

HISTORICAL LUTE PROFESSOR

Historical Performance Faculty

Grade 8, Part time, Permanent contract

Job reference number: 303-26

Applicant Information Pack

Closing date

9am Monday 1 June 2026

Interview date

Thursday 25 June 2026

Late or incomplete applications will not
be submitted to the Shortlisting Panel

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Job Description

Job title	Historical lute professor (to include archlute, theorbo and baroque guitar)
Department	Historical Performance
Grade	8
Hours of work	Part Time
Contract type	Permanent
Responsible to	Chair and Head of Historical Performance
Responsible for	n/a
Liaises with	Internal Head of Faculty, teaching professors and students External n/a
Job overview	<p>The role of this historical lute professor is to enable RCM lutenists to reach their full potential, helping them to expand both their technical and artistic possibilities during the course of their studies.</p> <p>The professor is responsible for laying the foundations of a secure and flexible technique appropriate to the demands of pursuing a career as a professional lute player on all related instruments, to include archlute, theorbo, lute and baroque guitar.</p> <p>The professor acts as both a facilitator and mentor, teaching lute studies as an integral part of the BMus, and MPerf/MMus/Art Dip degrees at the Royal College of Music.</p>

Key Responsibilities

These include:

1. Teaching principal study, second study and related study historical lute at undergraduate and postgraduate level
2. Sitting on examination and entrance audition panels as required
3. Chamber music coaching
4. Taking an active advisory role in keeping the historical lute syllabus relevant to current trends in the music profession
5. Taking continuo classes as required
6. To be aware of current pedagogical developments.
7. To comply with the RCM's Code of Teaching Practice and to contribute positively to the development and reputation of the RCM as a world- renowned centre of musical excellence

Nature & Scope of Role

The historical lute is taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at principal, second and related study.

Students may also choose to have chamber music coaching from any RCM professor.

It is recognised that many teachers will have busy professional careers. There is no guarantee of hours, nor is there a minimum expectation. The maximum number of hours of teaching available with this post can be negotiated to fit in with other commitments, although there is a requirement to teach at the Royal College of Music in Prince Consort Road and an

expectation that any professor appointed would wish to build their class here. There is no set minimum number of hours and initially professors may have only a few students. Professors are expected to manage their class size so as to be able to prioritise their students and their development.

All professors are regarded as partners, and a willingness to engage with colleagues within the College is strongly desirable. There are numerous other opportunities for professors to engage in chamber music coaching, performance activity or research.

Person Specification

Applicants should demonstrate in their supporting statement how their qualifications, experience, skills and training fit each of the criteria below.

Criteria	Description	Essential / Desirable	How Criteria Are Tested
Qualifications	A relevant Higher Education qualification in music performance or equivalent	Desirable	AF
Experience, Skills & Knowledge	Experience of teaching gifted and talented students at undergraduate, postgraduate and sometimes doctoral level, preferably gained within a Conservatoire environment	Essential	AF, INT
	An outstanding performing career	Essential	AF, INT
	An established performer or artist with a substantial or developing track record, internationally recognised as a world-leading or potentially work-leading talent *	Essential	AF
	Experience participating in professional artistic programs of work internationally *	Desirable	AF
	Experience of/or an interest in dealing with performance anxiety	Desirable	AF, INT
	Experience of conducting research and publishing findings in professional journals, books and electronic media	Desirable	AF, INT
	The ability to teach, coach, mentor and improve skills in the context of individual and where requested, group lessons	Essential	AF, INT
	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	Essential	AF, INT
	The ability to carry out and mark assessments at all levels	Desirable	AF, INT
	Global perspective and good international contacts	Essential	AF, INT
	An understanding of the demands of the music profession	Essential	AF, INT
	An understanding of or interest in student wellbeing and learning support needs in a performing arts environment	Desirable	AF, INT
Personal Attributes	Widely regarded and highly respected practitioner and/or teacher	Essential	AF, INT
	Flexible, empathetic and enthusiastic in dealings with students and colleagues	Essential	AF, INT

Committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Essential	AF, INT
Ability to evidence professional reputation through recent media recognition such as detailed independent critiques, reviews or critical evaluations or profiles of your individual work *	Desirable	AF
Able to provide evidence of winning a recognised arts and culture award of excellence in any country *	Desirable	AF

AF = Application Form INT = Interview

**International applicants are advised that these criteria are considered essential attributes when applying for the Global Talent Visa.*

The duties and responsibilities assigned to the post may be amended by the Head of Strings within the scope and level of the post.

Terms & Conditions

Availability	The post is available from September 2026
Contract type	Permanent
Hours of work	This role is offered on a part time, hourly-paid basis.
Hourly rate	RCM Pay Scale Grade 8, hourly rate £59.84 Payday is the 15 th of each month or the last working day before this should the 15 th fall on a weekend or bank holiday.
Visas/ Right to Work in the UK	<p>If you have time limited permission to work in the UK you must provide full details on your Application for Employment form.</p> <p>If you do not have permission to work in the UK but would be eligible to apply for a Visa you must state the applicable route on your Application for Employment form. We suggest you use the online tool provided by the government to explore your eligibility and options relating to Visas. Visa Checking Tool</p> <p>Some applicants including prospective professors, may wish to explore the Global Talent Visa route. Further information about endorsement for this visa can be found on the Arts Council website.</p> <p>This is not a role for which the RCM will act as a sponsor for the Skilled Worker route.</p>
Immigration Advisors	The HR department cannot act as immigration advisors however if you are an international student studying in the UK you can seek guidance from the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) . Alternatively the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) which regulates immigration advisers maintains a list of approved Immigration Advisors .
DBS check	Not applicable for this post.

Probation	The post has a twelve month probationary period.
Notice period	The appointment will be subject to termination by not less than one clear term's notice. Notice during probation will be one month's notice by either party.
Pension	The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is available for all academic staff. Under the rules of the TPS, professorial employment is automatically pensionable unless a professor elects to opt out of the scheme. Full details of the scheme are available from the Teachers' Pensions website: www.teacherspensions.co.uk . Arrangements exist for members to make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

How to Apply

Closing date	9am Monday 1 June 2026 Applications received after the stated closing date will not be considered.
Interview date	Thursday 25 June 2026 Shortlisted candidates will be notified in due course. We communicate interview dates in advance to ensure candidates have adequate notice to make arrangements. Regrettably we are unlikely to be able to accommodate alternative interview dates.
To apply	To apply, please submit the following documents available on the RCM jobs page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Form • Equal Opportunities Form <p>The above documents should be sent to recruitment@rcm.ac.uk by the stated closing date.</p> <p>We encourage applications by email however if you wish to post your application you must ensure this reaches us by the closing date.</p> <p>Late Application Forms, incomplete Application Forms, Application Forms submitted in a format other than Word or PDF and CVs without an Application Form will not be accepted.</p>
Alternative formats	If you need to receive our recruitment documentation in a different format, such as large print or are not able to submit an application electronically, then please contact us to discuss your requirements.
Interview process	Interviews will take the form of a panel interview, normally comprised of three staff members however more senior positions may have larger panels. Details of the interview panel will ordinarily be included in the interview invitation. We will be happy to make any reasonable accommodations as part of this process. As part of the interview format you may be invited to take a brief tour of our facilities, details will be included in your interview invitation and we will be happy to accommodate accessibility requirements. A test or presentation may form part of the interview process and details will be provided in the interview invitation. We will be happy to make any reasonable accommodations as part of this process.

Staff Benefits

Travel	<p>Interest free season ticket loans are available to cover the cost of a 12 month season ticket between a member of staff's residence and the RCM. The loan will be repayable by deduction from salary over a period of 12 months or on leaving the employment of the RCM, if earlier.</p> <p>We offer a Cycle to Work Scheme via CycleScheme.</p>
Events	<p>There is a range of concerts taking place at the RCM throughout the weeks, staff are entitled to one free ticket per charged concert (excluding Opera and non-RCM promotions), and unlimited tickets for non-charged concerts.</p>
Eye tests & hearing tests	<p>The RCM will cover the cost of an annual standard eyesight test (normally up to £25) and contribute £50 towards the cost of glasses, provided that they are for use with VDUs. We will also cover the cost of hearing tests.</p>
Employee Assistance Programme	<p>All RCM staff can get free and confidential advice from Confidential Care (CiC). The service is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, by telephone or via the web.</p>
Professional Development	<p>The RCM is committed to the support of training and professional development for all members of staff and a range of opportunities are available.</p>

About Us

The College	<p>Opened in 1883 by the then Prince of Wales, the Royal College of Music (RCM) is a world-leading music conservatoire with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. The RCM is a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians, with over 900 students from more than 60 countries studying at undergraduate, masters or doctoral level in the Senior College throughout the week and 300 students on a Saturday in the Junior Department. Former students of the RCM hold key roles in music and the arts in all parts of the world - as performers, teachers, composers, conductors and animateurs. The RCM was ranked as the No. 1 institution in the UK and Europe, and second globally, for both Music and Performing Arts in the 2026 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The College has held global first and second positions in Performing Arts for five successive years, while Music is a new subject introduced to the rankings in 2024.</p>
Staff	<p>The RCM has over 250 members of professorial (teaching) staff and over 100 teachers in the Junior Department - the majority of whom are busy professionals with worldwide reputations, who include teaching among the various musical activities that they regularly undertake. Their work, and the work of the College as a whole, is supported by a team of over one hundred administrative staff.</p>
Location	<p>The RCM benefits from its particular location in South Kensington - one of the most attractive and interesting parts of central London. The area is well-served by public transport: South Kensington tube station is within ten minutes' walk; several bus routes pass the Royal Albert Hall. Kensington Gardens and the renowned museums of Exhibition Road, the Natural History Museum, the Victoria</p>

& Albert Museum and the Science Museum, are only a short walk away; Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine is next door; the Royal College of Art and the Royal Albert Hall are just across the road. The area, known originally as Albertopolis, emerged as a location for national institutions in the arts and sciences after the Great Exhibition of 1851 largely because of the enthusiasm of Prince Albert. Relationships with neighbouring institutions are friendly and supportive.

The Royal College of Music is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Professor Ashley Solomon
Chair and Head of Historical Performance
May 2026

