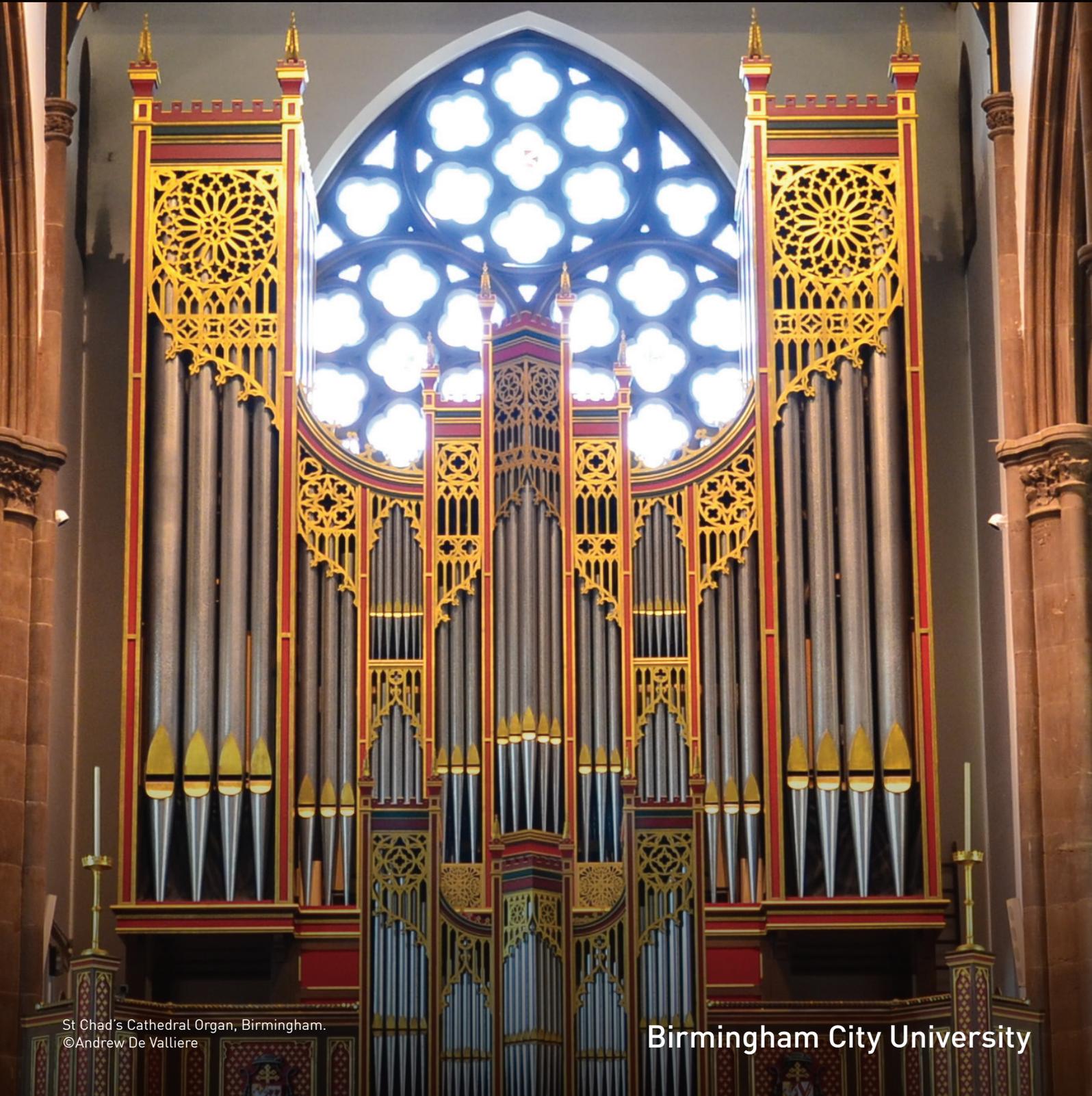




ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

ORGAN STUDIES



St Chad's Cathedral Organ, Birmingham.
©Andrew De Valliere

Birmingham City University

WELCOME!

Led by internationally acclaimed organists and tutors Daniel Moulton and Henry Fairs, with a stellar staff including International Consultant Nathan Laube (New York) and Visiting Professor Martin Schmeding (Leipzig), Royal Birmingham Conservatoire enjoys a reputation as a leading European centre for organ studies.

We are the destination of choice for many gifted young musicians. Recent undergraduates have gone on to cathedral positions in Worcester, Chelmsford, St David's, Liverpool, Hexham, Chester, Norwich and elsewhere, and include several RCO prizewinners and successful freelance musicians.

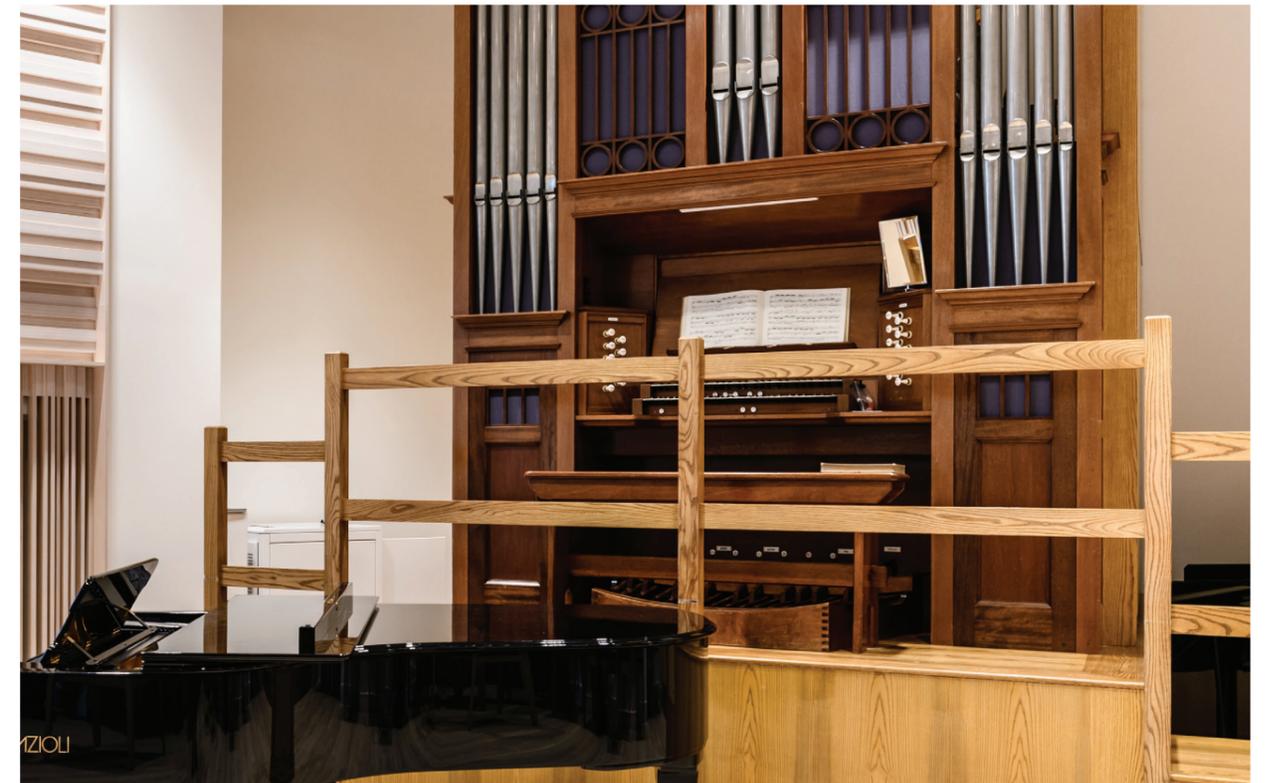
Via our Junior Fellowship scheme, talented young professional organists gain valuable experience of working at conservatoire level and receive support for competition preparation, research and performance projects. Current and recent postgraduates include musicians from cathedrals at Oxford, London (St Paul's & Westminster Abbey), Ely, Lichfield, St George's Chapel, Windsor: students from Germany, Norway, Denmark and Japan, and prize-winners in diplomas and international competitions.

Our extremely thorough and demanding course is taught by some of the world's best performers, who are equally renowned for their teaching portfolios in the UK, Europe and beyond. We are truly international in our outlook and ethos, offering the most

up-to-date approaches to music-making and scholarship. We have a broad international network of friends and colleagues, which gives us access to many of the world's finest teachers and organs.

Our students enjoy a variety of musical careers, so we equip them with many relevant skills and the opportunity to practise them in real life situations. Lessons on repertoire/technique are complemented by church music training (accompaniment and choral conducting); hands-on experiences through cathedral and church organ scholarships; improvisation lessons: training for all RCO exams; a unique performance scholarship at Town Hall/Symphony Hall; and continuo tuition, amongst many other opportunities.

Though organ performance is the focus of our work (with weekly lessons, performance classes, and generous practice opportunities), academic modules form a part of the degree course. The organ department runs a series of weekly seminars which develop students' pedagogical interests, writing and presentation expertise.



OUR FACILITIES

An exciting new phase in Royal Conservatoire's history has just begun with our move in 2017 to a brand new, uplifting, purpose-built home. In addition to a suite of practice rooms (happily opposite the early music department), we are the only conservatoire in the UK to have a concert and practice space solely for the organ. The Organ Studio will house two beautiful new instruments; the first an uncompromising Bach organ, the other built in a nineteenth-century vein. Easy access to these, along with the arrival of a major new instrument at the University of Birmingham (Garnier, 2014), will be a powerfully enabling set of resources. We also enjoy regular and continuing access to organs at St Chad's Cathedral (Walker), St Phillip's Cathedral (Nicholson), Symphony Hall (Klais), and the historic organ of Birmingham Town Hall (Hill).

The city of Birmingham boasts a vibrant cultural scene that includes the CBSO, BCMG and regular concerts by famous city organist, Thomas Trotter. With three concert hall organs on our doorstep, the libraries of the Royal College of Organists and BIOS in the city and tuition by internationally renowned musicians, Birmingham provides the ideal environment for the serious study, research and performance of organ art music.

WHY CHOOSE US?

Why have we become the destination of choice for many student organists, both undergraduates and young professionals?

What do we believe sets us apart as a UK centre of excellence for the organ?

To discover more, book a consultation lesson with Daniel Moulton, speak to our students, and follow us on Facebook (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Organ Department).

Daniel Moulton

Head of Organ Studies

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“ We receive inspiring teaching from experts at the top of their profession, both here and abroad. We are wisely guided into becoming mature musicians and performers, and learn to look at music from a variety of angles, on an extremely high level” - **Callum Alger**

OUR PARTNERS

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire 's Organ Department enjoys close links and partnerships with many institutions, including the following:

Eastman School of Music, New York

It is a privilege to have one of the world's most sought-after performers and tutors, Nathan Laube, as our esteemed International Consultant.

Hochschule für Musik und Theater “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig

We are delighted to have Professor Martin Schmeding in our team. One of the most distinguished performers and recording artists working today, he has just been named Professor of the Year by the German Federal Ministries for Education and Research.

Birmingham Cathedral (St Philip's)

“Supporting Emerging Talent” – a unique scheme launched in 2018, coordinated with David Hardie (Director of Music), where our organ students gain experience of accompanying parts of cathedral services, without the commitment of a regular organ scholarship.

Town Hall Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Organ students have held the prestigious scholarship here for some years, gaining experience in outreach work to the public and school groups, and assisting/page turning for city organ concerts with Thomas Trotter and other international players.

Jesus College, Cambridge

Launched in 2018, our organ students have the opportunity to work with Richard Pinel (Junior Fellow, RBC & Director of Music, Jesus College, Cambridge) and a quartet of singers during a day of accompaniment lessons and workshops at the College.

St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham *(organ scholarship)*

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham *(organ scholarship)*

Coventry Cathedral *(organ scholarship)*

St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick *(postgraduate organ scholarship)*

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton *(assistant organ posts and equivalents)*

Orgelpark, Amsterdam

In 2018 we worked in collaboration with composers from RBC and Den Haag on a ground-breaking project in Amsterdam's innovative and internationally acclaimed Orgelpark.

“ I very much admire the standard and scope of the work being done in the Conservatoire's Organ Department, and warmly congratulate them on their glowing international reputation.” - **Dame Gillian Weir**, who has generously funded the annual 'Dame Gillian Weir Messiaen Prize' (unique to RBC)

Our students enjoy concert opportunities across the UK and beyond. Many of these are linked to the department, although students pursue regularly their own concert engagements, with help and direct input from the staff. In 2018/19, these include:

The London Organ Day

The Midlands Organ Day

St Paul's Cathedral, London

London Handel Festival

Llandaff Cathedral

University of St Andrews

Truro Cathedral

Bristol Cathedral

St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

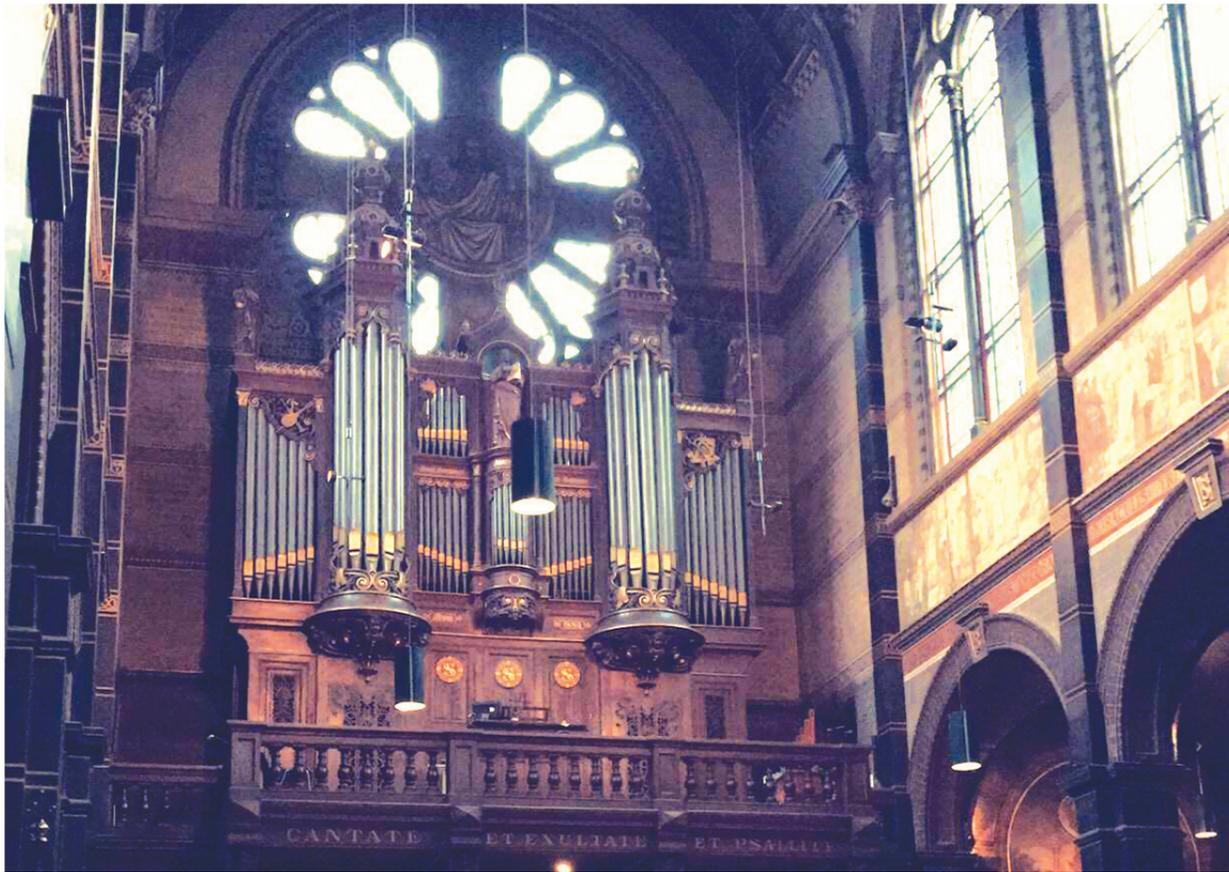
Coventry Cathedral

Fulda Cathedral, Germany

St Mary's, Warwick

Ellesmere School

Ludlow Arts Festival



RECENT STUDY TRIPS

Have included annual or biannual visits to Alkmaar, Amsterdam, Leipzig, Freiberg, Merseburg, Caen, Paris, and elsewhere – at no or minimal cost to the students.

We receive regular Erasmus students from across Europe, and several of our own students have spent a term or more (as part of their course) in Leipzig and elsewhere.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Ben Bloor, Organist, The London Oratory (Brompton)

Richard Cook, Assistant Organist, Worcester Cathedral

David Hardie, Director of Music, Birmingham Cathedral

James Luxton, Assistant Director of Music, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Rachel Mahon, Assistant Organist, Chester Cathedral

Anne Michael, Director of Music, Meldorf Cathedral, Germany

Stephen Moore, Director of Music, Llandaff Cathedral

Nicholas Morris, Assistant Organist, Clare College, Cambridge & Organist, St George's, Hanover Sq, London

Andrew Wyatt, Assistant Director of Music, Chester Cathedral

Florian Zschucke, Assistant Organist, Hildebrandt Organ, Sankt Wenzel, Naumburg, Germany



RECENT COMPETITION SUCCESSES

Ben Bloor First Prize, Northern Ireland Organ Competition

Steven Grahl Finalist, St Albans International Organ Competition

Jed Hughes Joint First prize, Wadden Sea Junior Competition, Denmark & Winner, Junior Section Northern Ireland Organ Competition

Richard Pinel First Prize, Breda International Organ Competition, The Netherlands: Semifinalist, Canadian International Organ Competition

Nicholas Wearne Paul Ruders Prize, Odense International Organ Competition, Denmark (subsequent recording included on Ruders disc: awarded 'Gramophone' editors' choice).

RECENT MASTERCLASSES

Martin Schmeding, Nathan Laube, Ben van Oosten, Gillian Weir, Thomas Trotter, David Franke, Thomas Monnet, Paul Jacobs, Ulrich Walther, Jörg Halubek, Pieter van Dijk



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OUR TUTORS

Find out more about our internationally celebrated tutors:

danielmoult.com

henryfairs.com

nicholaswearne.com

nathanlaube.com

schmeding-organist.de

INTERESTED IN JOINING US, OR LEARNING MORE?



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