

Chamber Music Handbook 2023-24

Chamber Music is a vital part of your music education at the RNCM and within this handbook we have provided an overview of all chamber music activity for this Academic Year. You will also find information regarding Chamber Music Assessments (Module students only). Please keep a copy of this handbook to refer to throughout the year. All the information in this handbook will also be available on the chamber music Moodle page. - <https://moodle.rncm.ac.uk/moodle/course/view.php?id=431>

If you are unsure about any of the following, please get in touch with Jack Grime (Chamber Music Administrator) by email on jack.grime@rncm.ac.uk or phone 0161 9075 463.

Contents

Page 2.....	Useful Contacts & Links
Page 2.....	Chamber Music Coaching
Page 3.....	Chamber Music Prizes
Page 4.....	Chamber Music Tuesdays
Page 5.....	Chamber Music Assessments
Page 6.....	Historical Performance
Page 7.....	Jazz Chamber Music
Page 8.....	Chamber Music Performance Opportunities
Page 9.....	How to Sign up for Chamber Music Coaching

1. Useful Contacts & Links

Jack Grime – Chamber Music Administrator – jack.grime@rncm.ac.uk

Jeremy Young – Head of Chamber Music - jeremy.young@rncm.ac.uk

Donald Grant – Deputy Head of Chamber Music (Strings) – donald.grant@rncm.ac.uk

Kevin Gowland – Coordinator of Wind Chamber Music – kevin.gowland@rncm.ac.uk

Murray Greig – Coordinator of Brass Chamber Music – murray.greig@rncm.ac.uk

Simone Rebello – Coordinator of Percussion Chamber Music – simone.rebello@rncm.ac.uk

Nico de Villiers – Deputy Head of SVSO, (Chamber Music) – nico.devilliers@rncm.ac.uk

Rory Russell – Coordinator of Guitar Chamber Music – rory.russell@rncm.ac.uk

Geth Griffiths – Coordinator of Jazz Chamber Music – geth.griffiths@rncm.ac.uk

Roger Hamilton – Coordinator of Historical Performance Chamber Music –

roger.hamilton@rncm.ac.uk

Simon Parkin – Deputy Head of UG Programmes (Please contact Simon for help with your online portfolio) – simon.parkin@rncm.ac.uk

Chamber Music Moodle page – <https://moodle.rncm.ac.uk/moodle/course/view.php?id=431>

2. Chamber Music Coaching

For students enrolled on a Chamber Music Course / Elective, each year group is entitled to a differing number of coaching hours throughout the year. See the overview below:

- Undergraduate: 10 hours of chamber coaching per year
- Postgraduate: 15 hours of chamber coaching per year

1st and 2nd year undergraduate students will have chamber coaching timetabled. These will appear on your ASIMUT schedules. These sessions are compulsory and can only be re-arranged if a valid College absence request has been submitted and approved.

3rd and 4th year Undergraduate, and Postgraduate students will be responsible for signing up to their own chamber coaching sessions through ASIMUT. Instructions on how to sign up to chamber coaching sessions can be found in this handbook. You will be asked to demonstrate that you have attended the required number of coaching sessions in the Viva Voce element of your Chamber Music Assessment.

UG 1 & UG 2 Scheduled Chamber Coaching Weeks 2023/24:

Undergraduate 1st and 2nd years chamber coaching sessions will be scheduled into the below weeks. (Please make a note of these in your diary as you will be expected to attend 1 coaching within each of the following weeks)

- Week 6 (W/C 30 October)
- Week 9 (W/C 20 November)
- Week 10 (W/C 27 November)
- Week 12 (W/C 11 December)
- Week 13 (W/C 8 January)
- Week 14 (W/C 15 January)
- Week 18 (W/C 19 February)
- Week 19 (W/C 26 February)
- Week 22 (W/C 18 March)
- Week 23 (W/C 15 April)
- Week 25 (W/C 29 April)

3. Chamber Music Prizes

Each year the Chamber Music department hosts a variety of prizes. The winner of each prize (apart from the Elias Prize) goes through to compete in the Chris Rowland Chamber Music Prize of the Year Award (Monday 24 June 2024). Information on how to enter each prize can be found on the Chamber Music page of Moodle. Below is a list of dates for each prize:

- **Hirsch Prize (Strings and Piano only)**
Preliminary Round: Friday 24 November 2023, 6pm – 9pm
Final Round: Tuesday 28 November 2023, 10am – 1pm
- **Nossek Prize (Strings and Piano only)**
Preliminary Round: Thursday 1 February 2024, 6pm – 9pm
Final Round: Tuesday 6 February 2024, 10am – 1pm
- **Fewkes Prize (Winds Only)**
Preliminary Round: Monday 11 March 2024, 6pm – 9pm
Final Round: Tuesday 12 March 2024, 10am – 1pm
- **Weil Prize (Strings and Piano only)**
Preliminary Round: Monday 11 March 2024, 6pm – 9pm
Final Round: Tuesday 12 March 2024, 10am – 1pm
- **Brodsky Prize (Cross School)**
Preliminary Round: Monday 22 April 2024, 6pm – 9pm
Final Round: Tuesday 23 April 2024, 10am – 1pm
- **Philip Jones Prize (Brass Only)**
Preliminary Round: Thursday 2 May 2024, 2:30pm – 5:30pm
Final Round: Thursday 2 May 2024, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

- **Chris Rowland Prize**
Monday 24 June 2024, 7:30pm
 - **Elias Prize (Strings, Piano and Vocal only)**
Tuesday 25 June 2024, 6pm – 9pm
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4. Chamber Music Tuesdays

The Chamber Music department will be running a series of lectures and masterclasses on selected Tuesdays (during Autumn and Spring Terms). You will be tagged to the relevant classes on ASIMUT and will be expected to attend. Your attendance to these classes will be monitored and you will be asked about these classes in the viva voce component of your Chamber Music Assessment. You are also free to attend any classes you are not tagged in – the classes operate under an open-door policy.

Tuesday 10 October 2023 (10am – 12pm)

- *Introductory session to Historical performance for woodwind players* – Roger Hamilton

Tuesday 17 October 2023 (10am – 12pm):

- *Introduction to Chamber Music* – Simone Rebello
 - *Souvenir de Florence project* – Chris Hoyle
 - *So your chamber group is doing well, what next?* – Simone Rebello

Tuesday 24 October 2023 (6pm – 8pm):

- *Beethoven Sonatas for cello and piano* – Petr Prause & Jeremy Young
 - *Jazz improvisation for all* – Steve Berry
 - *Voice and Brass Class* – Lynne Dawson & Murray Greig

Tuesday 14 November 2023 (6pm – 8pm):

- *Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano Continued (Performance)* – Petr Prause & Jeremy Young
 - *Play to the School Concert (SWBP)* – Simone Rebello, Murray Greig, Kevin Gowland
 - *Brass Band Chamber Music Class* – David Thornton
 - *Voice and Saxophone Class* – Lynne Dawson & Rob Buckland

Tuesday 21st November 2023 (10am – 12pm)

- *Practical session on Historical performance for woodwind players* – Roger Hamilton

Tuesday 28 November 2023 (10am – 12pm):

- *So you've been asked to give an education concert...* – Simone Rebello
 - *Piano duo performance class* – Jeremy Young
 - *Ligeti Horn Trio Class* – Callum Smart

Tuesday 12 December 2023 (10am - 12pm):

- *Chamber music repertoire session, An exploration of cornerstones of chamber music repertoire* – Kevin Gowland
- *Brass chamber music class* – Murray Greig
- *Percussion chamber music class* – Simone Rebello
- *Piano duo chamber music class* – Kathryn Stott
- *Historical Performance Chamber Music Class* – Roger Hamilton

Tuesday 9 January 2024 (10am – 12pm):

- *New brass ensembles performance opportunity* – Murray Greig
- *New wind ensembles performance opportunity* – Kevin Gowland
- *New piano duos performance opportunity* – Jeremy Young

Tuesday 23 January 2024 (10am – 12pm):

- *Arrange it yourself, an opportunity to perform a work you have arranged yourself* – Murray Greig & Rob Buckland
- *Arrange it yourself Percussion Class* – Andrea Vogler
- *Junior Fellow Performance Class* – RNCM Junior Fellows in Chamber Music

Tuesday 6 February 2024 (10am – 12pm):

- *Historical Instruments, chamber music for brass* – Murray Greig & Sue Addison
- *Harmoniemusik* – Roger Hamilton
- *Piano Duo class* – Kathryn Stott

Tuesday 27 February 2024 (6pm – 8pm):

- *Play to the school concert (SWBP)* – Simone Rebello, Murray Greig, Kevin Gowland
- *Piano Trio Class* – Jeremy Young

Tuesday 5 March 2024 (10am – 12pm):

- *Johannes Meissl String Chamber Music Masterclass*
- *Introduction to Improvisation for all* – Steve Berry

Tuesday 12 March 2024 (10am – 12pm):

- *Historical Performance Class* – Roger Hamilton
- *Brass Band Chamber Music Class* – Dave Thornton

5. Chamber Music Assessments

Chamber music assessments will take place in the following weeks. Please make a note of:

- UG3, 4 & PG – Week 26 (W/C Monday 6th May)
- UG 1, 2 – Week 29 (W/C Monday 27th May)
- Deferred Assessment Week – Week 34 (W/C Monday 1st July)

Below is the outline of what your Chamber Music assessment will involve.

Undergraduate 1st & 2nd Years: (Ensembles 1 & 2)

- A 10-minute live performance in Semester 2 (80%).
- A 5-minute verbal Viva Voce where you will be asked to reflect on aspects of rehearsals, coaching, masterclasses, concert, competition, and lecture attendance. This will immediately

follow your 10-minute live performance. (20%).

- Online portfolio evidencing reflections on student-led or staff-directed ensemble activity including rehearsals, workshops, concerts and masterclasses, and research. (Pass/fail, must be passed to complete the module and gain credits)

Undergraduate 3rd Year: (Chamber Music 1)

- 20-minute live ensemble performance in Semester 2 (80%)

- 5-minute verbal Viva Voce where you will be asked to reflect on aspects of rehearsals, coaching, masterclasses, concert, competition, and lecture attendance (20%)

Undergraduate 4th Year: (Chamber Music 2)

- 25-minute live ensemble performance in Semester 2 (80%)

- 5-minute verbal Viva Voce where you will be asked to reflect on aspects of rehearsals, coaching, masterclasses, concert, competition, and lecture attendance (20%)

Postgraduate Year: (Small Ensemble Performance)

- 30-minute live ensemble performance in Semester 2 (75%)

- 10-minute verbal Viva Voce where you will be asked to reflect on aspects of rehearsals, coaching, masterclasses, concert, competition, and lecture attendance (25%)

Further Information on your Online Portfolio (UG1 & 2 Only)

You will post this on the Ensembles 1 or 2 Moodle page, and it will consist of a minimum of 10 posts. Full instructions on what to post and how to post it are on the Moodle page, but, in summary, it should represent evidence of your engagement with the musical life of the College and beyond. It might be photographs of concerts (or tickets for concerts) you have attended within or outside RNCM, either as audience or performer, masterclasses, rehearsals, or coaching sessions. At least 4 of these posts should be accompanied by a reflective comment of between 100 and 200 words. It is strongly encouraged that one of these reflections should be about your participation in an RNCM ensemble, and another about any ensemble activity in which you take part, but you have complete freedom of choice! The portfolio is checked for completeness, and marked as either pass or fail, without further feedback. It is much better to add posts gradually through the year rather than rush everything right at the end.

The deadline for the submission of your online portfolio is Tuesday 6th June 2023. Please contact Simon Parkin at Simon.Parkin@rncm.ac.uk if you have any questions about the portfolio part of your Ensembles assessment.

6. Historical Performance

As a student on the chamber music module, you will be given the opportunity to develop skills on historical instruments, benefitting from the expertise of our specialist tutors. You will be exposed to a wide variety of music, from Baroque cantatas and trio sonatas through to chamber music of the 18th and 19th centuries. Cross-school groups are encouraged to increase your experience of working with all instrumental and vocal disciplines. Repertoire is carefully chosen to match your specific interests and level of experience. If you are interested to know about this further, please contact:

- Roger Hamilton, Teaching Fellow in Historical Performance:
roger.hamilton@rncm.ac.uk
- Harvey Davies, Teaching Fellow in Historical Performance:
harvey.davies@rncm.ac.uk

7. Jazz Chamber Music

Jazz Chamber Music gives participants the opportunity to be coached and assessed as part of a small group. This is an ideal opportunity for those who would like to develop their listening and responding skills alongside their improvisation and comping. A variety of styles and repertoire will be covered, guided by the experience and tastes of the group members.

Students can apply as a pre-formed ensemble or individually, in which case they will be placed into a group (depending on availability). Both undergraduates and postgraduates are welcome to apply and mixed ensembles are possible. If you are interested please contact:

- Geth Griffith, Coordinator of Jazz Chamber Music Geth.Griffith@rncm.ac.uk
 - Steve Berry, Head of Jazz and Improvisation: Steve.Berry@rncm.ac.uk
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8. Chamber Music Performance Opportunities

Within the Chamber Music module, we run a number of other performance opportunities alongside the masterclasses, prizes and Open Chamber Music classes already mentioned in this document. They include the following:

Spotlight Concerts

This series takes place in the Carole Nash Recital Room or the RNCM Bar and can be anything from a classical concert to a post-concert pop gig. Spotlight concerts are usually programmed on days that there are evening concerts. Pre-concert Spotlights usually start at 6.30pm (and last 30 minutes), and post-concert Spotlights start around 9.45pm (and potentially last up to 45 minutes).

We aim to select Spotlights that we think would attract a similar audience to that of the main concert, encouraging them to attend both. We also programme a stand-alone Triple-Bill evening of Spotlights.

It is your responsibility to organise everything from music hire to rehearsals, and you will need to submit a fully developed idea with the personnel already agreed.

For more information on the Monday Recital Series and Spotlight Series contact Paul Massey, paul.massey@rncm.ac.uk

Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

The Thursday Lunchtime chamber concert series runs as the name suggests on a Thursday Lunchtime starting at 1:15pm. These concerts take place in the RNCM Concert Hall and are open to the general-public. Students for these concerts are chosen in collaboration between the Programming Team and the Heads of the Chamber Music department. If you have any questions regarding the Thursday Lunchtime concerts please contact the Programming Manager, Matt Whitham - Matt.Whitham@rncm.ac.uk
Below is a list of this year's concerts.

Thu 05 Oct 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Piano Ensemble with Dawn Hardwick (piano)
Thu 19 Oct 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: Cassandra Miller In Focus
Thu 26 Oct 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: Brahms Trio for Violin, Horn and Piano

Thu 26 Oct 2023	7.30pm	Villiers Quartet Performance
Thu 02 Nov 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM String Quartet Studio and Friends
Thu 14 Nov 2023	6.30pm	Beethoven Five Sonatas: Petr Prause (cello) and Jeremy Young (piano)
Thu 16 Nov 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Junior Fellows in Chamber Music
Thu 21 Nov 2023	7.30pm	Elias String Quartet: Mendelssohn Cycle #1
Thu 07 Dec 2023	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: Mendelssohn and Montgomery
Thu 11 Jan 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Wind, Brass and Percussion Ensembles
Thu 18 Jan 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: Composer Focus
Thu 8 Feb 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Baroque Soloists
Thu 22 Feb 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Guitars
Thu 29 Feb 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: Percussion Ensembles
Fri 1 March 2024	6.30pm	Composer Focus: Julia Perry
Wed 6 March 2024	7.30pm	Ensembles from the European Chamber Music Academy
Thu 14 – Fri 15 Mar 2024	various	RNCM Original Voices Festival – to include student-led chamber concerts
Thu 21 Mar 2024	1.15pm	Thursday Lunchtimes: RNCM Harps
Tue 16 April 2024	7.30pm	Ning Feng (violin) and Nelson Goerner (piano)
Tue 18 April 2024	TBC	RNCM Spotlight Double Bill: Mendelssohn Quartets
Thu 19 April 2024	7.30pm	Elias String Quartet Mendelssohn Cycle #2
Thu 2 May 2024	1.15pm	Composer Focus: Composer TBC
Sat 5 May 2024	TBC	Wigmore Hall: Composer Focus
Sat 22 June 2024	7.30pm	Gold Medal Competition
Mon 24 June 2024	7.30pm	RNCM Christopher Rowland Chamber Ensemble Of The Year


RNCM External List

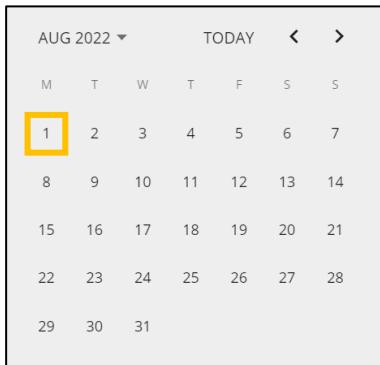
Public performances are a key part of a musician's development. The RNCM co-ordinates many Professional Engagements each year, largely for soloists and ensembles/bands. Professional Engagements acts as an agency, liaising with senior academic staff in order to match the most suitable performers to a wide range of external professional engagements. The RNCM has long-standing links with numerous music clubs, choral societies, orchestras and event organisers both in the North West and further afield, and co-ordinates regular recitals in Manchester's St Ann's and Emmanuel Churches and the Whitworth Art Gallery. Senior members of staff nominate musicians and small ensembles to be added to the external list. These are often the winners of the internal prizes and /or groups with good internal performance experience and adequate repertoire.


If you have any questions regarding the external list please contact the Professional Engagement Manager, Amy Whitehead - Amy.Whitehead@ncm.ac.uk

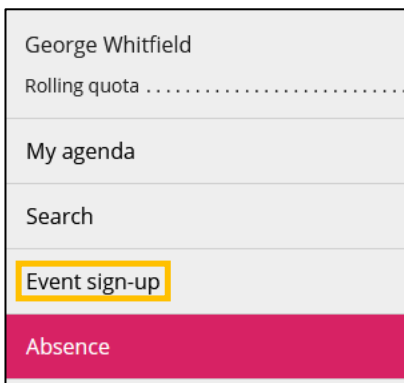
How to Sign-up for Chamber Music Coaching

The guide below explains how to sign-up to any Chamber Music tutor within your selected discipline. In order to view a filtered list of opportunities by tutor (e.g., slots offered by Donald Grant only) please visit the Chamber Music Moodle page.

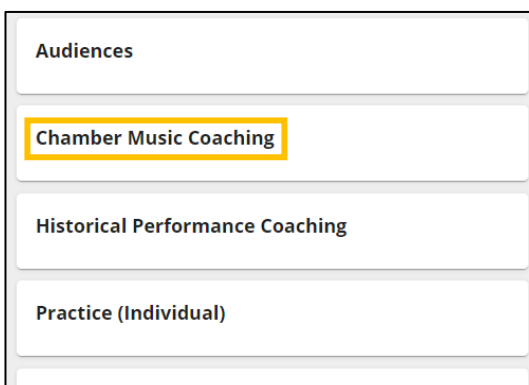
1. Log-in to ASIMUT using your regular RNCM credentials via rncm.asimut.net
2. If using a tablet/mobile phone click tap the top-right menu icon ().
3. Find and select the relevant coaching session date from the date-picker on the left-hand-side.



4. If using a tablet/mobile phone tap on the top-left menu icon ().
5. Select **Event sign-up** from the left-hand-side menu.



6. Select **Chamber Music Coaching** from the sign-up category list.



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7. A list of Chamber Music Coaching slots will then appear. Find the relevant slot you wish to sign up for and click on the **Sign up as Student** button.

Monday 26 September 2022

09:00 - 10:00

Donald Grant Chamber Music Coaching

in 365

Tutor: Donald Grant (GRACHAMB)

Sign up as Student 1 12d

8. A pop-up window will then appear. Click on the **Sign up** button to confirm your place at the event.

Sign up as Student:

Donald Grant Chamber Music Coaching

Monday 26 September 2022 09:00 - 10:00

Location: 365

Places available: 1 of 1

Deadline: Monday 26 September 2022 09:00

i Please indicate your group name in the Event Description box once you have signed up to a slot. Failure to do so will result in your removal from the slot.

Sign up

Cancel

9. Click on the 3-dot icon next to the relevant Event Title in order to add your ensemble name.

Monday 26 September 2022

09:00 - 10:00

Donald Grant Chamber Music Coaching

in 365

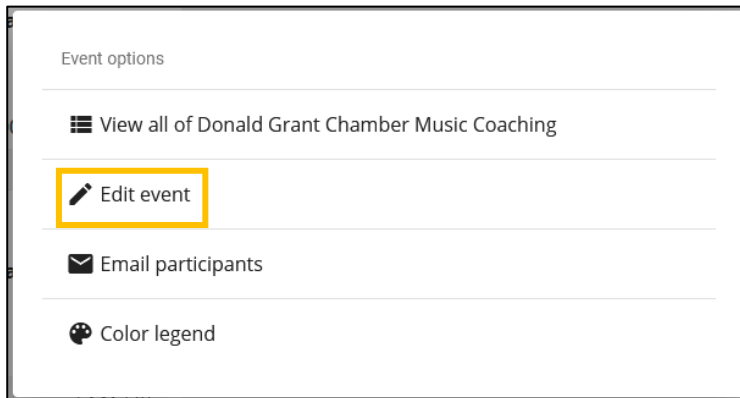
Tutor: Donald Grant (GRACHAMB)

Student: George Whitfield (GEE08002690)

Remove me as Student 12d

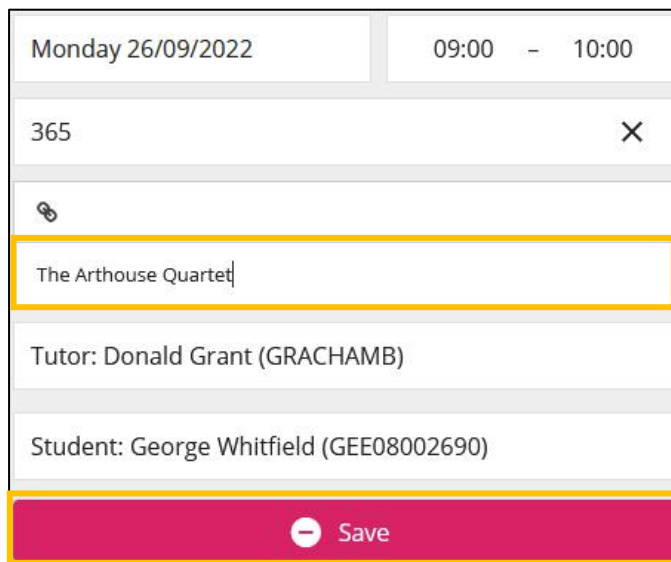
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10. Select **Edit Event**.



The screenshot shows a menu titled "Event options" with several items: "View all of Donald Grant Chamber Music Coaching", "Edit event" (highlighted with a yellow box), "Email participants", and "Color legend".

11. Add the name of your group in the Event Description box then click **Save**. Failure to indicate your group name in the Description box once you have signed up to a slot might result in your **removal** from the slot. **Do not** edit the Student box.



The screenshot shows an event slot form for Monday 26/09/2022 from 09:00 to 10:00. The slot number is 365. The description box contains "The Arthouse Quartet" and is highlighted with a yellow box. Below the description box, the tutor is listed as "Donald Grant (GRACHAMB)" and the student as "George Whitfield (GEE08002690)". At the bottom, a pink "Save" button is highlighted with a yellow box.