Certificate Program.

Digital Learning tools are an integral aspect of RCM programming, and studying theory in an engaging way.

The downloadable Theory Sampler provides an overview of the concepts covered. You can use this to become familiar with each book and help determine which level is appropriate for your student. Visit: rcmusic.com/celebrate-theory



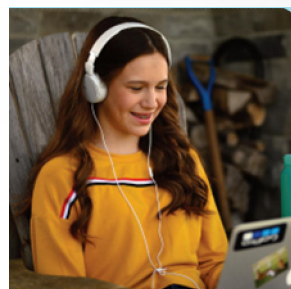
DIGITAL LEARNING

Digital resources serve as a companion to RCM print resources by:

- providing engaging exercises for students to use between lessons, thereby maximizing the time they have with their instructors
- providing teachers with an array of tools to connect with today's students

The power of technology allows you to expand your resources and add variety to your teaching strategies.

Assess your level here: rcmusic.com/TheoryPlacementTool





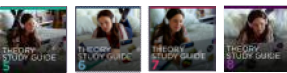
THEORY PLACEMENT TOOL

The RCM Online Theory Placement Tool aids students and teachers in two ways:

- 1 Determines a student's proficiency in each theory level
- 2 Identifies gaps and weaknesses in each level and provides customized learning recommendations

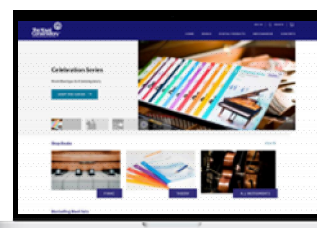


RCM Digital Learning Assets

Product	Benefits	Key Features	
Prep – Level 4 Theory Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforces the importance of theory at every level Designed to appeal to young students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive games and lessons that can be played online or offline Over 300 learning objectives, over 70 lessons, and 40 interactive games 	 <p>rcmusic.com/theoryapps</p>
Level 5 – 8 Theory Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online activities provide extra practice exercises and drills to complement the Theory Study Guide and <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books Can be used in-class or for practice between lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Theory apps organized by concept Hundreds of randomized activities and drills to ensure comprehension of the concepts 	 <p>Download on the App Store</p>
Level 5 – 8 Theory Study Guides with Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used in conjunction with <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books to create a blended learning approach Prepares students for the online exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrated lessons, audio examples, and unlimited practice tests can be used online or offline Instant feedback for every learning objective Includes unit tests and an online final exam to earn comprehensive certificates Content access and online exam is available for 365 days 	 <p>rcmusic.com/theorystudyguide</p>

RCM Digital Learning Assets

Level 9 Online History Course (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern eras including architecture, art, politics, and world events)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used in conjunction with <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books for a blended learning approach Effective and innovative courses for students of all learning styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 400 high quality audio examples from the Naxos Music Library, over 350 interactive activities, over 100 practice questions, over 200 learning objectives Includes online final exam Students have 365 days to learn at their own pace and complete their exam when ready 	 <p>rcmusic.com/onlinehistory</p>
Level 10 Online History Course (Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods including architecture, art, politics, and world events)	ARCT History Coming in 2020		
RCM Online Ear Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks students' progress Use for practice between lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows students to record and assess their performances for accuracy Hundreds of exercises with feedback to enhance learning Randomized delivery to ensure comprehension Progression tracker to identify areas that require special attention All levels available with monthly subscription 	 <p>rcmusic.com/eartraining</p>



SHOP RCM

All the resources required for the RCM curriculum can be found at Shop RCM, including RCM books, online piano teacher courses, digital courses and apps. Shop RCM ships worldwide.

TEACHER SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Teachers from more than 23 countries have chosen The RCM Certificate Program for our standardized curriculum that provides a guided path to teaching, our extensive resources, and the RCM support network, all which help lead students to success

Online Piano Teacher Courses

The Online Piano Teacher Courses provide the opportunity to explore piano pedagogy with experienced educators from across North America. The Online Piano Teacher Courses offer access to a facilitator who provides feedback and support over a ten-week period. Build your teaching network and learn new insights into teaching Elementary, Intermediate, or Advanced levels.

- Combination of articles, videos, and other educational resources that explore:
 - Teaching Fundamentals (Pedagogy)
 - Fostering Healthy Physical Approaches & Technique
 - Teaching Repertoire, Artistry, and Interpretation
 - Integrating Musicianship and Theory
 - Stylistic Awareness and Performance Practice
- Weekly assignments and discussion forum with personalized feedback from experts
- Graduates will have compiled a summative portfolio and receive a certificate of successful completion

RCM Teacher Portal

RCM Teacher Portal combines our very best teaching content, premium streaming services, and masterclasses, all in one convenient place. Featuring more resources than ever before, RCM Teacher Portal was created to help busy music teachers like you make the most of your time.

RCM Teacher Portal offers:

- Thousands of resources including information on:
 - studio management to grow your practice
 - technique and repertoire
 - artistry, musicianship, and theory
 - lesson plans, exercises, exam preparation
 - curriculum resources
 - pedagogical insights
- Masterclasses and webinars for multiple disciplines and topics
- Audio on demand from Naxos Music Library with access to complete catalogues and select recordings from more than 800 labels
- Video on demand with Medici TV, the world's largest classical music channel featuring over 2,000 programs
- Personal response to questions submitted directly to an examiner
- Access to archived questions

Teaching Online Certification

The RCM supports 21st century teaching and learning by providing resources that seamlessly move between in-studio and online learning scenarios

The Teaching Music Online Certificate course is taught by experts in music education and guides participants through best practices, strategies, and resources to teach online effectively. The course is split into six modules and takes approximately 16.5 hours to complete. It is designed to be highly collaborative so participants will gain practical experience teaching online and can confidently work with students in a remote setting.

For more information, please visit rcmusic.com/TeachingOnlineCertificate RCM Teacher Directory

Help students find you: Become part of the RCM Teacher Directory

- RCM Teachers can choose to be listed in an online directory for students and parents to search by instrument and geographic location.
- Parents and students can search for certified teachers in the RCM database knowing they will be connected with qualified professionals.

www.rcmusic.com/teaching

WHY BECOME AN RCM CERTIFIED TEACHER?

RCM Certified Teachers share a commitment to building a brighter future for music education, but that is just the start. Beyond that, they become part of exclusive Certified Teacher discussion groups and they have unparalleled access to resources in the Teacher Portal where they can ask questions directly to RCM examiners.

RCM Certified Teacher Benefits:

- Complete access to the RCM Teacher Portal, no additional subscription is required to access valuable professional development resources, and materials to strengthen your teaching practice.
- The opportunity to join a private online community of like-minded peers with whom you can share your teaching challenges and celebrate your successes
- Access to audit RCM online courses free of charge
- 20% off book purchases at Shop RCM year-round

There are two ways you can become an RCM Certified Teacher:

1. Meet the music education prerequisites and submit the required number of successful exam candidates
2. Successfully complete the RCM Piano Teacher Course, and submit two successful exam candidates at the required levels within two years

rcmusic.com/teachercertification



AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIP

RCM has established a comprehensive, multi-level platform for achievement recognition and certification, offering students and teachers worldwide a personalized and distinctive stage for showcasing their talents and competing.



RCM Teachers of Distinction Award

Student Awards

- Regional Gold Medal
- National Gold Medal
- Diploma Gold Medals
- Theory Diploma Gold Medal

Florence Aymong Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to the Gold Medallist in Speech Arts and Drama (Teacher's ARCT only).

Esme Rose Crichton Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest marks (minimum 80%) for Grade 9, 10. Winners must reside in Saskatchewan.

Antal Janos Dvorak Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark (minimum 80%) in Canada in a trombone examination, Grade 9 or higher.

Flora Matheson Goulden Strings Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in Canada in the ARCT Strings examination (Distinction or first class honours).

Gordon Hallett Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who obtains the highest aggregate mark (minimum 80%) in both the written and practical ARCT Piano Teacher's examination.

Winnifred Mae Jackson Endowment

Awarded to the five candidates who achieve the highest marks in Grade 7 Piano in Edmonton and surrounding area with the condition that it is awarded to those of the five candidates who continue on to take the Grade 8 Piano examination within a specific period of time.

Simon and Emma Kruger Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in the Grade 10 Violin examination in Manitoba.

Annie Larson Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in a violin examination, Grade 8 or higher. The winner must be a resident of Saskatchewan.

Patricia McLean Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in the Grade 8 Piano examination in Canada.

Adelmo Melecci Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in Ontario in the ARCT Piano Teacher's complete practical examination.

Helen Tough Murray Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in the ARCT Piano Performer's examination. The recipient must be a citizen of Canada.

Doris A. Proud Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in piano (Grades 1 - 10), and has completed the corresponding theory co-requisites (where applicable). The winner must reside in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Kathryn Sinclair Prize

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark in the History 3 examination in Canada.

Wayne C. Vance Organ/Keyboard Award

Awarded to the student residing in Ontario with the highest mark in the highest grade in Organ. If no such candidate exists, the prize goes to the candidate residing in Canada with the highest mark in ARCT Organ. If no such candidate exists, the prize goes to the student in Ontario obtaining the highest mark in ARCT Piano (keyboard).

Charlotte Anne Walker Scholarship

Awarded to the candidate who achieves the highest mark (minimum 85%) on the Grade 10 Piano examination, and who has completed the theory co-requisites with an average of at least 75%. The candidate must reside in Elgin County, Ontario.

GLOBAL EVENTS - Celebration of Excellence

Celebrations of Excellence are recitals held annually across North America and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of RCM students. Award winners will be contacted via the email associated with their RCM account. Award winners who are not able to attend their Celebration of Excellence event in person will be invited to submit a video recording via Dropbox. The virtual recital video will be published in Spring 2025.



Awards Requirements*

Award	Award for	Eligible RCM Levels	Min. Requirement for Eligibility
National Diploma Gold Medal	The highest mark in the country for each discipline	LRCM and ARCT (includes Pedagogy** and Theory)	Practical mark of 90 and completed theory co-requisites***
National Gold Medal	The highest mark in the country for each discipline	Levels 5 through 10 and Piano Pedagogy (Elementary and Intermediate levels)	Practical mark of 90 and completed theory co-requisites***
Regional Gold Medal	The highest mark in the region for each discipline	Levels Preparatory through LRCM****	Practical mark of 85 and completed theory co-requisites



We are so proud of our Gold Medalists for performing at our Alberta/NWT/Nunavut Celebration of Excellence recital. 🎉



We are so proud of our Gold Medalists for performing at our Atlantic Canada Celebration of Excellence recital. 🎉



CAMPS AND MASTER CLASS

CAMP: CHAMBER & ORCHESTRA CAMP

The Chamber and Orchestra Camp is designed for string students who are seeking a more intensive summer camp experience which includes individual instruction, group class, chamber music, enrichment activity and orchestra. Students will be grouped in chamber music based on their playing level and reading ability. Students should be in Suzuki Book 3 (or equivalent) and above.

Ages: 8-17



CAMP: Summer Rock Band Camp

Get into a rock band this summer at The Oscar Peterson School of Music! Camp takes place at our beautiful downtown Toronto location ! This is a one-week camp, half-day* camp for experienced beginner.

This is a camp for experienced beginner and intermediate players. Each day students will spend time learning new repertoire, practising rhythm, singing, and jamming together. Students will learn the art of playing in a band through listening, responding, and improvising.

All students signing up for this camp are asked to submit two (2) video demos to help the instructor plan repertoire and arrangements.

Ages: 8-17




PERFORMANCES AND MASTER CLASSES

With access to some of the finest performance spaces Toronto has to offer, Taylor Academy students have frequent opportunities to practice and perfect their performance skills. Taylor Academy concerts are free and open to the public, and an excellent opportunity to hear vibrant performances by outstanding young musicians.


Master classes, led by esteemed guest artists and the excellent faculty of The Taylor Academy and The Glenn Gould School, are an important component of our core curriculum. Students have performed in master classes for a star-studded cast of guests, including:

- Emanuel Ax, piano
- Charles Richard-Hamelin, piano
- James Ehnes, violin
- Ida Kavafian, violin
- Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello
- Adrienne Pieczonka, voice
- Demarre McGill, flute
- Stewart Goodyear, piano






Sarah McLachlan, Multiple Juno/Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, Officer of the Order of Canada



Mariko Anraku, Associate Principal Harp, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; recording artist with EMI Classics



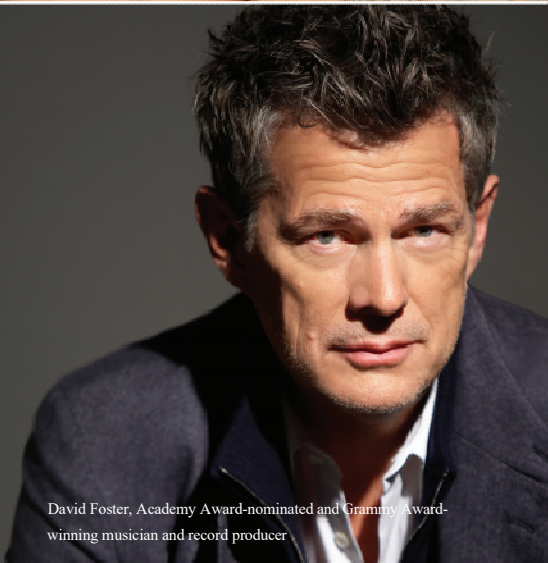
Paul Shaffer, Former music director, *The David Letterman Show*




Glenn Gould, Legendary pianist

Extraordinary Alumni

For over 130 years, the RCM has inspired over 5 million people to develop the discipline and creativity needed to realize their potential in a wide range of fields including the arts, medicine, law, journalism, and professional sports.




David Foster, Academy Award-nominated and Grammy Award-winning musician and record producer



Diana Krall, Award-winning jazz pianist and singer



Angela Hewitt: Award-winning classical pianist



Afendi Yusuf
Principal Clarinet, Cleveland Orchestra

THE VALUE OF HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC EDUCATION

A wealth of scientific research has shown that music education is a powerful tool for a child to attain their full intellectual, social, and creative potential.



“The Royal Conservatory is one of the greatest leaders in music and arts education and a force for artistic and cultural development.”

- Oscar Peterson, Alumnus, Grammy award winning pianist and composer



“The Royal Conservatory has leveraged the expertise of leading pedagogues to deliver the gold standard in digital resources for music education”.

- John Perry, Professor Emeritus of Piano



“The Royal Conservatory’s structured system of curriculum and assessment is truly exceptional and fosters participation in music and creative expression.”

- Lang Lang, Internationally acclaimed pianist, Founder, Keys of Inspiration Program



“I am so excited about The Royal Conservatory and its capacity to inspire people of all ages across the country to engage with music.”

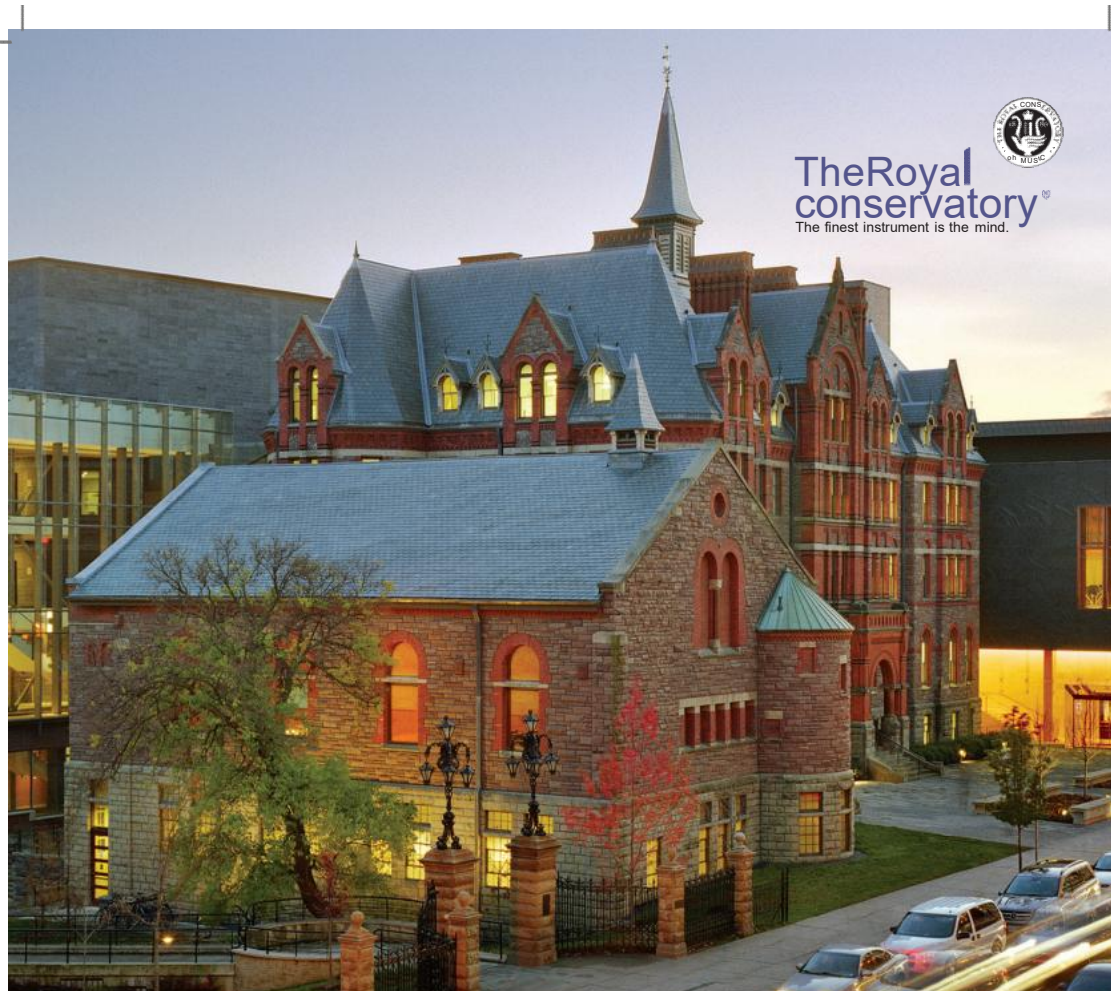
- Emmanuel Ax, Internationally acclaimed pianist



“The Royal Conservatory of Music program was crucial to my development as a musician. Simply put, I would not be where I am today had I not gone through The Conservatory program.”

- David Foster, Alumnus, award-winning musician and record producer






TheRoyal
conservatory®
The finest instrument is the mind.

TAKE THE MUSICAL EDU TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Add.: 41 George Street South (beside Sunset Grill)
Brampton, ON L6Y 2E1 Canada

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Rainbow Alliance Inc. - Affiliate Partner of RCM in China

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