Welcome to the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM). We offer gifted young artists a nurturing musical experience in one of Europe’s oldest and most prestigious conservatoires.

I wanted to study as a full-time student at the RIAM because I knew that I would receive the highest level of tuition from teachers who are passionate about what they do, and get access to world-class performers through masterclasses. Being in a small class meant that I received a vast number of performance opportunities in great venues. It was this that really helped me to get ready for a performing career.

Finghin Collins BA in Music Performance Class of 1999 and Winner of the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition

I wished to receive a great education in an English-speaking country. Ireland is also a very friendly place. I practise hard but also have a good group of friends to help me enjoy my life.

Soo-Jung Ann Current Doctorate of Music in Performance student and Finalist in Hamamatsu International Piano Competition 2009

About the RIAM

Founded in 1848, the Royal Irish Academy of Music is the foundation stone of musical development and innovation in Ireland. With a substantial junior school and elite senior school, the RIAM is a visible centre of musical excellence; an advocate and inspiring learning space for the gifted young musician. Our distinguished reputation resonates nationally and across the globe through our staff, alumni and students who demonstrate musical performance at the highest level.

We can offer RIAM full-time students the following distinct benefits:

- Every student is guaranteed substantial individual tuition time with an instrumental/vocal professor of international calibre who will guide their progress with focus and passion
- RIAM students are guaranteed access to some of the world’s leading performers through our masterclass programme
- All students are afforded solo and concerto opportunities in Ireland’s leading performance venues
- RIAM students are guaranteed support in competing in international competitions and overseas orchestral auditions
- Orchestral players are guaranteed mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities with our national orchestras, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, in addition to a guaranteed position in one or more of the RIAM performing groups
- Composers are guaranteed performances of their works by RIAM staff and students
- Innovative professional practice seminars are incorporated into all programmes to prepare students for a successful and healthy portfolio career in the 21st century

Located in Dublin’s cultural centre

Located in a house of outstanding architectural beauty in the heart of the Georgian Quarter in Ireland’s capital city, the RIAM is surrounded by major cultural attractions that include the National Gallery of Ireland, Natural History Museum, National Concert Hall and National Library. This creates an inspiring and vibrant cultural community which hosts many RIAM student performances, attracting capacity audiences.

The Royal Irish Academy of Music is an Affiliated College of Trinity College Dublin.
Members of the RIAM Chamber Orchestra
International Cooperation

The RIAM is a member of the Association of European Conservatoires (AEC) and has inter-institutional agreements with over 30 of Europe’s leading conservatoires. Our students have undertaken ERASMUS exchanges with institutions such as the Sibelius Academy, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Wien, and the Paris Conservatoire.

We are committed to offering exceptional masterclass opportunities in order to enhance the development of our students’ musical ideas with input from the world’s leading musical figures. We have recently welcomed the following international figures: Miriam Fried, Ernst Kovacic and Igor Ozim (violin), Yuri Bashmet and Lars Andres Tomter (viola), Peter Lloyd (flute), John Wallace (trumpet), Steven Doane and Ralph Kirshbaum (cello), Boris Petrushansky, Leon Fleischer, Jacques Rouvier, Dominique Merlet, Christopher Elton and Pascal Rogé (piano), Ann Murray, Roger Vignoles, Patricia Bardon and Wolfgang Holzmair (voice), James MacMillan, Nicola LeFanu and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies FRIAM (composition).

RIAM is an international touring institution, with recent critically acclaimed performances taking place in Carnegie Hall and the Seoul National Center, Korea.

Our students are encouraged and supported in their ambition to compete in international competition. Recent student successes include prizes in the Clara Haskil, Cardiff Singer of the World, Maria Callas, s’Hertogenbosch, Hamamatsu, Vienna Belvedere and Cologne Competitions.

Internal Competitions

We run a number of annual competitions open only to RIAM students which carry substantial cash prizes and outside engagements. These include:

- The Maura Dowdall Award for Senior Solo Performer
- The Gaiety Bursary for Singers and Instrumentalists
- The Irene Sandford Award for Singers
- The Lucien and Maura Teissier Award for Pianists
- The RIAM Chamber Music Bursary

Faculty

RIAM faculty includes international performing artists, principals with our national orchestras and teachers who have become synonymous with music education both at home and abroad. Our staff roster also includes multiple international prizewinners and renowned recording artists. These talented musicians are deeply committed to passing their craft to students and are enthusiastic about making each student’s experience at the RIAM unique and valuable.

For details on each staff member, visit our website at www.riam.ie
Its wide-ranging...
Performing Groups
RIAM’s most senior performing groups include:

• **RIAM Philharmonia**
  This 60-member ensemble maintains a busy performing and touring schedule both at home and abroad. The group meets regularly at the Academy to rehearse a wide variety of symphonic repertoire, which it performs in concert in Dublin and around the country. The Orchestra also collaborates regularly in concerto with RIAM staff and students and participates in a number of outreach and community programmes.

• **Chamber Orchestra**
  Regarded as one of Ireland’s most exciting young ensembles, the Royal Irish Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1997. Bringing together some of the Academy’s finest string players, the Orchestra usually performs standing up, without a conductor and soloists are generally drawn from within the Orchestra. Its wide-ranging repertoire of music has been heard in some of Ireland’s finest performance spaces in addition to concert halls in France, the United States, Korea, China and Japan.

• **Chorale**
  This 50-member group is of the highest quality and performs a calendar of challenging works from the large-scale choral repertoire. Generally accompanied by the RIAM Chamber Orchestra, this group has performed in Ireland’s major venues.

• **Symphonic Wind Band**
  Exploring the vast amount of repertoire available for this medium, the Symphonic Wind Band performs in many of Ireland’s major venues.

• **Kirkos Ensemble**
  This dynamic and exciting ensemble concentrates on specific facets of contemporary music whilst also exploring the canon of modern classics. It also regularly rehearses and performs the music of living composers, and champions the works of RIAM composition students.

These energetic groups perform challenging repertoire in leading venues nationally and internationally. Orchestral students receive intense tuition in orchestral auditions with internationally reputed tutors and undertake mock auditions conducted in realistic conditions by professional panels.

In addition, orchestral players are guaranteed opportunities to take part in mentoring schemes and apprenticeships with our national professional orchestras, culminating in performances in Ireland’s National Concert Hall. For this reason, many of our recent graduates have won positions in our national orchestras and orchestras internationally.

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*The Royal Irish Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra, a student string ensemble that performs standing (except for the cellists) and without a conductor, is visiting the United States this month. At its Tuesday evening concert in Merkin Concert Hall, this 16-player group made a fine case for the state of music education in Dublin.*

Allan Kozinn, The New York Times
RIAM Touring
In recent years orchestras and ensembles from the Academy have flown the Irish classical music flag in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Norway, Switzerland, The Americas, Korea, China and Japan. Our musical ambassadors have played public concerts in some of the world’s finest concert halls, including Carnegie Hall and Symphony Hall, Birmingham, and in a private capacity before distinguished audiences in the residences of the Irish Ambassadors of the United States, Japan and France, as well as at the French Senate, Paris. Performances by these orchestras have been acclaimed in newspapers from The New York Times and Boston Globe in the United States to the Glasgow Herald and Birmingham Post in the United Kingdom. All foreign tours by Academy ensembles to date have been supported and endorsed by the Irish Government through the aegis of Culture Ireland.

Opera
Our critically-acclaimed fully-staged annual opera features singing students across all bachelors, masters and doctoral programmes, performing to sold-out audiences. With a professional conductor, director and design team, the RIAM Opera is a challenging and inspirational experience for all singers. Additional opera scene performances and semi-staged works are presented during the year. Singing students will also receive expert tuition in languages, phonetics, movement and acting to support their operatic studies.

RIAM Library
The library contains approximately 35,000 items, comprising scores, books, orchestral sets, recordings, and manuscripts. It also provides access to a range of electronic journals, databases and audio-visual streaming services. Historical music collections date from c. 1720 – 1900, and hold the scores and parts of several Dublin-based orchestral and choral societies active in the 19th century. The Hudleston collection is an extensive library of 19th century guitar music, in original editions and manuscript. Most material is listed on the online catalogue, and new materials are constantly added to the collections to support the learning needs of the Academy. Listening posts, computer facilities and WiFi are provided. The library also participates in the MusicPal scheme, allowing its users access to many other music collections in other Irish libraries.
Rachel Kelly, mezzo-soprano and Dean Power, tenor in the RIAM 2010 production of Così fan Tutte
PROGRAMMES

1 Year Programmes

Access Programme
1 Year Full-time
Application Deadline December 1st

This is a one-year programme aimed at gifted singers and instrumentalists who wish to take a gap year between secondary school (high school) and a bachelor’s degree. Students receive tuition on an instrument/in voice and take history of music classes, compositional studies and aural training aimed at developing a fully rounded performing musician.

Diploma in Music (Instrumental and Vocal Teaching and Performance)
1 Year Full-time
Application Deadline December 1st

This one-year programme focuses on the dual aspects of performance and teaching. In addition to an instrumental/vocal lesson and history of music, compositional studies and aural training classes, students will receive expert pedagogical training in their chosen area.

International Artists Diploma
1 Year Full-time
Application Deadline December 1st
Late applications accepted subject to availability of places.

This Diploma represents the highest level of attainment in a performance-based programme at the RIAM. Graduation recitals will take place in one of Ireland’s major cultural institutions to reflect this importance.

Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate Programmes

Bachelor in Music Performance (BMus Perf)
Four years, Full-time
Instrumental Programme
Application Deadline December 1st

This is a four-year instrumental programme aimed at the highly gifted undergraduate instrumental student. With a maximum intake of 10 students per year, students will receive 2 hours of instrumental tuition per week with a professor of international standing and will also receive regular access to accompaniment and chamber music coaching.
Support studies include history of music, compositional studies, aural training, free composition and music technology.

This programme offers a wide range of performance opportunities, including mentoring with our national orchestras, solo recitals and concertos in our most prestigious national venues, as well as international touring opportunities. In addition, our focus is on preparing musicians for a busy and successful career in the 21st century, and our Professional Practice Seminars encourage students to reflect on their own unique performance ambitions, to stay healthy as a performer and to be prepared for the challenges of a portfolio career.

This is a unique four-year programme in Ireland aimed at equipping the highly gifted post-secondary school singer with the skills needed to undertake the unique challenges of a singing career. With a maximum intake of 6 students per year, students will receive 2 hours vocal tuition per week with a professor of international standing and will also receive regular access to accompaniment and chamber music coaching.

Support studies include history of music, sightsinging, keyboard skills, aural training, free composition and music technology.

This programme offers a wide range of performance opportunities, including professionally directed fully-staged operas, solo recitals and chamber works in our most prestigious national venues, as well as international touring opportunities. Singers will take additional classes in languages, phonetics, acting and movement, specialised classes across various genres: baroque, oratorio, song and operatic repertoire.

RIAM PROSPECTUS

‘I knew at the outset of the Bachelor in Music Performance degree that I wanted to play in a professional orchestra. The reason I chose the RIAM is because there are so many past and present section leaders of our national orchestras on staff. My logic was simple….I knew these tutors could help me make my dream a reality because they had done it themselves. And I was right.’

Sinead Farrell Class of 2006 and Principal Piccolo with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland

Bachelor in Music Performance
(BMus Perf)
Four years, Full-time
Application Deadline
December 1st

Bachelor in Music Composition
(BMus Comp)
Four years, full-time
Application Deadline
December 1st

This is a four-year programme aimed at highly-gifted undergraduate composers. You will receive one-to-one attention with an internationally renowned composer and support studies will include history of music, analysis and aural training. As part of a vibrant and exciting performing community, students are guaranteed performances of their compositions by RIAM staff and students throughout the programme.

Professional Practice Seminars for composers focus on building a network of contacts to ensure success in developing performance and funding sources. RIAM has an extensive range of contacts in new music groups and government agencies that can assist the young
‘Aspiring to study with some of Ireland’s finest musical minds is what drew me to the Royal Irish Academy of Music from the very beginning. Being introduced to a world of passionate teachers, extraordinary musicians, as well as thoughts and movements that have shaped current aesthetic views, proved to have a profound influence on my own creativity. I can’t think of a better launchpad for any composer.’

Brettis O’Byrne BA in Composition Class of 2011 and Winner of Gunter Bialas Composition Competition 2008.

composer in developing a satisfying career. With only four composers accepted each year, such exclusivity is a useful calling card.

**Master in Music Performance**
(MMus Perf)
Two years, Full-time

Application Deadline
December 1st

This is a two-year programme aimed at very gifted post-graduate performing musicians who wish to prepare for a performance career. On this programme, students will receive 2 hours per week tuition with an internationally renowned professor in addition to chamber music coaching.

Support studies include a choice of music technology, thesis work, composition or analysis, and students will receive guaranteed opportunities to perform in Ireland’s leading performance venues and will be supported in their ambitions to enter international competitions.

**Doctor in Music Performance**
(DMus Perf)
Four years, Full-time

Application Deadline
December 1st

This four-year programme represents the highest level of attainment in the RIAM for gifted professionals who wish to undertake rigorous performance studies underpinned by research. This four-year programme combines instrumental/vocal tuition with research and musicological studies.

**The Next Steps**
If you are considering studying at RIAM, we would be delighted to answer any questions you might have and suggest you send us an email at generaloffice@riam.ie

Once you are ready to make an application, please visit our website at www.riam.ie where you will find online handbooks and application information.

**How To Find Us**
Royal Irish Academy of Music
36/38 Westland Row,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.
Tel 00 353 1 6325300
Email generaloffice@riam.ie
Web www.riam.ie

Director
Deborah Kelleher

Administrative Officer (Registry)
Frances Hogan
Dublin, Ireland

Dublin is the capital of Ireland, which is an English-speaking country located close to the United Kingdom. With a city population of about 1.7 million, Dublin is known for the friendliness of its people, the beauty of its 18th and 19th century architecture which sits happily beside more daring and modern urban buildings, and its appreciation of the arts.

In addition to a vibrant musical scene, Dublin is well-known for the poets and playwrights who achieved international fame such as James Joyce, Seamus Heaney, Roddy Doyle and WB Yeats. Famous Irish musicians include flautist James Galway, mezzo-soprano Ann Murray, U2 and the Chieftains.

Dublin city hosts a number of art galleries, theatres, festivals, exhibitions and sporting events. In addition, our capital city is celebrated worldwide for its excellent universities such as Trinity College, Dublin, its young and innovative population and its stunning coastal location.

This is a lively city in which something exciting is always happening. Further information can be found on www.visithublin.ie. Accommodation information can be found on www.daft.ie

Directions within Dublin
Westland Row is located a one minute walk from Pearse Street Dart (Train) station, which is in the centre of the city, next door to Trinity College, Dublin.
Alumni Successes

Our full-time performance programmes began in 1992 and since then we have nurtured a significant number of students who have gone on to forge hugely successful careers including...

01 Sarah Moffatt, violin
Member of La Serenissima, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Sixteen
BA in Music Performance Class of 1999.

02 Robin Tritschler, tenor
Third Prize at the Internationaal Vocalisten Concours in ’s-Hertogenbosch 2006
Company Principal and Guest Artist at Welsh National Opera
Acclaimed recitalist who can count amongst his chamber music partners Graham Johnson and Malcolm Martineau
BA in Music Performance Class of 1999.

03 Breffni O’Byrne, composer
Winner of Gunter Bialas International Composition Competition 2008 and forthcoming Leverhulme Scholar.
Current student on the Bachelor of Arts in Composition Course.

04 Kate Hearne, recorder
Winner of the Montréal International Recorder Competition 2005
BA in Music Performance Class of 2002.

05 Soo Jung Ann, piano
Third Prize at the Dublin International Piano Competition 2009
Fifth Prize at the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition 2009
Current student on the Doctorate of Music in Performance Course

06 Ailish Tynan, soprano
Winner of the Rosenblatt Recital Prize, Cardiff Singer of the World Competition 2003

Lead Roles at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, La Scala, Milan, Houston Grand Opera, Opéra Comique, English National Opera
Master of Music in Performance Class of 2000

07 Celine Byrne, soprano
Winner of the Maria Callas Grand Prix 2007
Master of Music in Performance Class of 2007

08 Finghin Collins, piano
Winner of the Clara Haskil Competition 1999
Associate Artist, RTÉ NSO
BA in Music Performance Class of 1999

09 Tara Erraught, mezzo-soprano
Lead roles with the Bavarian State Opera and Vienna State Opera
BA in Music Performance Class of 2010