



Rossall

INTERNATIONAL  
PIANO  
ACADEMY





**GREAT MUSIC**  
IS THAT WHICH PENETRATES  
THE EAR WITH FACILITY  
AND LEAVES THE  
**MEMORY**  
WITH DIFFICULTY

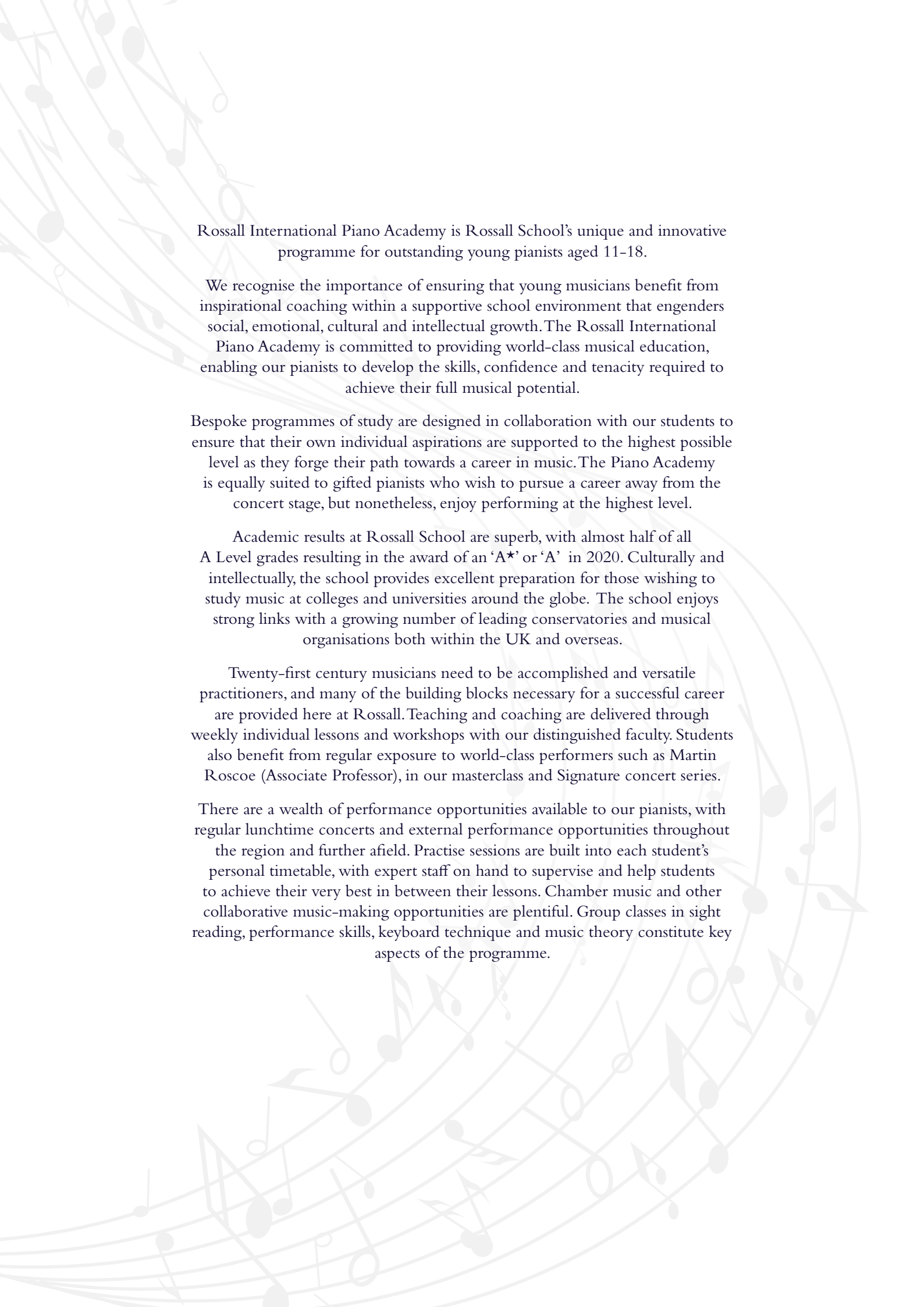


MAGICAL  
MUSIC  
NEVER LEAVES  
THE MEMORY

SIR THOMAS BEECHAM

*Conductor*

*Old Rossallian, Fleur de Lys 1892-1897*



Rossall International Piano Academy is Rossall School's unique and innovative programme for outstanding young pianists aged 11-18.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that young musicians benefit from inspirational coaching within a supportive school environment that engenders social, emotional, cultural and intellectual growth. The Rossall International Piano Academy is committed to providing world-class musical education, enabling our pianists to develop the skills, confidence and tenacity required to achieve their full musical potential.

Bespoke programmes of study are designed in collaboration with our students to ensure that their own individual aspirations are supported to the highest possible level as they forge their path towards a career in music. The Piano Academy is equally suited to gifted pianists who wish to pursue a career away from the concert stage, but nonetheless, enjoy performing at the highest level.

Academic results at Rossall School are superb, with almost half of all A Level grades resulting in the award of an 'A\*' or 'A' in 2020. Culturally and intellectually, the school provides excellent preparation for those wishing to study music at colleges and universities around the globe. The school enjoys strong links with a growing number of leading conservatories and musical organisations both within the UK and overseas.

Twenty-first century musicians need to be accomplished and versatile practitioners, and many of the building blocks necessary for a successful career are provided here at Rossall. Teaching and coaching are delivered through weekly individual lessons and workshops with our distinguished faculty. Students also benefit from regular exposure to world-class performers such as Martin Roscoe (Associate Professor), in our masterclass and Signature concert series.

There are a wealth of performance opportunities available to our pianists, with regular lunchtime concerts and external performance opportunities throughout the region and further afield. Practise sessions are built into each student's personal timetable, with expert staff on hand to supervise and help students to achieve their very best in between their lessons. Chamber music and other collaborative music-making opportunities are plentiful. Group classes in sight reading, performance skills, keyboard technique and music theory constitute key aspects of the programme.



# *Music in the North*

The classical music sector in the UK is diverse and exciting. Music conservatoires such as the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama are world-class and have trained generations of outstanding performers. The UK enjoys a huge variety of professional orchestras and ensembles that differ in terms of size, style, repertoire, location and funding. Here in the North West, we are fortunate to be within easy reach of the following ensembles:

- The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
- The Halle Orchestra
- The Manchester Camerata
- The BBC Philharmonic

Performance venues in the region include Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, The Lowry and Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

The Leeds International Piano Competition is a feature of the cultural landscape in the North and pianists such as Martin Roscoe and Peter Donohoe have made this part of the world their home.

The Junior Department of the Royal Northern College of Music is just one hour away from the Fylde Coast, providing ambitious young musicians with the opportunity to complement their learning within the International Piano Academy and build valuable connections with one of the world's most pioneering conservatoires.



# Rossall Music

Rossall School is a truly remarkable community and one which has inspired creativity for generations of musicians, artists and writers. Situated on the Lancashire coast, the drama of our natural landscape provides an environment which leaves a real impression upon the soul.

Rossall's most famous contribution to the music world thus far has been the illustrious conductor Sir Thomas Beecham, who founded the London Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic orchestras, and went on to direct the Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Metropolitan Opera in New York. Other Old Rossallians who have made an indelible impression in the world of music include the acclaimed jazz musician Bill Ashton and internationally renowned organist, Phil Kelsall. More recently, the opera singer Lewis Raines and West End star Irvine Iqbal have both been making waves on the national stage. Rossallians have also found success in contemporary music, with recent leaver Tom Gregory achieving a Top 10 hit in Germany last summer. In the broader spectrum of the arts, Rossall has produced its fair share of actors and writers including J.G.Farrell, one of only five novelists to win the Booker Prize twice.

The School has a Chapel Choir that sings weekly services in the School Chapel and undertakes residency in cathedrals across the UK, most recently in Westminster Abbey. Regular chamber concerts and weekly recitals provide regular performance opportunities for all of our musicians and we encourage all of our musicians to join regional ensembles or national ensembles such as the National Youth Choir, National Youth Wind Orchestra and National Youth Choir.







# Beecham

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The music department honours Sir Beecham's contributions to music in its name.

# *Adam Dobson* *BMus (Hons) PGCE*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Our music faculty is led by pianist Adam Dobson, an experienced recitalist and musical director. Following his graduation from Chetham's School of Music, Adam went on to study at the Royal College of Music with Ruth Nye, a former student of the great Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau. Through her mentorship, Adam can lay claim to a place in a remarkable musical lineage that directly extends back through Liszt, Beethoven and Haydn. A major catalyst in his desire to become an educator was the opportunity to pass this musical heritage on to future generations of young musicians.



# *Hazel Nguyen* *BMus (Hons)*

PIANO TEACHER

Award winning pianist Hazel Nguyen began her music education at the age of three and was admitted to the Vietnam National Academy of Music by the age of six. Hazel, a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has since become an established concert artist, including performances on BBC Radio 3 and In Tune. Hazel is herself an Old Rossallian and has been on the school's keyboard faculty since 2018.



## *Music Faculty* MUSIC TEACHERS & PERIPATETIC TEACHERS

The broad array of talent and expertise within the music faculty is one of our most unique features, giving our young musicians access to a wealth of support across a broad spectrum of music.



# *Martin Roscoe* GRSM ARNCM DMus(Hon) ARAM FGS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

With an extraordinary career spanning over five decades, Martin Roscoe is unarguably one of the UK's best loved pianists. His enduring popularity and the respect in which he is universally held are built on a deeply thoughtful musicianship and his easy rapport with audiences and fellow musicians alike.

He is one of the most regularly played pianists on BBC Radio 3, having made over 600 broadcasts, including seven BBC Prom appearances and Martin works frequently with many of the UK's leading orchestras. A prolific recitalist and chamber musician, Martin seasonally tours the UK in addition to performing in Europe, Canada, Australia and the Far East.

Teaching forms an important part of his life and the development of young talent helps Martin to constantly re-examine and re-evaluate his own playing. Throughout the school year, Martin will be visiting the school every half term to deliver one-to-one lessons, masterclasses and concerts, giving our young pianists an incredible opportunity to learn from one of the very best concert artists and teachers.





# *Rossall School: Making a commitment to become an All-Steinway School*

Rossall is also home to a century-old Steinway & Sons grand piano undergoing meticulous restoration, we hope to be able to restore some of its former glory and retain a beautiful piece of Rossall and Steinway & Sons history!

Rossall School's commitment to providing an outstanding musical education for future generations of pianists has been further enhanced by taking delivery of twelve new pianos from the renowned piano maker Steinway & Sons in early Summer 2021, including a new Steinway Concert Grand. Adding these instruments to our existing Steinway & Sons fleet will secure the internationally recognised accreditation 'All-Steinway School'.

Rossall School is currently home to:

- One Steinway & Sons Model A Grand Piano
- Two Boston Grand Pianos
- Six Boston Upright Pianos

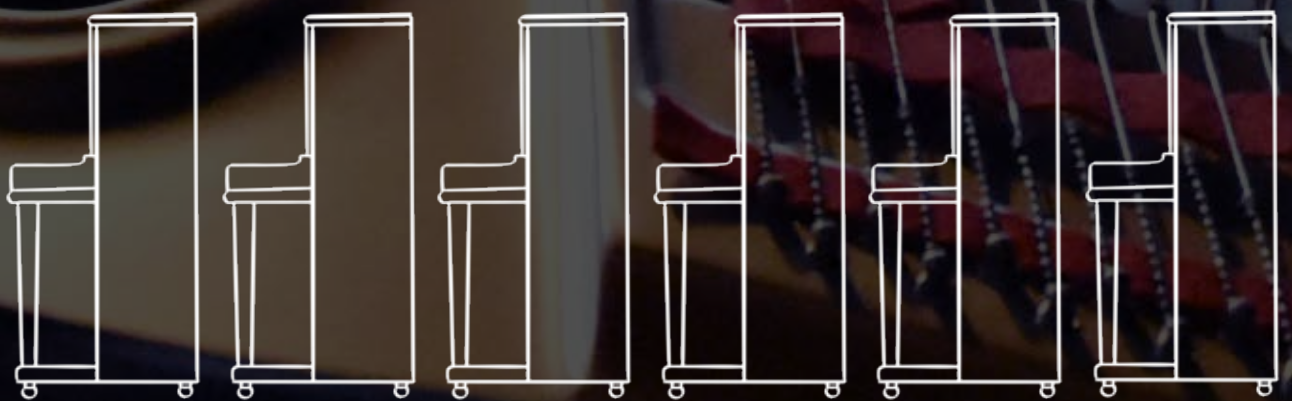
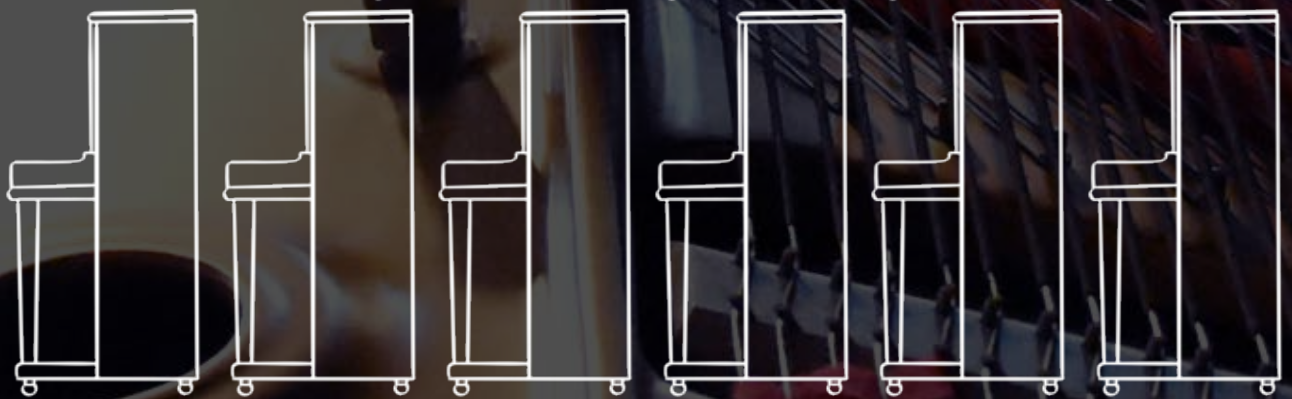
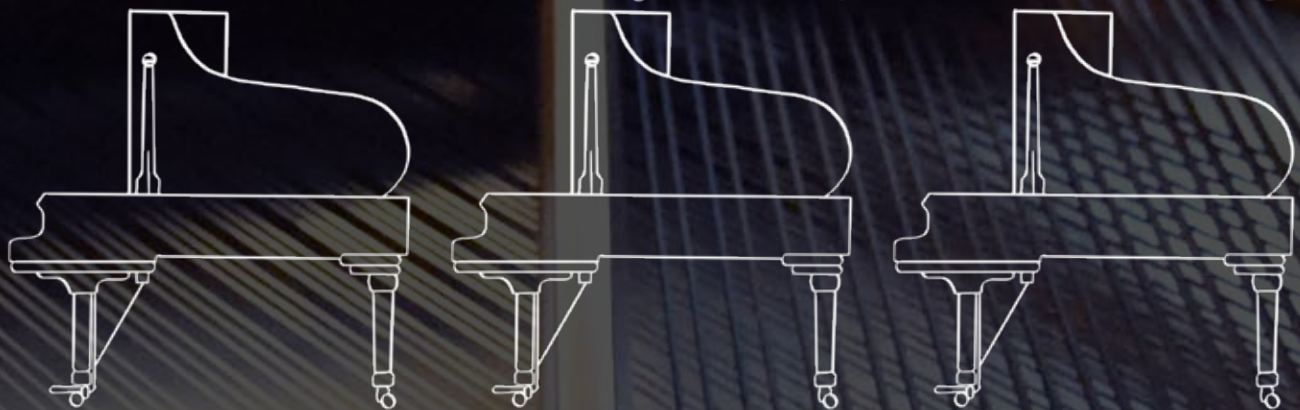
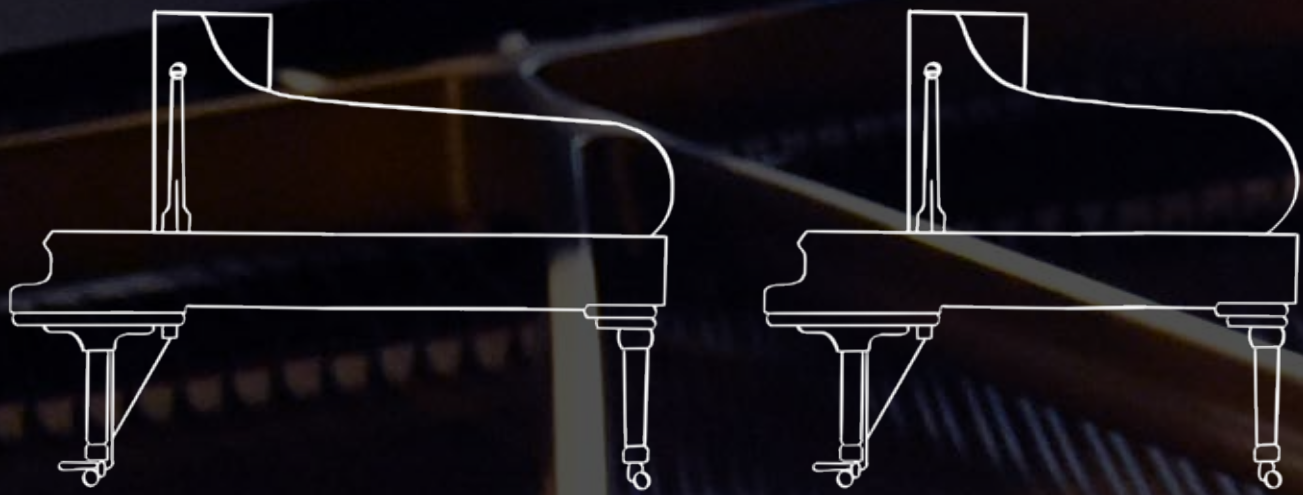
Enhancing our fleet, Steinway & Sons will deliver:

- One Steinway & Sons Model D Concert Grand
- One Steinway & Sons Model B Grand Piano
- One Steinway & Sons Model A Grand Piano
- Nine Essex Upright Pianos

The impact becoming an All-Steinway School will have on our pianists cannot be overstated. The opportunity to regularly play on the world's finest pianos is a hugely exciting and motivating prospect for all pianists. Building on our already rich musical heritage, we believe that becoming an All-Steinway School is the natural step forward in firmly establishing Rossall School as one of the top destinations for 11 to 18-year-old pianists from around the world.

Students will receive all their lessons and give performances exclusively on Steinway & Sons grand pianos. They will practice on these pianos as well as the Steinway designed pianos (Boston and Essex) that will be situated in the departmental practice rooms and each individual boarding house. With Steinway designed pianos situated throughout the campus, the impact of music within our school community will continue to flourish.







The programme provides an excellent balance between academic studies and music education. The ambition and scope of the programme is reflected in the diversity of activities that are on offer for all members of the International Piano Academy and this includes the following:

## *1 to 1 Lessons* 90 MINUTES

Students will receive weekly one to one lessons with one of our distinguished faculty members.

## *Performance Class* 90 MINUTES

A weekly opportunity for students to perform the repertoire they are working on and receive constructive feedback from their peers in a supportive, positive and informal environment. Piano workshops also include group discussion of composers, pianists, piano repertoire and performance techniques.

## *Aural Skills* 30 MINUTES

These classes help to develop student's aural awareness, which is key to becoming an all-round musician. Developing a student's musical ear helps them to assess their own playing more effectively, raising their awareness of balance, timing and musical shaping whilst improving their musical memory.

## *Technique* 30 MINUTES

Students will receive support to develop their technical skill and virtuosity. They will look into various schools of thought on piano technique and have the opportunity to share tips and tricks to overcome difficulties in the repertoire they are studying.

## *Sight Reading* 30 MINUTES

Weekly classes will help students to build their confidence and level of sight reading ability. Students will learn how to spot key features and patterns that will help them to sight read increasingly difficult pieces quickly and effectively, skills that are vital for learning repertoire. Students will be placed into small groups according to their initial sight reading ability.

## *Musical Wellbeing* 30 MINUTES

Alexander Technique is proven to help musicians to improve their movement and posture whilst playing, as well as helping to eliminate tension and anxiety. Coupled with a healthy diet and regular exercise through Rossall School's innovative physical fitness programme, our young musicians are well equipped to meet the demands of performing at the highest level.

## *Practice time*

Up to 10 hours per week, this will vary depending upon factors such as age and level.

*Opportunities to receive all lessons and give performances on pianos by one of the world's finest piano makers*

*Steinway & Sons pianos located in each boarding house*

*Half-termly masterclasses with world-renowned Steinway Artists, such as Martin Roscoe*

*Coaching and preparation for music college auditions and ABRSM exams up to diploma level*

Additionally, members of the Academy will benefit from:

- Regular performance opportunities across the school and in conjunction with our local and international partnerships
- Regularly attending classical music performances in Manchester and Liverpool
- Receiving support for entering competitions such as the BBC Young Musician, EPTA Piano Competition, Rossall International Piano Competition, and Anton Rubinstein Junior Piano Competition
- Scholarship opportunities to support tuition.

In addition, securing All-Steinway School accreditation brings incredible opportunities for Rossall School and members of the International Piano Academy:

- Access to 1700 Steinway Artists
- Use of Steinway Hall in London as a performance venue and, by extension, the possible use of Steinway locations across the globe
- An annual masterclass at Steinway Hall in London with a renowned Steinway Artist.





# *Apply & Audition*

Applicants for Rossall International Piano Academy should initially apply to the School via our Admissions Department. Contact details can be found at:

[www.rossall.org.uk/admissions/contact](http://www.rossall.org.uk/admissions/contact)

Upon registration, applicants will be invited to audition with Mr Adam Dobson. Students should prepare two contrasting pieces to perform with a maximum time limit of 12 minutes.





STEINWAY & SONS

INSPIRING  
*excellence*

PROGRAMMES FROM ROSSALL SCHOOL  
*Signature* 

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