



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*

# MASTER OF COMPOSITION



# SINGAPORE'S PIONEER ARTS EDUCATION INSTITUTION MEETS A WORLD-LEADING MUSIC CONSERVATOIRE



## You get the best of both worlds

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and the Royal College of Music (RCM) was signed in 2009 to encourage the exchange of teaching and learning practices between the two institutions. Subsequently, a two-year Bachelor of Music (Honours) top-up degree was launched in 2011. It was the first time in the RCM's prestigious 130-year history that its degrees were awarded outside the United Kingdom. The RCM-NAFA programme is generously supported by the Singapore government, enabling talented musicians in Singapore to develop and build their careers, to sustain and build on the thriving and growing musical life of Singapore and Southeast Asia.



Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is a premier arts institution in Southeast Asia. The academy is known for its rigorous and current curriculum, innovative and practitioners-led teaching approach, diverse artistic creations and proactive community outreach. Our courses are designed and delivered by experienced art educators and leading industry practitioners. With a rich culture, illustrious heritage and an unwavering dedication to the highest standards of arts education, NAFA strives to live up to its mission of inspiring learning and growth through the arts.



**ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

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Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music London (RCM) is a worldleading music conservatoire based in London with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. The RCM boasts a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians who are taught in a dynamic environment, many of whom graduate from the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future. The RCM is ranked as the global top institution for performing arts in the 2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject.



# MASTER OF COMPOSITION

The RCM-NAFA Master of Composition course is designed to allow composers to develop their skills to a professional level. The course offers intensive training in practical skills, complemented by a range of targeted options which reflect current vocational and professional needs. Such skills are aimed at composers who aspire to enter the profession as practitioners at the highest level.

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## Learning Outcomes:

- Compose at a level expected of a professional musician in terms of technique, musical insight, imagination, interpretation and communication
- Apply personal research, analysis, reflection, listening and the application of theory to practice in the process of forming original new work
- Demonstrate a strong grasp of musical traditions, while embracing or seeking new innovations in musical styles, media, performance and practice
- Execute projects requiring written and/or verbal presentation, as well as for musical composition, in a confident and independent manner
- Work effectively as part of a team, often in a leadership role, taking spontaneous decisions and responding to the decisions of others
- Be self-motivated and disciplined, and promote projects/performances with critical self-awareness
- Demonstrate in-depth understanding of professional environments and protocols

# YOUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

## The unique partnership between NAFA and RCM

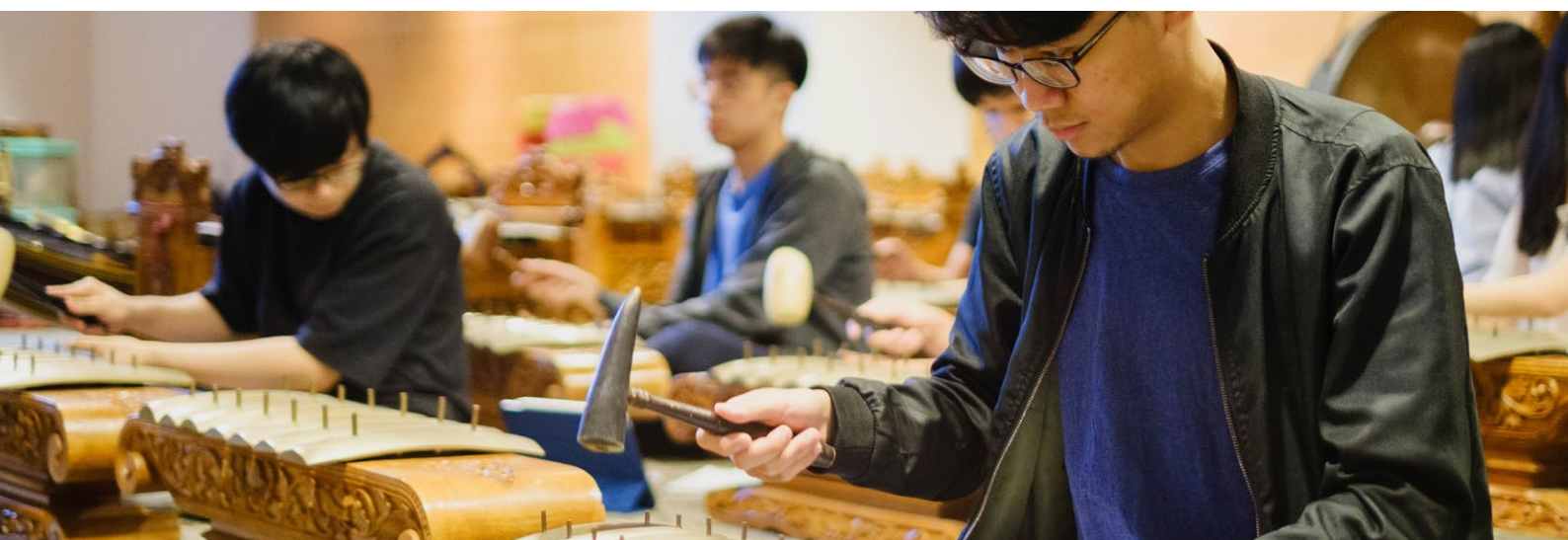
With the seven-week International Placement at RCM, you will have the unique opportunity to experience living and studying in another environment for a period of time. You will gain exposure to artistic and cultural practices in a new environment and acquire valuable learning experiences, which will widen your perspectives towards your own musical practice and learning.

## NAFA's artistic and cultural diversity

For our Western and Chinese instrumentalists and composers, you will co-exist in a synergetic relationship, experiencing and reflecting on your cultural practices in the arts as you relate to performance and research. For our composers, this provides a rich cultural environment and collaborative opportunities.

## Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations

NAFA's position as a multidisciplinary arts institution gives our music students the opportunities for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations with other artistic disciplines within the academy and the new University of the Arts.





## International Placement

Take part in the International Placement at the Royal College of Music in London for seven weeks.



*The RCM trains gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors and composers and other significant leadership roles within the arts. Many of our graduates are at the very forefront of the international music scene.*

- Professor Colin Lawson (Director, Royal College of Music)

# FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr Ernest Lim**  
Dean  
Faculty of  
Performing Arts

Dr Ernest Lim is a strong advocate for making music education

programs accessible to the community. He has spearheaded significant collaborative educational and community initiatives both locally and internationally. His work is driven by his research interests in intercultural studies and pedagogy skills as he aligns curriculum design in music education with a focus on students' developmental needs alongside industry relevance.



**Dr Nellie Seng**  
Associate Dean  
School of Music

Dr Nellie Seng is an educator, performing artist, and mother. She views the world

of music and education as an ecosystem that is co-dependent on every level as she aims to aid in fulfilling the potentialities of individuals to build the musical ecosystem from within. Nellie firmly believes that every individual has a role to play-from performer to audience, teacher to student, parent to child; to ensure the future of music for many generations beyond.



**Lim Yau**  
Artistic Director  
School of Music

A Cultural Medallion winner, Mr Lim Yau is a beacon in the music community. His passion and enthusiasm for choral

music led to the formation of The Philharmonic Chamber Choir; recognized as one of the most prominent chamber choirs in the region. Mr Lim Yau is also a keen advocate of Singapore composers, having premiered works by every major Singaporean composer.



**Dr Rebecca Kan**  
Associate Dean  
(Degree Studies)  
Faculty of  
Performing Arts

Dr Kan is passionate about teaching and

learning the arts. Her key interests are in professional education, signature pedagogies, and everything that lies in between. A trained musician and musicologist, she specializes in the creative musical processes of the Baroque concerto.



**Dr Goh Toh Chai,  
Zechariah**  
Head of  
Composition  
School of Music

Dr Goh Toh Chai is a multi-hyphenated artist.

A renowned composer whose portfolio spans an array of genres; Dr Goh is also highly sought after as a choral conductor. For his contributions to the music community and his artistic excellence, Dr Goh was conferred the Young Artist Award (music) in 2003 by the National Arts Council, Singapore.



**Dr Joyce Koh**  
Associate Dean  
School of  
Interdisciplinary Arts

Dr Joyce Koh is an award-winning composer; her

works are an exploration of sonic canvas, space and theatre of music. Dr Koh's works and collaborations show her interest in architecture and interdisciplinarity. As described by the International Piano Quarterly, her sound world "engages the intellect and requires a different approach".

## Modules

- Principal Study (Composition) Level 7
- Advanced Schenkerian Analysis Level 7
- Orchestration Portfolio Level 7



**Americ Goh**  
**Programme Leader (CET)**  
**Faculty of Performing Arts**

Mr Americ Goh is a proud alumnus of NAFA. He furthered his studies at the University of Music and

Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. There, he was presented with the Outstanding Artist Award for Music. Americ's works have been performed in numerous festivals and have been featured as repertoire for international art song competitions such as the Franz Schubert und der Moderne and the Deutscher Musicwettbewerb.



**Wang Chenwei**  
**Adjunct Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Mr Wang Chenwei is a prolific composer and audio engineer. He is the Head of Research for

the TENG Company, Tonmeister of MSM-Productions, as well as a member of the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) and Composers Society of Singapore. For his contributions to the Singapore music scene, Chenwei was presented with the Young Outstanding Singaporeans Award in 2011.



**Dr Gu Wei**  
**Adjunct Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Dr Gu Wei is an award-winning composer and educator. His compositions are influenced and inspired by a wide range

of sources; demonstrating versatility in his style and idiom. Dr Gu is also a pianist who is particularly interested in performance and music for the toy piano, commissioning many composers to write works for and featuring the toy piano.



**Dayn Ng Chee Yao**  
**Adjunct Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Mr Dayn Ng is a composer, music technologist and audio engineer. A NAFA alumnus, Dayn has been

commissioned to compose for the Singapore Youth Festival. He has also written original works and arrangements for the Singapore Chinese Orchestra; designed music and sound productions to the Central Academy of Drama (China), Beijing Film Academy, and Dance Ensemble Singapore. Dayn is currently the Composer-in-Residence in MUSA.



**Dr Lee Ming-Yen**  
**Senior Lecturer**  
**School of Music**

Dr Lee Ming-Yen is an ethnomusicologist of Chinese and Southeast Asian Music. Her research interests include

Indonesian music, as well as pedagogy in world music. A prolific writer, Dr Lee's articles have been widely published in journals such as Asian Culture, Journal of Aesthetic Education and many more.

- Orchestration for Chinese Orchestra Level 7
- Teaching Music Level 7

- International Placement (Masters)
- Conducting Level 7
- Music, Culture, and Society Level 7

**And more**

# YOUR **STEP BY STEP** ADMISSION GUIDE



## Entry Requirements

- A relevant undergraduate degree from RCM-NAFA or a recognised institution, usually in Music.
- Degree transcripts must indicate passing grades in equivalent RCM-NAFA Bachelor of Music modules
- 20 years of age or older
- English language proficiency - IELTS Academic Band 5.5 or equivalent



## Portfolio, Personal Statement & Interview

- Submit a portfolio of at least two, but no more than five, contrasting examples of their compositions.
- Submit a personal statement (250 – 350 words) to support their application for the Master of Composition programme.
- Attend an interview



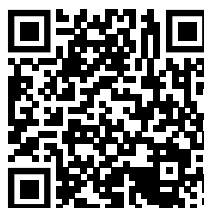
## If you can't make it for a live interview,

- An interview via Zoom will be arranged by the Student Admissions Office.

### Annual Course Fees (AY2023)

	Full-time per year 2 years	Part-time per year 3 years
Singapore Citizens	S\$31,800	S\$21,800
Singapore Permanent Residents	S\$33,800	S\$23,800
International Students / Other Residents	S\$35,800	S\$24,800

All fees are inclusive of GST at prevailing rate and are subject to revision. Please refer to the NAFA website for the latest.



Scan the QR code to visit our website for additional information on admissions requirements, audition, fees and curriculum.