



# YOUR MUSIC CAREER STARTS IN DUBLIN

Royal Irish Academy of Music  
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**RIAM**  
 Royal Irish  
 Academy of Music

# Welcome to the Royal Irish Academy of Music

**We offer gifted artists a nurturing musical education in one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious conservatoires. RIAM is an associate college of Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Our students enjoy an intimate conservatoire experience with major university perks.**

The RIAM provides string players individually tailored and industry-focussed music education in Ireland's newest campus in the heart of Dublin.

Students enjoy unparalleled performance opportunities and the most one-to-one tutor hours of any music conservatory in Europe.





*I chose RIAM because of the incredible Faculty who always want the very best for each and every student. Due to RIAM's smaller class sizes you get more one-to-one time with your teacher, and more performance opportunities, which is invaluable.*

**Tara McNeill, Celtic Woman Violinist**



# WELCOME

Welcome to the String faculty performance programmes here at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where we combine traditional values of musical artistic excellence with a creative and holistic approach to learning. Our vision is to help you grow into a confident, innovative, communicative and expressive musician. Our dynamic undergraduate and postgraduate performance degrees have been specifically designed to set you on the path to a successful performance career in the 21st century.

Principal Study is the core area for your technical, musical and professional development with a generous 2 hours of individual tuition each week to support and nurture you to reach your full potential. Feedback at weekly performance classes, repertoire sessions, audition training and screened auditions will prepare you with the skills you need to successfully thrive in the profession. Our outstanding teaching faculty are drawn from members of the National Symphony of Ireland, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra and Crash Ensemble. In addition to this, you will also have access to multiple chamber music coaches, performance class tutors, leading visiting artists in masterclasses and workshops, accompanists, and sectional tutors. The relatively small department size means that students receive more time working with visiting artists, more orchestral performance opportunities and a closer working relationship with our teaching faculty.

Collaborative playing is at the heart of music making and our string players participate in a wide range of chamber music, orchestral and collaborative projects. RIAM's high-profile chamber music festival, ChamberFest Dublin is an important focus of the year, offering students experience performing in a professionally produced festival. In addition to intensive RIAM Podium projects led by international conductors, the RIAM offers side-by-side scheme opportunities with RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra as well as internal and external competitions, all of which make the RIAM the ideal place to study.

Our RIAM Strings Alumni currently hold prestigious positions in ensembles and artistic organisations all around the world.

As Head of Strings, I am here to answer any queries you may have. I look forward to hearing from you at [dianedaly@riam.ie](mailto:dianedaly@riam.ie)

**Professor Diane Daly, Head of Strings**



**Professor Diane Daly** PHD, MA, BMus, PGDip

**Head of Strings** [www.dianedaly.com](http://www.dianedaly.com)

Diane is a violinist, educator and innovator. She made her debut as a soloist with the RTÉ Symphony Orchestra at the age of 13, and has toured internationally as a soloist and chamber musician with ensembles including The Academy of St Martin in the Fields. She has been a member of the Irish Chamber Orchestra since 1997 and is in demand as a chamber musician, director and improviser at prestigious festivals at home and abroad. She enjoys devising her own work, and has been invited to direct world premieres of works by many leading Irish composers including Sam Perkins, Linda Buckley and Deirdre Gribbin. In other genres she has performed and recorded alongside many of the biggest names in rock and leads her own gypsy jazz trio. She is a qualified Dalcroze Eurhythmics teacher and in recent years became Europe's first accredited string playing Body-Mapper. Her IRC scholarship funded doctoral research was awarded the inaugural Aloys Fleischmann prize for outstanding practice based research in developing the concepts of embodiment, presence, creativity and connection in string playing.



# Programmes



## Undergraduate

### Access Course

A 1-year programme for gifted singers & instrumentalists to take a gap year between secondary school (high school) and your bachelor's degree.

You will receive tuition on instrument/voice and study history of music, composition and aural training to become a fully rounded performing musician who can confidently progress onto further study.

### Bachelor in Music

Our 4-year BMus programme is a flexible degree designed for modern performers and composers.

BMus blends two hours of principal instrumental or vocal study each week with performance opportunities, masterclasses, academic studies and career skills to equip you with all the necessary experience to reach your full potential as a professional musician and/or composer.

### Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance

Train full-time over 1-year or part-time over 2-years to a high level in performance and pedagogy, allowing you to teach your instrument/voice while gaining a wide musical knowledge in performance and musicianship.

This diploma can act as a direct pathway to year 2 BMus study or as a qualification for postgraduate students who didn't specialise in music performance to join the Master in Music Performance programme.

## Postgraduate

### Master in Music Performance

A 2-year programme for students with a Bachelor's degree who wish to pursue their studies in instrumental or vocal performance.

The MMusPerf Programme attracts instrumentalists and vocalists who have achieved a high level of technical and musical skills in their undergraduate studies. This dynamic course has been specifically designed to set you on the path to a successful performance career in the 21st century.

### Doctor in Music Performance

The 4-year Doctor in Music Performance degree, for students with a Master's degree, provides a qualification of prestige and excellence in musical performance and research.

The key distinguishing feature of the DMusPerf is that it is intended to enable candidates to make a contribution to the advancement of knowledge of professional practice in their own field of music.

### Recital Artist Diploma

Running from one to three years, the RIAM Recital Artist Diploma allows postgraduate students to immerse themselves in a performance-based programme without academic classes. This gives you the flexibility to decide how long you wish to undertake the course for, depending on your musical goals.

Develop advanced technique to perform demanding musical repertoire to a professional standard with confidence and sense of individual artistry.

# Study in Dublin

Dublin is the capital of Ireland and, post-Brexit, is the only English-speaking country in the Eurozone. 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. The city is home to tons of wonderful museums and galleries – many of which are free to visit.

If you decide to study in Dublin, you won't be alone. The city is home to thousands of students from all over the world. According to the Irish Universities Association, more than 32,000 international students currently study in Ireland.







Full-time RIAM students have full access to Trinity College Dublin's library, gyms, and impressive 120+ societies and clubs. You can have the university social experience, combined with the intensity of the conservatoire education. From arts, culture, politics and debating to gaming, advocacy and music, you are sure to find your niche.

For in-house social events and gatherings, the RIAM Student Union plan everything from Hallowe'en & Christmas parties to end of term celebrations. Through RIAMSU activities, our students attend concerts and performances, meet up, socialise, stay connected and enjoy student life in one of the most vibrant capital cities in Europe.



# Unparalleled Performance Opportunities



## RIAM Philharmonia

This 60-member ensemble maintains a busy performing and touring schedule both at home and abroad. It has a growing reputation that has attracted distinguished guest conductors from all over the world, including Kenneth Montgomery, Gerhard Markson, Andrew Mogrelia, Jonas Alber, Atso Almila, Michel Galante, Gerhard Markson, Christian Curnyn, Mihhail Gerts & Chloé van Soeterstède.



## RIAM Baroque String Ensemble

The Baroque Ensemble is a dynamic string ensemble that delves into baroque music using both modern and baroque instruments. Under the direction of Claire Duff, it interprets this music with historical insight, exploring expressive techniques like rhetoric, ornamentation, and speaking with the bow. The students develop a deep understanding of bass lines and harmonies and learn to bring this wonderful repertoire freshly to life.



## ChamberFest

ChamberFest Dublin is an annual festival featuring over 40 chamber music groups in 15 concerts in multiple venues across Dublin.

The programming of ChamberFest Dublin is a collaborative process, with students forming their own chamber music groups, researching and choosing repertoire under the mentorship of their coaches.





## Performance Classes & Masterclasses

Weekly performance classes allow students to practice the art of performance in a supportive and collaborative space.

RIAM Students enjoy regular masterclasses with internationally renowned visiting artists, tackling challenging and diverse repertoire with some of the world's most experienced artists, including most recently Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Plínio Fernandes and Maighréad Mc Crann.

## RIAM Opera Orchestra

Our critically-acclaimed fully-staged annual opera features singing & orchestral students from all courses performing to sold-out audiences in venues across Dublin.

With a professional conductor, director and design team, the RIAM Opera is a challenging and inspirational experience for all performers.

RIAM believes in offering its string students opportunities that mirror real life professional experience.

## RIAM Chamber Orchestra

The RIAM Chamber Orchestra, directed by Head of Strings, Diane Daly, focuses on imbuing the core chamber orchestral repertoire with creativity, connection and joy. This innovative ensemble explores new approaches to practice and performance, incorporating improvisation, memorisation, movement and lighting. One of the key aims of the ensemble is to provide musicians with the flexible outlooks and adaptable skills to flourish in an ever changing music profession.

# Oldest Conservatoire, Newest Campus

Delivering a World-Class Music  
Conservatoire for Ireland

The new RIAM Campus opened in January 2023, doubling the number of teaching and practice rooms, providing new and enhanced facilities; a space for collaboration and creativity to flourish.

Ireland's new home for music education.



## 300 SEAT RECITAL HALL

The Whyte Recital Hall is the first concert hall in Ireland primarily devoted to chamber music and small ensembles. Its state-of-the-art acoustics and design match the highest international standards. From a student perspective, the opportunity to perform in a venue of this quality is unsurpassed.

## OPERA STUDIO

The Vernon Studio is a stunning large studio space, ideal for classes in Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Body Mapping, Creative Improvisation and Movement which are offered to all the string players. It hosts weekly Chamber Orchestra rehearsals, performance classes and masterclasses.



## SONIC ARTS HUB & COMPOSITION LAB

The bespoke Sonic Arts Hub & Composition Labs include state-of-the-art recording equipment and all the latest technology to develop student skills and facilitate next generation electro-acoustic composition.

## LIBRARY & RESEARCH HUB

The new RIAM Penthouse Library overlooks Dublin City Centre and provides a vital resource for researchers, practitioners and students. It is a cutting-edge learning hub for our full-time graduate-level students and, for junior students, a bespoke 'zoned area' for homework and private study.





# Fees 2024/2025 (per annum)

COURSE	EU	NON-EU
Access Programme (Foundation Year)	€6,350	€13,800
Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance (Part-time)	€4,000	n/a
Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance (Full-time)	€7,900	€16,580
Bachelor of Music (BMus)	€3,000	€21,000
Recital Artist Diploma	€7,850	€16,850
Professional Mentorship (Individual)	€2,150	€5,250
Professional Mentorship (Chamber Group)	€3,060	€6,350
Master in Music Performance (MMusPerf)	€10,500	€22,050
Doctor in Music Performance (DMusPerf)	€13,000	€24,500

## RIAM Scholarships

The RIAM has set aside a generous budget to offer financial assistance to incoming students each year. We offer 1848 scholars to those students who score highly at audition in return for administrative or teaching/accompaniment work.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE SCHOLARS

Examples of assistance include stewarding, music specialist administration (e.g. bowing/marking parts, scanning music), meeting prospective students, concert administration & presentation, and outreach projects

- €1,000 bursary is awarded for 75 Faculty Assistance Hours
- €2,000 bursary is awarded for 150 Faculty Assistance Hours

### TEACHING/ACCOMPANIMENT ASSISTANCE SCHOLARS

Teaching assistants are allocated group classes, early years, or adult students. Accompaniment assistants are allocated rehearsals with students and class concerts.

- €1,650 bursary is awarded for 60 Teaching Assistance Hours
- €2,500 bursary is awarded for 90 Teaching Assistance Hours
- €5,000 bursary is awarded for 180 Teaching Assistance Hours

### BVOF/RIAM NEXT GENERATION AWARDS

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival and the Royal Irish Academy of Music recently launched a transformative new music prize to support the studies of two master's students every year at Ireland's National Music Conservatoire.

The largest bursary of its kind in Ireland, each year the BVOF/RIAM Next Generation Awards select one vocal studies student and one instrumental student to each receive €20,000. This new award assists each winner in completing their two-year Master in Music Performance programme.

Find out more at [riam.ie/degrees-programmes/scholarships-bursaries-third-level](http://riam.ie/degrees-programmes/scholarships-bursaries-third-level)

*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 & Winner of the  
Clara Haskil International Piano Competition

# Contact us

**For any application questions, please contact  
[thirdlevel@riam.ie](mailto:thirdlevel@riam.ie).**

The RIAM Admissions Team are here to help with any queries you may have.

[#IamRIAM](#)

[@RIAMDublin](#)



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