

# The Elite

OSEA Elite Music Masterclass  
Programme - The London  
Summer Music Academies

2026

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# Dear Aspiring Musicians,

Are you a gifted musician with the ambition to elevate your artistry and make your mark as a new talent on the classical music scene? This summer, we invite you to an exclusive eight-day programme designed for the most talented and dedicated music students. Our masterclasses are a gateway to the world of music-making, offering unparalleled insight into composition, score interpretation, recording, and the art of performance. Held at the illustrious Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London in partnership with the Philharmonia Orchestra, this programme grants you the opportunity of daily instruction, rehearsals, and collaborative projects led by distinguished faculty and acclaimed musicians from two of the UK's premier orchestras and institutions.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence, we provide an environment that nurtures creativity, fosters innovation, and celebrates the pursuit of musical mastery. Over the course of the programme, you will immerse yourself in a rich array of styles and techniques, culminating in a final performance that showcases your artistry. The OSEA Elite Music Masterclass Programme (or London Summer Music Academies) is more than an educational opportunity – it is a transformative experience learning experience. Join us this summer and take your place among the finest musicians of your generation. Your journey to musical distinction begins here.

Programme Director  
William J. Conner



## Programme Overview

Under the tutelage of distinguished British musicians and esteemed professors, our curriculum offers a rich tapestry of educational experiences. To further enrich your journey, we will also organise visits to iconic musical and cultural institutions. OSEA Elite Music Masterclass Programme provide intensive daily training, featuring eight hours of personalised guidance from leading London musicians, including faculty from the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) and members of the Philharmonia Orchestra. This rigorous curriculum is designed to elevate your artistry, focusing on core repertoire to refine your performance skills and achieve the highest artistic standards. Participants will enjoy accommodation at University College London's student residences\*, offering a prime location to immerse yourself in London's rich culture and dynamic energy. The programme will run from 12 - 20 July 2026.

## Areas of Focus:

- Developing essential skills for admission to leading music colleges and conservatories and professional ensembles.
- Advancing your instrumental techniques and ensemble performance.
- Gaining insights into the expectations and opportunities within leading music academies and orchestras.

## Programme Highlights

### **Masterclasses with World-Class Musicians**

Learn directly from celebrated musicians affiliated with the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music, gaining unparalleled insights into industry standards.

### **Field Trips to Historic Institutions**

Visit prestigious and historic venues such as Cambridge and Oxford Universities and the Royal Opera House, deepening your appreciation for Britain's educational and musical heritage.

### **Final Performance**

Showcase your talent in an extraordinary graduation concert at the Royal Academy of Music. Awards presented by RAM, the Philharmonia Orchestra, and our distinguished faculty will mark the culmination of your transformative experience.

# OSEA ELITE *MUSIC* MASTERCLASS



# THE EXCELLENCE

## **The Exclusive Music Masterclasses**

A programme crafted to provide unparalleled and enriching educational experiences for children who possess a profound passion for music.

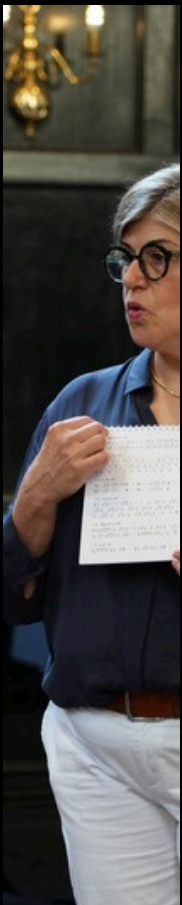
Our mission is to nurture and refine their talents, while steadfastly enhancing the prestige and distinction of our international learning experiences, ensuring they remain a mark of excellence in the world of music education.

STUDENTS REHEARSAL AT THE VOCES8 CENTER.

# EXPLORATION

## Guiding Students Beyond Professional Knowledge

In our Masterclass curriculum, we place a strong emphasis on cultivating a deep understanding of the diversity within music while encouraging students to continually explore new possibilities. Participants are inspired to experiment with a wide range of musical styles, instruments, and techniques, engaging in collaborative projects that broaden their creative horizons and foster artistic innovation.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A MUSIC MASTER CLASS.

Immerse yourself in an extraordinary eight-day summer programme designed for comprehensive music study. From mastering repertoire to crafting original compositions and recording, students will explore every facet of the music-making process.

Classes, rehearsals, and performances are hosted at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London, complemented by sessions at VOCES8 venues and other renowned music halls and institutions. These exceptional settings provide the perfect environment for artistic growth and inspiration.

Guided by acclaimed musicians and educators from leading institutions and orchestras, this programme offers a truly unparalleled and enriching educational experience.

# IMMERSION



STUDENTS MAKING MUSIC ALONGSIDE MUSICIANS AND PROFESSORS FROM LONDON.



# INFORMATION

**Dates**

Summer 2026

**Sessions**

12-20 July 2026

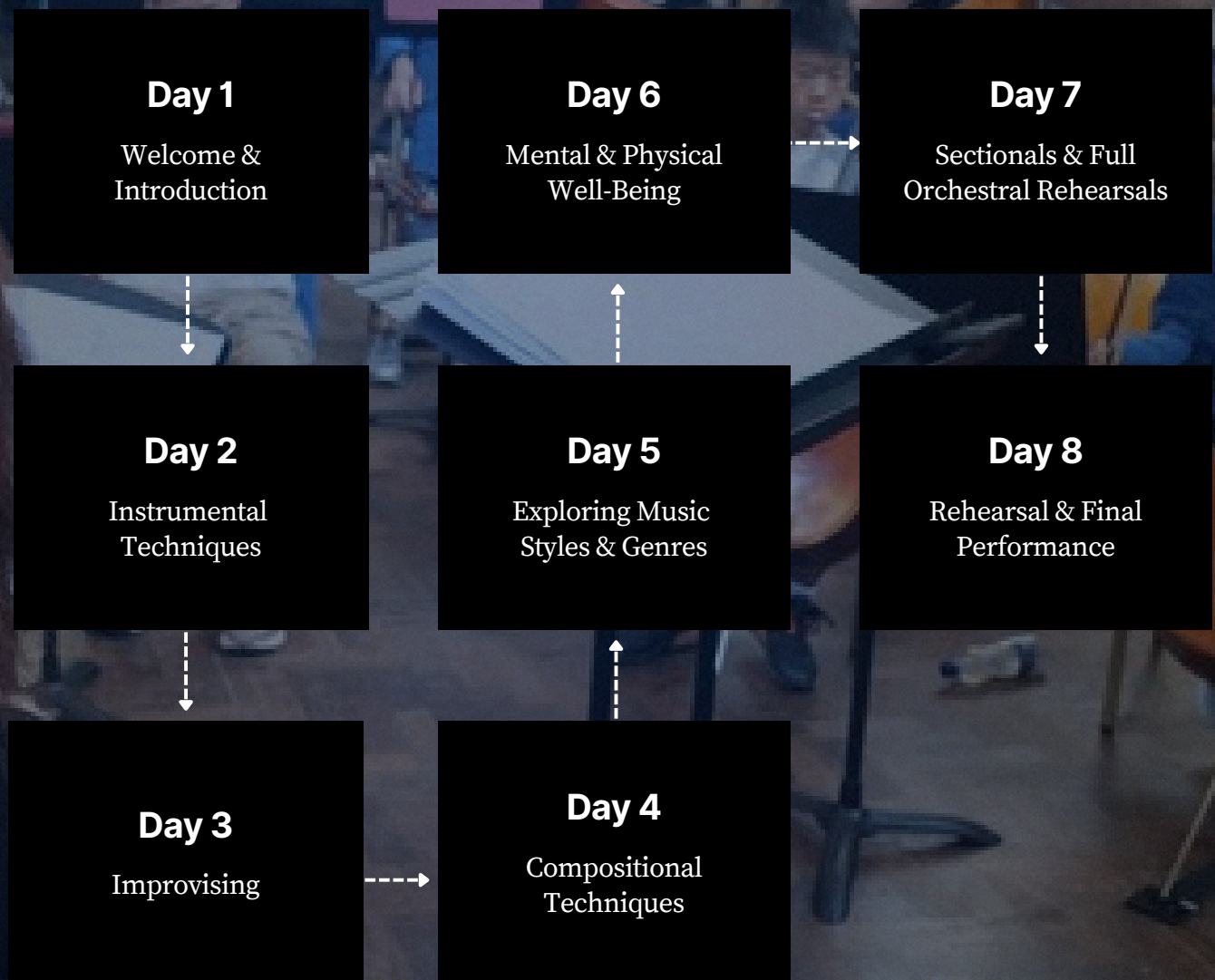
**Location**

London, United Kingdom

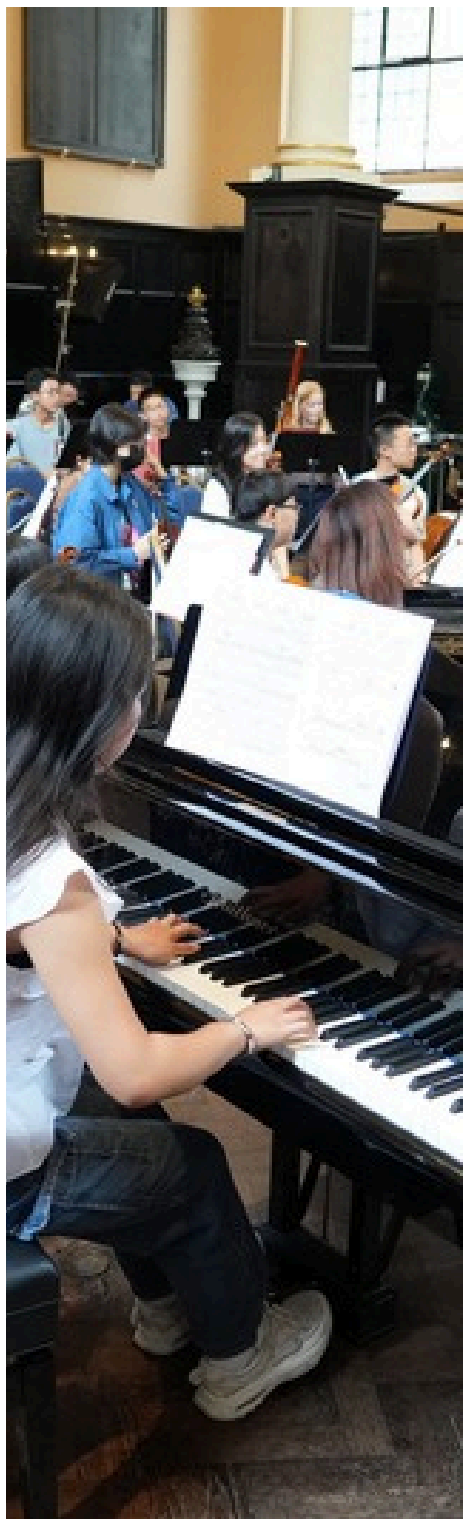
**Organised by**

OSEA Alliance Group  
Etruria Educational & Cultural Opportunities  
Royal Academy of Music  
Philharmonia  
Voces8

# OSEA ELITE MUSIC MASTERCLASS PROGRAMME - THE LONDON SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMIES



# ITINERAR



## Day 1: Welcome & Introduction

### Morning

- **Welcome Session & Icebreakers:** Group activities to build relationships and ease into the program, create a list of goals (personal and group) for the program.
- **Individual or Group Performances:** Each participant plays a short, prepared piece to assess their skill level and identify specific areas for improvement.

### Afternoon

First Orchestral Rehearsal.

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## Day 2 - 7:

- **Mornings** will be devoted to sectional rehearsals, small ensembles, and other opportunities depending on instrumentation, ensemble structures and experience of performers.
- **Afternoons** will typically consist of ensemble rehearsals.

The final schedule will be tailored to accommodate the needs of each group of musicians.

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## Day 8: Final Performance Day

### Morning

- Warm-Up, sound check & final preparations

### Afternoon

- Final Performance & Awards Ceremony

# MEET WILLIAM J. CONNER

University of Oxford, Master of Arts (by Resolution), 2010  
Emeritus Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Oxford  
Life By-Fellow, Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge

**WILLIAM (ON THE RIGHT) CELEBRATING GRADUATION  
WITH ONE OF HIS MASTER CLASS STUDENTS.**



William J. Conner has over 40 years' experience as a senior manager in performing arts and higher education institutions. He has worked as management with broad international experience. Having retired from Oxford in 2019 and again from Cambridge in 2023, he holds an Emeritus Fellowship from Wolfson College, University of Oxford and Life By-Fellowship from Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge.

Much of William's life has been centred around a strong interest in classical music, with a particular expertise in 17th and 18th century keyboard music. As an editor of The New Grove Dictionary of Music, he worked on bibliographical problems, musical instruments and instrument makers. William was a founder of the Boston Early Music Festival in the late 1970s and is currently a trustee of Handel Hendrix House in London and the Voces8 Foundation (London). He is an ambassador for the Purcell School in London and is a non-executive director with Odradek, a Dutch/Italian group looking after the space where classical music meets the digital world.

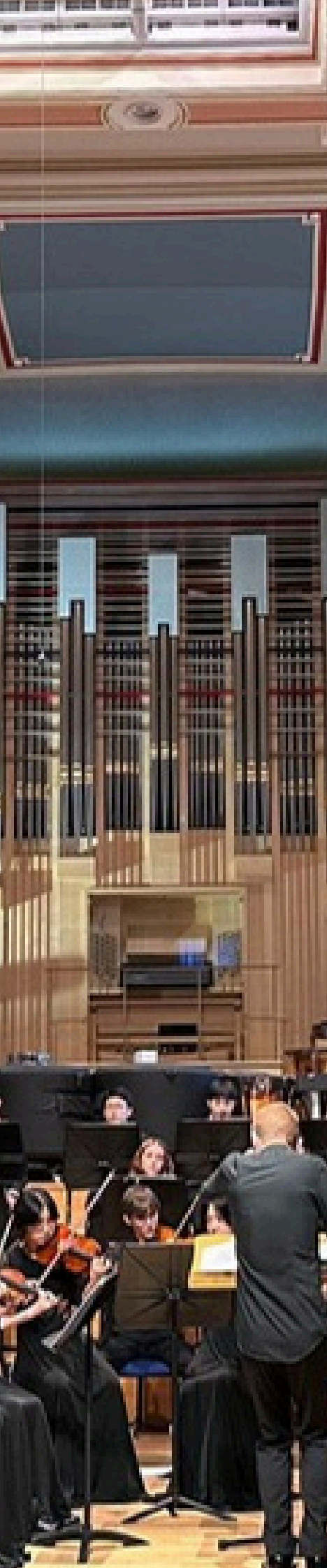


## The Philharmonia Orchestra

The Philharmonia is a world-class symphony orchestra for the 21st century, led by Principal Conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali. Based in London at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, resident in cities and at festivals across England, and streaming online, the Philharmonia creates thrilling performances for a global audience. Students in our masterclass will have the extraordinary opportunity to learn and perform with members of an elite orchestra. The Programme culminates in an unforgettable experience: a prestigious graduation concert in London, where participants will showcase their talents in a final performance, creating a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

# THE Philharmonia ORCHESTRA

Our students will partake in an unforgettable lifetime experience by collaborating with renowned symphony orchestras in London through our masterclass Programme.



# THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

The Royal Academy of Music is the meeting point between the traditions of the past and the talent of the future. We seek out and support the musicians today whose music will move the world tomorrow.

From pre-school to post-doc, our students come here from more than 60 countries. We challenge them to find their own voice, take risks and push boundaries. Simon Rattle, Felicity Lott, Elton John and Harrison Birtwistle all learnt their craft here; we are excited to discover who's next.

Every Academy student benefits from a stimulating curriculum and an ambitious range of concerts and events. Legendary artists come here not just to perform, but to become mentors, friends and musical partners.

A world of music comes to us – and we send music back out into the world. As we enter our third century, our aim is to shape the future of music by discovering and supporting talent wherever it exists.

Music never stands still – and nor will we.

The Royal Academy of Music is delighted to be the venue for OSEA's Elite Music Masterclass 2026 Programme. We look forward to welcoming you to London!

This extraordinary eight-day summer program is designed for comprehensive music study. From mastering sightreading to crafting original compositions and recording, students will explore every facet of the music-making process. Classes, rehearsals, and performances are hosted at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London, complemented by sessions at VOCES8 Centre. These exceptional settings provide the perfect environment for artistic growth and inspiration. Guided by acclaimed musicians and educators from leading institutions and orchestras, this programme offers a truly unparalleled and enriching educational experience.

OSEA's Masterclass curriculum places a strong emphasis on cultivating a deep understanding of the diversity within music while encouraging students to continually explore new possibilities. Participants are inspired to experiment with a wide range of musical styles, instruments, and techniques, engaging in collaborative projects that broaden their creative horizons and foster artistic innovation.

Date:  
12 - 20 July 2026

ROYAL  
ACADEMY  
OF  
MUSIC

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# EXCEPTIONAL MENTORS



**Robin O'Neill**  
Bassoon  
Principal Bassoon

Robin O'Neill is principal bassoonist with the Philharmonia Orchestra and has held the same position with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the English Chamber Orchestra.



**Lulu Fuller**  
1st Violin

Lulu studied at the Central Conservatory of Music, the Royal Academy of Music and the Manhattan School of Music.



**Maura Marinucci**  
Joint Principal Clarinet

Maura was clarinet teacher at the conservatoires of Novara and Pescara, and has been invited to teach masterclasses in Italy, Belgium, Wales, and the US.



**James Murray**  
Conductor

James Murray studied at the Royal Academy of Music, specialising in conducting, composition, and piano. He is currently based in London, where he serves as a teacher and conductor, collaborating extensively with various choirs and orchestras.



**Michael Fuller**  
Double Bass

Michael has enjoyed performing, recording, and touring around the world as well as working in orchestral management with the Philharmonia and other ensembles, holding positions in the UK, USA and Europe.



**Carsten Williams**  
No.4 Horn

Carsten attended the Royal College of Music Junior Department before studying with Tony Chidell, Jeff Bryant and Tony Halstead at the Guildhall School of Music.

# EXCEPTIONAL MENTORS



**Francesca Cox**

Francesca studied, with scholarship, at both the Royal Academy of Music, and Guildhall. Francesca regularly plays with leading orchestras across the UK, including BBC Scottish Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Britten Sinfonia and the Philharmonia. She is a current MMSF fellow with the Philharmonia for 2024-25. Francesca was a Britten-Pears Young Artist in 2020-2023.



**Adrián Varela**  
1st Violin

Formerly Conductor and Artistic Director of the Polish National Youth Orchestra, concertmaster of Uruguay's National Symphony Orchestra, and Director of Music at de Montfort University, Adrian studied violin in Detroit, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and London (Zerounian, Casale, Spiller, Harvey, Hattori, Gruenberg), and conducting at Interlochen and Santa Fe (Maazel, Montenegro).



**Emily Dore**  
Bassoonist

Emily is currently dedicated to music performance and teaching. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in the UK and specialises in performing late 18th-century chamber music repertoire.

# How to apply

## Eligibility

**Instrumentation:** All standard orchestral instruments and piano

**Level:** Minimum AMEB Grade 8 (or equivalent).

**Age:** Participants must be enrolled in high school at the time of the study experience. Recommended for students in Years 9–12.

### Summer Program Inclusions:

- London airport pick-up
- 8 days tuition, masterclasses and rehearsals
- Accommodation in London including breakfast
- Weekend outings to London and Cambridge
- Professional recording session
- Concert performance in London
- Certificate of Participation

### Additional costs for families:

- Flights
- Travel Insurance
- Lunch and Dinner
- Spending Money

## Audition Requirements

### Submission:

An audition recording must be hyperlinked within the online application form.

### Content:

- One own-choice piece (maximum duration: 2 minutes)
- Two orchestral excerpts of contrasting styles, selected by the applicant

**[Complete Online Application Form here.](#)**



