

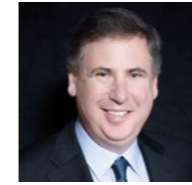


Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Donor Impact Report 2021/2022



Welcome



Here at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, we believe wholeheartedly in the power of the performing arts to inspire, challenge and change the world.

We know that the arts are critical to keep the fabric of society strong and maintain deeper connections in a more divided world.

I sense you do too, and for that belief and support on behalf of all at RCS, I thank you warmly. We are so grateful to have a community of individuals and partner organisations who share the ambitions of our special community of artists, creative producers, researchers and educators.

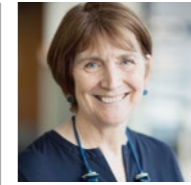
Without you, so many of our aspirations and dreams would remain just that. You have helped ensure that emerging artists from across Scotland, the rest of the UK and more than sixty countries around the world, can explore their potential and overcome whatever barriers have been placed in their way.

Creating a conservatoire with the power to deliver excellence, impact and inspiration is an ensemble mission, with you, our donors and partners, playing a vital part.

As we look to the future, we need your help and that of other like-minded people more than ever before. It has never been more important to enable the performing arts, and the artists and creative producers within them, to thrive and drive positive change.

Thank you for sharing this journey. Stay with us or, if you haven't been part of it, join with us now.

Professor Jeffrey Sharkey FRSE
RCS Principal



Thank you for taking the time to read the Donor Impact Report from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. I hope the stories on the following pages give you a real sense of the rich diversity of activity

which goes on across this wonderful community, focused on making an impact in the world through the performing arts.

Much of the work showcased here simply would not have happened were it not for the support we receive from our community of donors, partners and friends.

This assistance takes many forms; from individual donors supporting students through their scholarships and bursaries to the long-term investments from trusts and foundations which make groundbreaking programmes such as the Leverhulme Conducting Fellowship possible.

The arts make an invaluable contribution in a myriad of ways to the lives of individuals, to their communities and the socio-economic wellbeing of entire nations. This is why the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's mission is to nurture the next generation of artists and creative producers for Scotland and the world.

There are, as I hope you will see illustrated here, so many invaluable ways that you can help us shape an empowering and inspiring future for the arts by supporting the work of students and staff.

If you are already doing that, thank you warmly. If you'd be interested in finding out how to join in, please do get in touch. We'd love to talk.

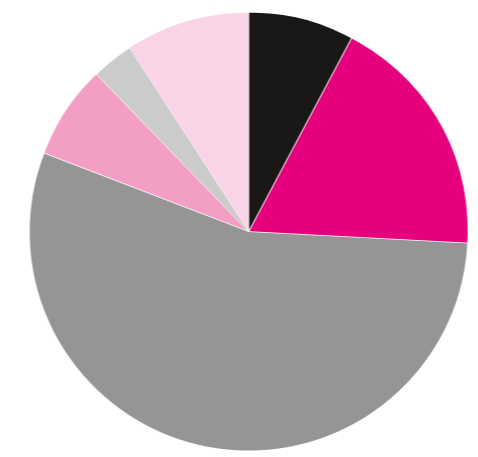
Professor Dorothy Miell OBE FRSE
RCS Chair



Fundraising in figures

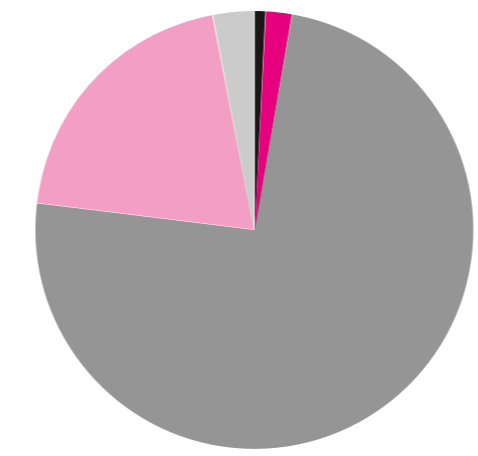
21/22 Income

- 8% Legacies
- 18% Individuals
- 55% Trusts and Foundations
- 7% Corporates
- 3% Company of Donors
- 9% US Donors



Individual donations

- 1% Scholarship fund (web/ticket sales)
- 2% Alumni donations
- 74% Scholarship donations
- 20% General donations/project funding
- 3% We Are Still Here campaign (web/ticket sales)



£1.1
million raised through
donations in 21/22

355
total students supported

781
new donors of £1 or more

£258k
of new scholarship income

£55k received to support
Ukrainian students

Trusts and Foundations

William Grant Foundation Powering Potential at RCS

“The arts should be accessible to everyone, but creative opportunities are not always equally distributed. We have to directly challenge that if we’re going to have a cultural scene in Scotland that is representative of all.”

Rowan Boase, Partnerships and Learning Manager,
William Grant Foundation

The William Grant Foundation believes in a nation where everyone can thrive, explains Rowan Boase, Partnerships and Learning Manager.

The foundation, connected by William Grant & Sons, a fifth-generation Scottish family distiller, continues a long tradition of supporting organisations and initiatives that remove barriers to opportunity and tackle disadvantage. It works to strengthen the local communities in which the company operates, improve the natural and built environment and sustain the unique culture and heritage of Scotland.

The William Grant Foundation has supported the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for several years, with grants that help to increase access to the arts and arts education, with a focus on digital investment, care experienced and estranged students, and outreach across production and Fair Access programmes.

Fair Access at RCS ensures that people from all walks of life can study the performing and production arts and reach their full potential. It’s underpinned by a belief that the arts need voices from different backgrounds - and where the whole of society is reflected.

“Inclusion, equity and diversity are a major focus for the William Grant Foundation and RCS’s Fair Access work really speaks to that,” said Rowan.

“It’s looking at who faces barriers to enjoying or participating in the arts, and who gets to become an artist. We know that it isn’t something that everybody gets the chance to explore, far less to build a career in the arts.”

The foundation has funded Fair Access initiatives like ***What It Means to Be Me***, where film, production, music, composition and postgraduate students, who are care experienced or estranged, devised a series of creative workshops designed to inspire and support care experienced or estranged young people to make a music video.

One RCS student said: *“This project has very much been an experience of discovery and inner expression. I have loved every second and I am excited to work on what’s next.”*

Another confided: *“Being in a room full of people who can empathise and sympathise... that was nice, it was safe.”*

Another William Grant-funded project was the four-part *In Conversation With podcast*, a collaboration between Fair Access’s Transitions programme and BA Contemporary Performance Practice at RCS. The project used conversation as an artistic research tool to explore ideas, approaches and practices to better understand students, communities and audiences.

Fair Access Ambassadors -
Opening up a world of creative
possibilities through Fair Access

“Donor support helps us to make a tangible difference. This funding helps us to provide authentic learning opportunities and give a voice to those who need it most.”

Jesse Paul, Head of Fair Access at RCS

The Transitions programme provides funded training for those wishing to study the performing or production arts and helps prepare young people for degree-level training at conservatoire or university level. It specifically supports students from SIMD1 postcodes in Scotland - where young people are most likely to face multiple barriers to their progression and embracing their potential - and those who are care experienced and/or estranged.

“Donor support helps us to make a tangible difference,” said Jesse Paul, Head of Fair Access at RCS.

“This funding helps us to provide authentic learning opportunities and give a voice to those who need it most.”

“The work we are able to do helps young people to develop independence, self-confidence and empathy in a safe and nurturing environment and through this kind of work, we can create spaces where young people interested in the performing and production arts can thrive, go on to study or work and ultimately, make an important impact in the creative arts industry.”



A care experienced project film shoot



Showcasing the creative world of Fair Access at an expo event

Funding from the William Grant Foundation also enabled RCS to purchase specialist production equipment for engagement activities in Scottish schools, offering an insight into theatre technology and the backstage world of the performing arts to pupils who may not have been aware of production arts as a training or career route.

“RCS is such an important pathway into the performing arts, from its Fair Access outreach work that helps build foundations and change perceptions to supporting people while they’re at RCS and beyond,” said Rowan.

“There is still such a need for philanthropic and independent funding to sit alongside established funding streams in order to support new and innovative work and to ensure that the power of the arts, and the world of possibilities that it opens up, are there for everyone.”

Find out more about the William Grant Foundation www.williamgrantfoundation.org.uk

The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation

Championing Diversity



“Education changes lives.”

Professor Richard Oreffo

A new scholarship at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland supports Black British students as they pursue their passion for the performing arts.

RCS is the first arts institution to partner with The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation, which aims to fund one hundred disadvantaged, under-represented and highly talented Black British students through university in the next decade.

“Education changes lives,” said Professor Richard Oreffo, who established the foundation in 2020.

“We know the transformative power of education and we know its ripple effect - not only for that individual but how it will affect their families, their communities, and how it can impact all of us. We wanted to make a difference, to try and address some of the equity issues that surround this space.”

The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation believes that access to university should not be limited by race or social class and is committed to eradicating the financial and racial barriers for socially and economically disadvantaged Black British students.

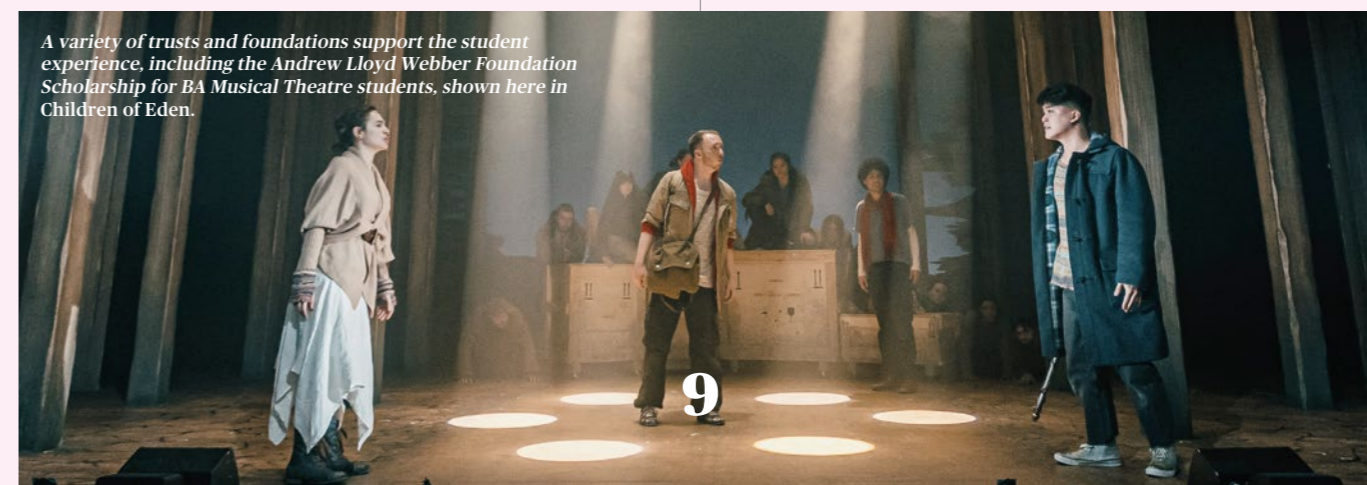
Professor Oreffo, who holds the chair of Musculoskeletal Science and is co-founder of the Centre for Human Development, Stem Cells & Regeneration at the University of Southampton, explained that Black British students are under-represented at many UK universities. Individuals from affluent areas are five times more likely than those from deprived areas to attend a high-tariff university ranked in the top third by entry requirements.

And while many issues are at play in why more Black British students do not enter university, The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation seeks to address one part of the jigsaw: the financial cost.

“We want to harness all of the exceptional talent that exists, and we are extremely proud to be partnering with RCS, our first performing arts institution.”

RCS will cover tuition fees for three students over the next ten years while Cowrie will provide additional funding to cover maintenance and living costs. The scholarship also includes professional mentorship and resilience programmes.

“It’s a wrap-around package of support that gives students a platform upon which to build and develop.”



A variety of trusts and foundations support the student experience, including the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Scholarship for BA Musical Theatre students, shown here in Children of Eden.

The Leverhulme Trust

Supporting conductors on the cusp of their careers



Jiří Rožeň, a previous Leverhulme Conducting Fellow, performs with the BBC SSO at Glasgow's City Halls

“The Fellowship is a very engaged and active process for two years where conductors gain incredible experience.”

Martyn Brabbins, RCS Visiting Professor of Conducting

The Leverhulme Trust champions arts education and has supported scholarships and fellowships at RCS in a partnership that has spanned more than fifteen years.

One ongoing strand is the Leverhulme Conducting Fellowship, in association with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, a two-year programme for conductors on the cusp of their careers, offering a sought-after step in the journey between study and the professional podium.

RCS is the only UK institution to offer this prestigious, early-career conducting opportunity.

Supported by a generous bursary from the Leverhulme Trust, fellows are enabled and encouraged to build relationships with the array of conductors who visit Scotland each year to work with the national companies.

Fellows work with the internationally acclaimed conductor Martyn Brabbins, who is Visiting Professor of Conducting at RCS, along with conservatoire teaching staff, the Alexander Gibson Opera School, and with all the orchestras and ensembles within the conservatoire.

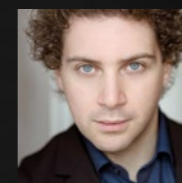
Not only does the Fellowship offer outstanding professional experiences, it allows fellows to receive feedback, work in new styles and focus on their skills while receiving financial support.

Current Fellow, Emilie Godden, said: *“The Fellowship is a very rich experience. The atmosphere at RCS is one of open-minded possibility and I've really appreciated that can-do kind of ethic that's here. It's been an incredibly positive experience for me.”*

British-Canadian conductor Riley Court-Wood will succeed Emilie Godden in September 2023.

Previous Leverhulme Conducting Fellows

Sergej Bolkhovets
Former Assistant Conductor,
Gothenburg Opera



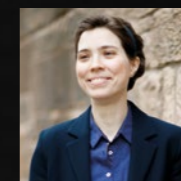
Alvin Ho
Assistant Conductor,
Naples Philharmonic



Ciarán McAuley
Former Resident Conductor,
Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra



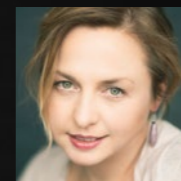
Jiří Rožeň
Artistic Curator, Opera Nova,
National Theatre Prague



Teresa Riveiro Böhm
Associate Conductor,
Barcelona Symphony Orchestra /
Associate Conductor
Welsh National Opera



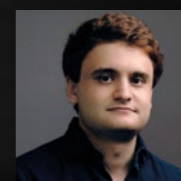
Jessica Cottis
Chief Conductor,
Canberra Symphony Orchestra



Holly Mathieson
Music Director,
Symphony Nova Scotia



Simon Proust
Musical Director, L'Orchestre
des Jeunes du Centre and
L'Ensemble Cartésixte



Joel Sandelson
Winner of Salzburg Festival
Young Conductors Award, 2021

Leverhulme Conducting Fellow Emilie Godden



Individual Giving



A scene from the opera Marilyn Forever

Caroline and John Sibbald Putting Opera in the Spotlight

“Our experiences of visiting the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and seeing the work of the students is always stimulating and hugely encouraging for the future.”

Caroline and John Sibbald

“The performing arts bring people together. They allow people to step off the treadmill of daily life, and either lose themselves briefly in what they are seeing/listening to or to engage, perhaps at a deeper level, with emotions or issues being raised by the composer or author which may either stimulate or challenge.”

Caroline and John Sibbald are long-standing friends and supporters of RCS since being introduced to the work of the institution in 2007.

They had been invited to a recital in Edinburgh, a fundraising event for the Mary Garden Scholarship at RCS, established for young opera singers. During the evening, they learned about the financial challenges that faced some students, and it moved them to take action.

“There were three things that inspired us to support the work of RCS,” said John.

“The continuing high standards of performance that we subsequently experienced; the equally and obviously high standards of teaching that underpinned this; and the sharing of this experience with others whom we were able to introduce to RCS for the first time.”

The couple give an annual scholarship for an opera student and have also indicated a legacy.

“Our experiences of visiting RCS and seeing the work of the students is always stimulating and hugely encouraging for the future.”

“We have also more and more come to appreciate the important work of fundraising and other behind-the-scenes departments in ensuring the future of the RCS and, at a personal level, their efforts to involve ourselves and others in the RCS family.”



Hilary and Robert Murdoch

Supporting RCS students

“The performing arts are so essential for society.”

Hilary and Robert Murdoch



A couple's love of the arts and a passion for education have combined to help nurture the next generation of performing artists at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

For Hilary and Robert Murdoch, supporting students financially throughout their studies not only opens up a world of possibilities and encourages them to realise their full potential but is a much-needed investment in the future of the arts.

Their own university experiences - Hilary studied medicine and Robert mathematics - were enriching experiences. For Robert, studying in Scotland, financial barriers were less of an obstacle at that time.

For Hilary, studying in South Africa, funding what was then a six-year undergraduate course was much more challenging. They both understand the transformative power education has, and the often life-changing experiences it offers.

And they want to ensure that young people, regardless of their circumstances, can flourish.

“We'd been working in schools in Glasgow, mentoring pupils in fifth and sixth year, who were hoping to go to university,” said Robert.

“We spent time talking to them about university and what they could expect because some were maybe the first in their families to consider going. What became clear to us was how the punishing costs of higher education and the virtual guarantee of long-term debt could quickly become a very real barrier, however determined the student was to succeed. That's what sparked the idea to do something.”

Hilary added: *“The performing arts are so essential for society, but we'd been reading about how the sector had been facing all kinds of cuts. We feel the Royal Conservatoire is a jewel in the crown in Glasgow, and we have some very illustrious institutions here.”*

The couple's donation supports two students throughout their studies on the Modern Ballet and Acting programmes.

“It's very interesting to talk to the students and find out what they're working on and all the things that go on within their courses. It's a learning process for us.” said Robert

Hilary added: *“I really enjoy ballet and it is fascinating for me to watch the progress of the dancers during their course. What is also wonderful is seeing their enthusiasm and exuberance, it's such an important time in their lives, and it gives you the feeling that the future is in good hands.”*

BA Modern Ballet students take to the stage in their annual showcase



From Hollywood to Renfrew St.

The Sam Heughan Scholarship and Write Start award

“Being one of the first students to receive the new Sam Heughan scholarship has literally been life changing.”

Stuart Edgar, BA Acting student

A global star and a Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduate is paving the way for aspiring artists to follow in his footsteps.

Sam Heughan, the internationally acclaimed Hollywood actor, author, producer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, personally funds a ten-year scholarship programme in his name. Sam returned to his RCS roots in 2021 to establish three annual scholarships for undergraduate students in the School of Drama, Dance, Production and Film.

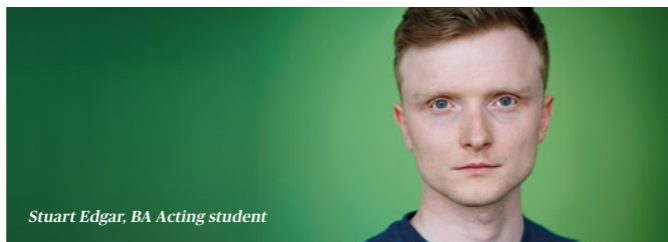
“Being one of the first students to receive the new Sam Heughan scholarship has literally been life changing,” said Stuart Edgar, BA Acting student.

“I’m able to travel to and from RCS with significantly less financial burden, and focus all my attention on my studies, including evenings and weekends.”

In addition to the scholarship programme, Sam - who graduated from the BA Acting programme in 2003 - also launched Write Start: The Sam Heughan Creative Commission, an annual award that encourages students across RCS to join forces to develop original new work.

The student or team of students behind the winning entry receive £5,000 to help bring their vision to life, with runners-up receiving £1,000. Remaining finalists each receive £500 to progress their projects.

The inaugural winner in 2022 was John Black, a BA Filmmaking student, with his stage play ***Bucket of Sunshine***. It centred on three naval officers in a Vanguard-class submarine, which questioned the moral and ethical dilemmas of nuclear weapons.



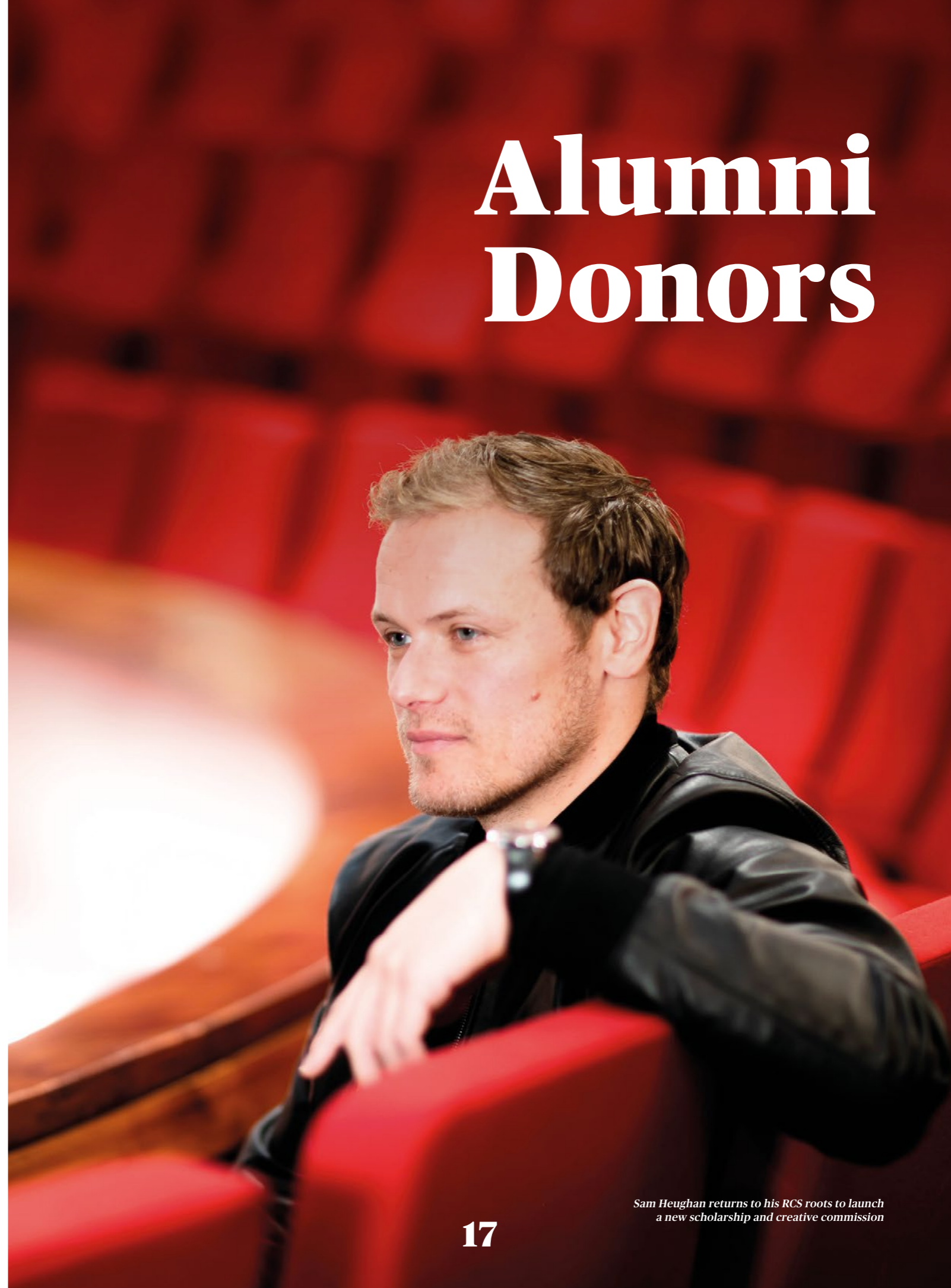
Add John said: *“Being the first-ever recipient of the Write Start award was daunting! But it’s what inspired me to dream big with the project, it had to make a lasting impact. Without the level of funding provided by Sam Heughan, alongside the support from cast, crew, staff and mentors, Bucket of Sunshine wouldn’t have happened. I am truly grateful to Sam, the Write Start initiative and to those who helped bring my words to life!”*

Sam, who was born in Balmacellan in Dumfries and Galloway, found worldwide fame playing the lead character of Jamie Fraser in smash-hit drama series *Outlander*, which is filmed in Scotland and based on the books of author Diana Gabaldon.

Sam passionately believes in ‘giving back’ and supporting young performers of the future: *“It felt really important to be able to give back, to help inspire some of the students and support them because I know that there’s so much creativity and talent coming out of this very special building.”*

“There are so many wonderful disciplines at RCS and that collaboration between the art forms can be really interesting. It’s important for students to think outside the box. From my own career, I’ve realised that there’s a lot of fluidity. When we see people from all walks of life or different departments collaborating on something, that’s when real creativity can shine.”

Alumni Donors



Sam Heughan returns to his RCS roots to launch a new scholarship and creative commission

International Support



RCS alumni meet up for a picnic in New York's Central Park

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has many friends all over the world from alumni, members of the RCS family and proud Scots from the international diaspora.

In North America, we are supported by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland International Advisory Board (IAB), a US non-profit that helps to raise funds and awareness of RCS in the US and Canada.

The IAB is an engaged and active group that works in various ways to support students. In 2022, they raised funds to enable BA Filmmaking students and Head of Film, Ray Tallan, to attend the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The students spent an inspiring five days immersed in the festival, where they attended seminars and collaborated with film students from Toronto Metropolitan University.

This enriching educational experience would not have been possible without the support of the IAB and donors in Canada.

Alan McIntyre, Chair of RCS's International Advisory Board, said: *"As a world-class performing arts school, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland needs to project itself beyond the borders of Scotland to attract and partner with the best talent in the world."*

"As the Chair of the International Advisory Board and based in New York, it is my job to raise the profile of the school to match its global ranking, strengthen transatlantic institutional connections and raise money for scholarships and other programmes that support and sustain those links."

"It is my honour to help represent RCS outside Scotland and to be able to support its continued development as one of the world's leading performing arts schools."

The IAB can accept gifts for RCS support in both the US and Canada. We look forward to continuing to work with the group on new ways to connect with our friends across the pond.

International support for students also comes in the form of the Supernova Legacy Scholarship, a global group of Sam Heughan fans who passionately believe in helping aspiring actors pursue their dreams - and follow in Sam's footsteps - at RCS.

The scholarship, now in its third year, is for students on the BA Acting programme and has supported more than ten students at RCS.

The Pamella Dow Scholarship

An inspirational teacher's legacy

"We can now further Pam's legacy and continue to feel such enormous gratitude for her huge contribution to music education."

Colin Currie, percussionist and former student of Pamella Dow

There are people who touch our lives in special ways, who leave an indelible imprint.

For Louise Paterson, it was Pamella Dow. More than simply a teacher, she was a mentor, a friend and 'musical mother'.

When Pam sadly passed away in 2021, her extraordinary impact inspired Louise to establish a scholarship in her name to honour the memory of this powerhouse percussionist and much-loved and highly respected teacher, and to ensure her legacy lives on in future generations of young musicians.

As well as her remarkable career as a performer - she was principal percussionist with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra from 1967 to 1999 - Pam was also an outstanding educator who taught at both junior and senior levels at RCS.

"My memories of Pam are so personal, she was a musical mother for many of her students and was certainly mine, in so many ways," said Louise, a percussionist with Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla in Spain.

Louise created the Pamella Dow Scholarship as an annual award for young players in the Junior Conservatoire of Music.

"Pam loved the ethos of the Junior Department, the buzz of the younger ones, she lived and breathed fun and joy to her pupils and achieved such fantastic results. She wasn't so much making musicians, as enriching lives."

For Louise, Pam's scholarship is an essential investment in the future of the performing arts.

"We need to keep the arts alive. They're a necessity for the soul, independent of who you are, your race, your language, your social status, your income."

"Even if students don't go on to become musicians, they'll take the experience with them - that feeling of belonging, the hairs on their arms standing on end from playing a really exciting and loud passage of music. They'll take away discipline, having worked at a piece and conquering it, achieving the confidence required to stand on a stage and play a tune by themselves."

Junior Conservatoire Music students perform in the Stevenson Hall



Student Scholarships

Investing in the future

Financial barriers or otherwise should never stand in the way of potential. Our doors are open to the most promising young artists, at home and internationally, to help them fulfil their dreams.

There is a unique energy and power in bringing different voices and backgrounds together and scholarships play a crucial role in making that happen. Donations may cover either part or the full cost of tuition fees, help with living costs or essential equipment.

Read what students (who have since graduated) have to say about the impact of scholarships on their studies.

“I’m able to fully immerse myself in my course and can enjoy all the opportunities without having that constant worry about money, and that’s really special. Scholarships help to alleviate financial pressures and show that it doesn’t matter what kind of background you’re from. Supporting scholarships means that everyone has a fair chance at having tuition and experiences at this level. It is enabling so many students to make what was a dream into a reality and work towards making this a career.”

Lucy Vallis, MMus Opera



“I can’t express enough how much I would not be here if it wasn’t for the scholarship. I work part-time and the scholarship has allowed me to reduce my hours so that I can study the thing that I love. I feel this overwhelming sense of gratitude that because of other people, I am here.”

Colleen Bell, BA Filmmaking



“My scholarship is ultimately what allowed me to come to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. It made a huge difference in just getting me through the door in the first place and I’m eternally grateful for that. Scholarships are powerful things. My message to donors is a massive ‘thank you’. It’s down to their kindness that I’m here in the first place and I’m extremely grateful.”

Michael Ahomka-Lindsay, BA Musical Theatre

“Without a scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to study for a Masters at all. It has made a huge difference because it has allowed me to continue to have Glasgow as a base while I start to pick up a lot of professional work in the area. To the donors of my scholarship, I would like to say ‘thank you very much’. Without your help, it wouldn’t have been possible for me to get to where I am today.”

Rebecca Wilson, MMus Trumpet



Thank you



We hope you have enjoyed reading about the incredible students, exciting projects and inspirational work here at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

In 2022, we celebrated our 175th anniversary and it's only with the help of people like you that we can aim to be here for the next 175 years and beyond.

I also know that now, more than ever, there are many calls on your philanthropy and no-one here ever takes it for granted that you have chosen to donate to us.

Our community can only continue to thrive with your help. Places like RCS, with your support, can truly change the lives of young people forever.

Thank you for all that you do for the future of the performing arts.

Julie Reynolds

Head of Fundraising
and Alumni Relations
j.reynolds2@rcs.ac.uk

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Pauline Knowles Scholarship
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Sam Heughan
The Alan McAulay Jazz Award
The Family of Pamela Black
The Hamilton Duvall Music Scholarship
The Jill Brodie McDonald Slater
Mora Scholarship
The Kuenssberg Foundation
The MacIntyre Music Scholarship
Toby McLaughlan Memorial Fund
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WFT Anderson Scholarship
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Agnes Westwater Brown
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Anne Naysmith
Anne Strachan
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for Pianoforte
Mary E MacKenzie
Mary Rowan Paton
Moira Leitch
Muriel Gladdie
Nick Kuenssberg
Norah Cooper Mulligan
Pamella Dow
Robert Bowman
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Tannahill Bequest
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