



**A TEACHER'S GUIDE
TO THE RCM
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**





Photography: Stuart Lowe

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of The Royal Conservatory, I sincerely thank you for helping to teach and inspire the next generation of musicians across North America.



On behalf of The Royal Conservatory, thank you for inspiring the next generation of musicians. The mission of The Royal Conservatory is to develop human potential through music education and the arts, and your commitment to join us in this pursuit is appreciated.

As teachers you have the power to change the very direction, the nature, and the quality of a person's life. There are few pursuits that offer this potential for such impact and even fewer that are as meaningful. Consider that your work through music awakens and stimulates the three greatest attributes of human kind – emotion, curiosity, and imagination – all the while opening the door to a sublime realm of beauty and a higher purpose for humanity. This is what you do.

The RCM Certificate Program prepares students for excellence in their academic and professional careers, and under your guidance, fosters students' curiosity and creativity and instills a lifelong understanding, appreciation, and love of music. Learning through our Program will help your students develop the discipline, imagination, and perseverance that will serve them well in all areas of their lives.

Thank you for your support and partnership in ensuring a bright and sustained future for music education and the arts.

Together, we will succeed.

Dr. Peter Simon
Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO
The Royal Conservatory of Music

WHY TEACH THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY CURRICULUM?

The RCM Certificate Program provides a recognized national standard of musical success through an effectively sequenced course of study — from elementary through advanced levels.

The integrated curriculum of the RCM program lends itself to a blended learning approach that includes:

- Award winning educational resources
- Digital learning tools vetted by leading North American educators
- Assessments provided by accredited third-party examiners

With a focus on nurturing creativity and developing self-confidence, this comprehensive program allows students to progress at their own pace. Examinations enable students to track their progress and celebrate their accomplishments.

The Certificate Program provides a comprehensive path for musical development, encompassing three main areas:

1. Repertoire

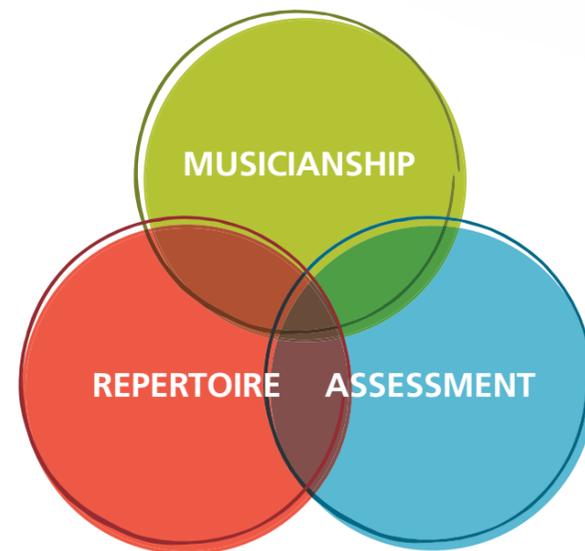
- Students explore a variety of styles and periods, ensuring they gain a breadth of knowledge.

2. Musicianship

- A thoughtful and consistent approach to the development of ear training and sight reading provides students with a solid foundation for independent creative musical exploration.
- Musicianship skills support both practical performance and theoretical understanding.

3. Assessment

- A national standard for exams, with independent, third-party assessment provides students with goals to work towards and challenges them to perform at their highest abilities
- Successfully completing exams builds confidence and offers students the opportunity to celebrate achievements.



rcmusic.com/certificateprogram

A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MUSIC STUDY

The RCM Certificate Program provides a sequenced path for well-rounded musical training, and a consistent and meaningful structure for recognizing achievement, and rewarding excellence.

Extensive and Engaging Repertoire

The RCM has an extensive selection of repertoire – more than 20,000 pieces across the Conservatory's 24 Practical disciplines.

Each piece of music is carefully selected for each level by distinguished international artists and educators. Repertoire reflects all style periods of classical music – Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary – and also offers opportunities to learn jazz, folk, and popular music.

The classical training provided by the Certificate Program provides the strongest possible foundation upon which to build musical explorations into all genres of music.

Comprehensive Musicianship

The development of musicianship skills is an integral component of the RCM Certificate Program.

Enhancing aural and reading skills lays the groundwork for lifelong learning. In the RCM Program, theory levels are tied to practical (performance) levels, and reinforce concepts encountered in repertoire,



technique, and musicianship studies. The exploration of the language of music combines these skills to increase music literacy and ensure the development of well-rounded musicians.

A National Standard of Assessment

Exams provide an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to track and measure progress and achievement against a national standard. Preparing for and successfully completing an examination builds self-confidence, encourages students to strive for

excellence, and ultimately serves as motivation for further study.

The RCM College of Examiners consists of more than 350 distinguished professional teachers and performers from across North America. Examiners are esteemed pedagogues who are trained to maintain consistency in evaluation and uphold the high standards of the Certificate Program.

An accredited adjudicator from the RCM's College of Examiners provides objective feedback and commentary to support student development.

RCM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM EXAMS

Exam Requirements

RCM Syllabi include a sequenced course of study and guidelines for preparing students for exams. Teachers can access RCM syllabi online anytime.

We encourage all teachers to prepare students for exams at regular intervals. Regular testing supports student success by:

- Providing goals to work toward
- Challenging students to practice and perform at their highest abilities
- Tracking student progress and celebrating achievement
- Building confidence

Scheduling an In-Person Exam

- Either a parent or teacher may register a student for an exam. Teachers can book several students at once using the Group Bookings option in their My RCM Account.
- Exams take place up to four times per year and are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Access the Exam Calendar to learn more and find an exam center near you.
- Current exam pricing can be found on the RCM website.



RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Students who succeed at music exams realize many benefits:

- They are eligible to win Gold Medals and other recognition from The Royal Conservatory.
- Achievement in RCM Certificate Program examinations is an impressive addition to any résumé, demonstrating creativity, a willingness to learn, and an ability to achieve short- and long-term goals.
- The Associate Diploma (ARCT) from the RCM is recognized internationally as one of the highest academic credentials awarded for the study of music.
- Secondary school credits from RCM Certificate Program examinations may be available in your state or province. Many Canadian high schools recognize RCM Certificate Program examinations for credit toward graduation.

rcmusic.com/exams

REMOTE EXAMS

The RCM offers both practical (instrumental) and theory (written) exams online providing the opportunity for students to achieve their recognition remotely. The rigors of the College of Examiners remain the same for in-person, and online exams, but the format offers increased flexibility. Students can complete an exam in their own practice space, use their own instrument, and have no need to travel to a testing location. Remote Exams are not bound to any schedule, students can take an exam whenever they feel they are prepared.

There can be additional benefits to students who choose to do their exams remotely. According to research, memories are linked to the context in which they are

created, so if you study for a test in a specific room, you may perform better on that test if you take it in the same room. Learn more about this Encoding Specificity Principle as it relates to teaching music in the research portion of the **RCM Teacher Portal: rcmusic.com/TeacherPortal**

If your students are interested in taking a Remote Exam there are a few technical requirements that must be met. The student must have a reliable high-speed internet connection, a smartphone or tablet, and the appropriate instrument. Specifications are outlined on our Remote Exam webpage: rcmusic.com/RemoteExams

IN-PERSON EXAM SCHEDULING

EXAMINATION SESSIONS – CANADA

DECEMBER/JANUARY (WINTER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: November
Theory Examinations: December
Practical Examinations: January

APRIL SESSION

Registration Deadline: January
Practical Examinations: April exams are piano only

MAY/JUNE (SPRING) SESSION

Registration Deadline: March
Theory Examinations: May
Practical Examinations: June

AUGUST (SUMMER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: June
Theory Examinations: August
Practical Examinations: August

For specific dates, please visit: rcmusic.com/exams

EXAMINATION SESSIONS – US

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER (WINTER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: October
Theory Examinations: December
Practical Examinations: November/December

MAY/JUNE (SPRING) SESSION

Registration Deadline: February
Theory Examinations: May
Practical Examinations: May/June

AUGUST (SUMMER) SESSION

Registration Deadline: May
Theory Examinations: August
Practical Examinations: July/August

For specific dates, please visit rcmusic.com/ExamInfo

Please note: All examinations must be completed prior to June 30 to be included in the academic year.

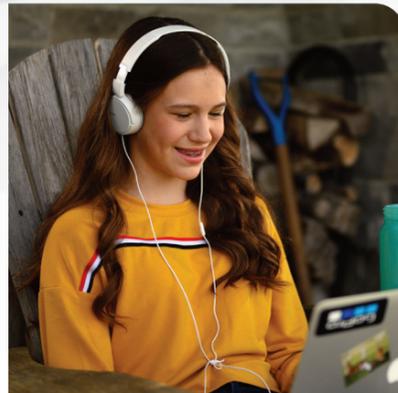
INTEGRATING THEORY

Celebrate Theory is a comprehensive series that supports the study of music theory at every stage of a student's development.

Encompassing rudiments, harmony & counterpoint, analysis, and music history, *Celebrate Theory* is an essential resource for enriching practical studies and developing well-rounded musicianship. Alignment with the *Theory Syllabus* ensures student success in preparing for examinations of the RCM Certificate Program.

Digital Learning tools are an integral aspect of RCM programming, and studying theory in an engaging way.

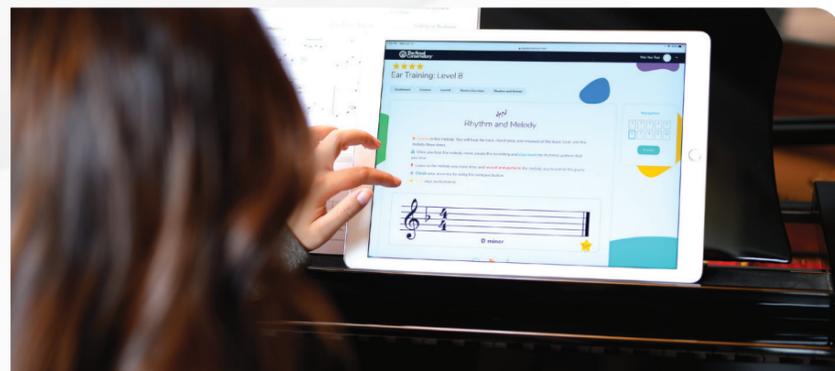
The downloadable Theory Sampler provides an overview of the concepts covered. You can use this to become familiar with each book and help determine which level is appropriate for your student. Visit: rcmusic.com/celebrate-theory



THEORY PLACEMENT TOOL

The RCM Online Theory Placement Tool aids students and teachers in two ways:

- 1 Determines a student's proficiency in each theory level
- 2 Identifies gaps and weaknesses in each level and provides customized learning recommendations



DIGITAL LEARNING

Digital resources serve as a companion to RCM print resources by:

- providing engaging exercises for students to use between lessons, thereby maximizing the time they have with their instructors
- providing teachers with an array of tools to connect with today's students

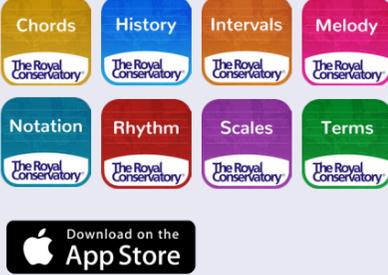
The power of technology allows you to expand your resources and add variety to your teaching strategies.

Assess your level here: rcmusic.com/TheoryPlacementTool

rcmusic.com/celebratetheory



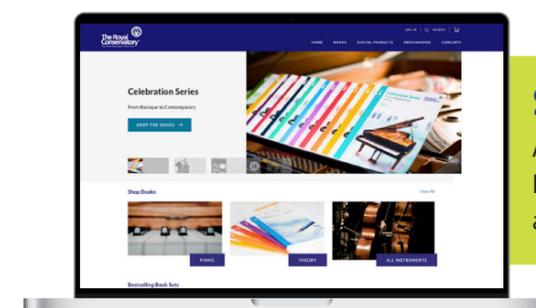
RCM Digital Learning Assets

Product	Benefits	Key Features	
Prep – Level 4 Theory Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforces the importance of theory at every level Designed to appeal to young students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive games and lessons that can be played online or offline Over 300 learning objectives, over 70 lessons, and 40 interactive games 	 <p>rcmusic.com/theoryapps</p>
Level 5 – 8 Theory Apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online activities provide extra practice exercises and drills to complement the Theory Study Guide and <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books Can be used in-class or for practice between lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Theory apps organized by concept Hundreds of randomized activities and drills to ensure comprehension of the concepts 	 <p>Download on the App Store</p>
Level 5 – 8 Theory Study Guides with Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used in conjunction with <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books to create a blended learning approach Prepares students for the online exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrated lessons, audio examples, and unlimited practice tests can be used online or offline Instant feedback for every learning objective Includes unit tests and an online final exam to earn comprehensive certificates Content access and online exam is available for 365 days 	 <p>rcmusic.com/theorystudyguide</p>

rcmusic.com/digitalLearning

RCM Digital Learning Assets

<p>Level 9 Online History Course (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern eras including architecture, art, politics, and world events)</p> <p>Level 10 Online History Course (Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods including architecture, art, politics, and world events)</p> <p>ARCT History Coming in 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used in conjunction with <i>Celebrate Theory</i> books for a blended learning approach Effective and innovative courses for students of all learning styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 400 high quality audio examples from the Naxos Music Library, over 350 interactive activities, over 100 practice questions, over 200 learning objectives Includes online final exam Students have 365 days to learn at their own pace and complete their exam when ready 	 <p>rcmusic.com/onlinehistory</p>
<p>RCM Online Ear Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks students' progress Use for practice between lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows students to record and assess their performances for accuracy Hundreds of exercises with feedback to enhance learning Randomized delivery to ensure comprehension Progression tracker to identify areas that require special attention All levels available with monthly subscription 	 <p>rcmusic.com/eartraining</p>



SHOP RCM

All the resources required for the RCM curriculum can be found at Shop RCM, including RCM books, online piano teacher courses, digital courses and apps. Shop RCM ships worldwide. rcmusic.com/shop

rcmusic.com/digitalLearning

TEACHER SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Teachers from more than 23 countries have chosen The RCM Certificate Program for our standardized curriculum that provides a guided path to teaching, our extensive resources, and the RCM support network, all which help lead students to success

Online Piano Teacher Courses

The Online Piano Teacher Courses provide the opportunity to explore piano pedagogy with experienced educators from across North America. The Online Piano Teacher Courses offer access to a facilitator who provides feedback and support over a ten-week period. Build your teaching network and learn new insights into teaching Elementary, Intermediate, or Advanced levels.

- Combination of articles, videos, and other educational resources that explore:
 - Teaching Fundamentals (Pedagogy)
 - Fostering Healthy Physical Approaches & Technique
 - Teaching Repertoire, Artistry, and Interpretation
 - Integrating Musicianship and Theory
 - Stylistic Awareness and Performance Practice
- Weekly assignments and discussion forum with personalized feedback from experts
- Graduates will have compiled a summative portfolio and receive a certificate of successful completion

RCM Teacher Portal

RCM Teacher Portal combines our very best teaching content, premium streaming services, and masterclasses, all in one convenient place. Featuring more resources than ever before, RCM Teacher Portal was created to help busy music teachers like you make the most of your time.

RCM Teacher Portal offers:

- Thousands of resources including information on:
 - studio management to grow your practice
 - technique and repertoire
 - artistry, musicianship, and theory
 - lesson plans, exercises, exam preparation
 - curriculum resources
 - pedagogical insights
- Masterclasses and webinars for multiple disciplines and topics
- Audio on demand from Naxos Music Library with access to complete catalogues and select recordings from more than 800 labels
- Video on demand with Medici TV, the world's largest classical music channel featuring over 2,000 programs
- Personal response to questions submitted directly to an examiner
- Access to archived questions

Teaching Online Certification

The RCM supports 21st century teaching and learning by providing resources that seamlessly move between in-studio and online learning scenarios

The Teaching Music Online Certificate course is taught by experts in music education and guides participants through best practices, strategies, and resources to teach online effectively. The course is split into six modules and takes approximately 16.5 hours to complete. It is designed to be highly collaborative so participants will gain practical experience teaching online and can confidently work with students in a remote setting.

For more information, please visit rcmusic.com/TeachingOnlineCertificate RCM Teacher Directory

Help students find you: Become part of the RCM Teacher Directory

- RCM Teachers can choose to be listed in an online directory for students and parents to search by instrument and geographic location.
- Parents and students can search for certified teachers in the RCM database knowing they will be connected with qualified professionals.

www.rcmusic.com/teaching

WHY BECOME AN RCM CERTIFIED TEACHER?

RCM Certified Teachers share a commitment to building a brighter future for music education, but that is just the start. Beyond that, they become part of exclusive Certified Teacher discussion groups and they have unparalleled access to resources in the Teacher Portal where they can ask questions directly to RCM examiners.

RCM Certified Teacher Benefits:

- Complete access to the RCM Teacher Portal, no additional subscription is required to access valuable professional development resources, and materials to strengthen your teaching practice.
- The opportunity to join a private online community of like-minded peers with whom you can share your teaching challenges and celebrate your successes
- Access to audit RCM online courses free of charge
- 20% off book purchases at Shop RCM year-round

There are two ways you can become an RCM Certified Teacher:

1. Meet the music education prerequisites and submit the required number of successful exam candidates
2. Successfully complete the RCM Piano Teacher Course, and submit two successful exam candidates at the required levels within two years

rcmusic.com/teachercertification



THE VALUE OF HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC EDUCATION

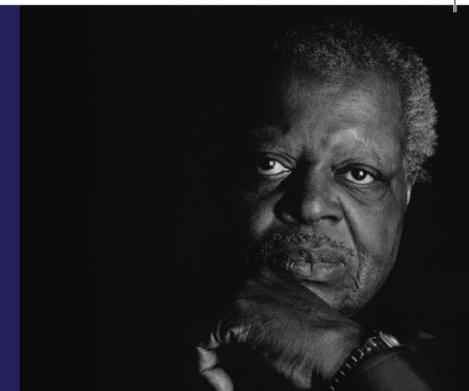
A wealth of scientific research has shown that music education is a powerful tool for a child to attain their full intellectual, social, and creative potential.



rcmusic.com/musicstudy

“The Royal Conservatory is one of the greatest leaders in music and arts education and a force for artistic and cultural development.”

- Oscar Peterson, Alumnus, Grammy award winning pianist and composer



“The Royal Conservatory has leveraged the expertise of leading pedagogues to deliver the gold standard in digital resources for music education”.

- John Perry, Professor Emeritus of Piano

“The Royal Conservatory’s structured system of curriculum and assessment is truly exceptional and fosters participation in music and creative expression.”

- Lang Lang, Internationally acclaimed pianist, Founder, Keys of Inspiration Program



“I am so excited about The Royal Conservatory and its capacity to inspire people of all ages across the country to engage with music.”

- Emmanuel Ax, Internationally acclaimed pianist

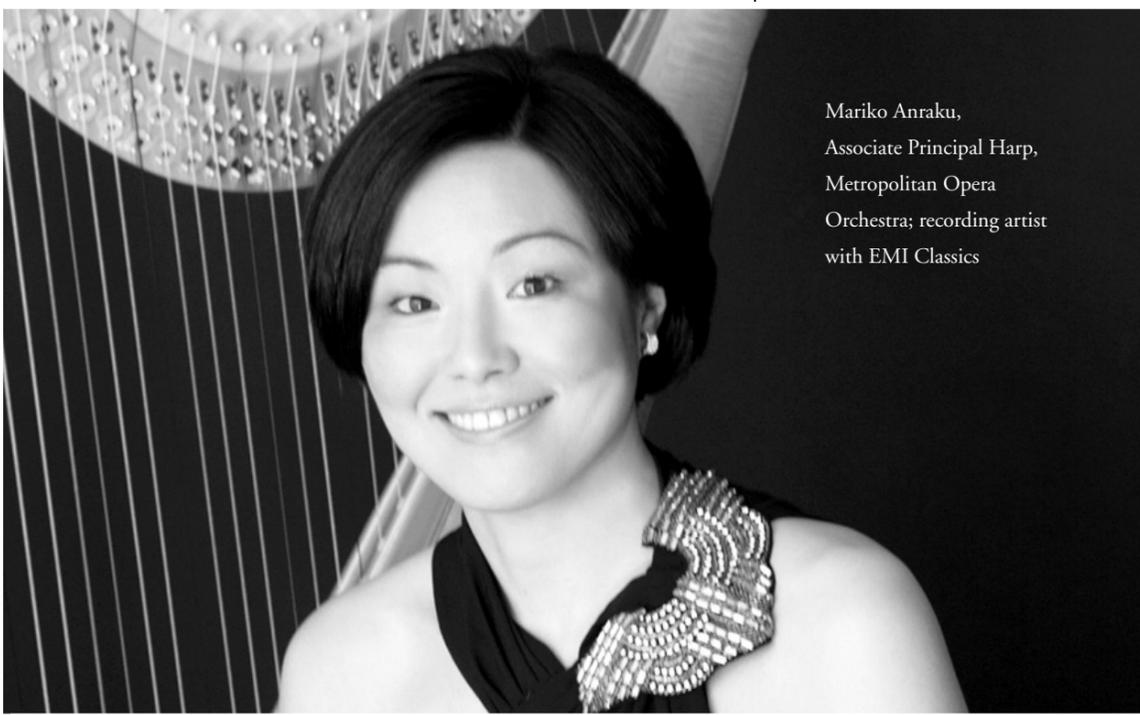
“The Royal Conservatory of Music program was crucial to my development as a musician. Simply put, I would not be where I am today had I not gone through The Conservatory program.”

- David Foster, Alumnus, award-winning musician and record producer





Sarah McLachlan, Multiple Juno/Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, Officer of the Order of Canada



Mariko Anraku, Associate Principal Harp, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; recording artist with EMI Classics



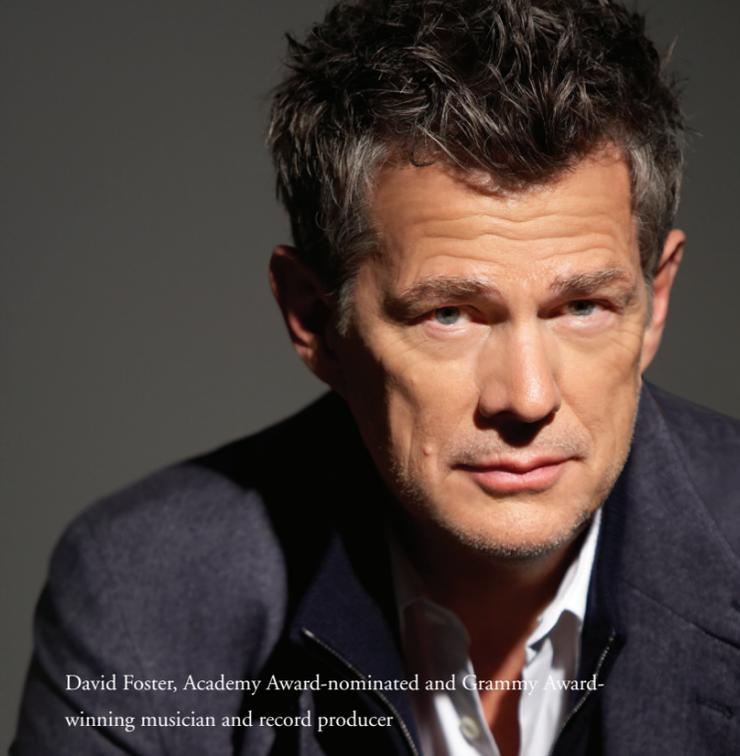
Paul Shaffer, Former music director, *The David Letterman Show*



Glenn Gould, Legendary pianist

Extraordinary Alumni

For over 130 years, the RCM has inspired over 5 million people to develop the discipline and creativity needed to realize their potential in a wide range of fields including the arts, medicine, law, journalism, and professional sports.



David Foster, Academy Award-nominated and Grammy Award-winning musician and record producer



Diana Krall, Award-winning jazz pianist and singer



Angela Hewitt: Award-winning classical pianist



Afendi Yusuf
Principal Clarinet, Cleveland Orchestra



**The Royal
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