

RNCM PRESS RELEASE

RNCM Appoints Stefano Canuti as William Waterhouse International Chair in Chamber Music and Bassoon

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The RNCM is delighted to announce a new professorship for the Italian bassoon soloist **Stefano Canuti**, who will become the College's **William Waterhouse International Chair in Chamber Music and Bassoon** from September 2016.

Stefano Canuti is recognised worldwide as one of the most charismatic and talented bassoonists of his generation. Although starting out as an orchestral player, Stefano is most distinguished as a brilliant soloist, chamber musician and inspirational teacher. With a high profile international career of over 30 years, he has performed and taught in major concert halls, conservatoires, conferences and festivals right throughout continental Europe, across the United States, South America, China, Japan, Australia and Scandinavia.

As International Chair he will visit the RNCM for one week of teaching and performing each month, coaching bassoonists, woodwind and cross-school chamber music ensembles. In addition to the professorship the RNCM will provide, annually, two **William Waterhouse Bassoon Scholarships** to young bassoonists with outstanding potential who wish to study at the College.

The RNCM is honoured to have the support of the Waterhouse family in making this appointment. One of the world's truly great musicians, William Waterhouse was a widely-respected bassoonist, teacher, scholar, curator and mentor. A professor at the RNCM from 1966-1996, Bill was admired not only for his great knowledge and intellectual capacity but for living vividly; with boyish curiosity, enthusiasm and sense of adventure right up until his sudden passing in Florence, Italy, in 2007.

Bill's remarkable influence lives on through his world-wide network of protégés, which includes Stefano Canuti among them. In accepting his new position Stefano remarked: *'Spero, anche solo in piccola parte, di essere degno di avere il nome di Bill vicino al mio... Farò di tutto perché l'essenza di Bill rimanga con me e con i giovani musicisti: passione ed intelligenza senza confini...'* ('I hope to be worthy to have my name close to Bill's... I'll do my best to keep with me and with the young musicians, the deep meaning of Bill's life: passion and intelligence without boundaries...').

The RNCM would like to express special gratitude to Bill's widow Elisabeth Waterhouse, musician and tireless supporter of Bill throughout their long married life together, and their three children Graham, Celia and Lucy.

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For more information on the William Waterhouse Bassoon Scholarships email Linda Begbie, Development Officer, at linda.begbie@rncm.ac.uk or call 0161 907 5338.

For press enquiries, email Liz Rowley, Communications Manager, at liz.rowley@rncm.ac.uk or call 0161 907 5369

A full biography for Stefano Canuti can be found [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

About the RNCM

The RNCM is a leading international conservatoire located in the heart of Manchester, with a reputation for attracting talented students, teachers, conductors and composers from all over the world.

Now in its fifth decade, the RNCM is relatively young but its rich history spans back to 1893 when Sir Charles Hallé founded the Royal Manchester College of Music (RMCM). In 1973 this institution merged with the Northern School of Music (NSM), and the RNCM was born. Today, the College is a thriving conservatoire with around 320 teaching staff and over 800 students from 52 different countries.

Complementing this, the RNCM is also a vibrant live music venue offering unparalleled opportunities for students to perform regularly to public audiences and to work alongside professional musicians and visiting artists. Housing three major performance spaces, including a professionally-staffed, fully-equipped Theatre and recently refurbished Concert Hall, the College presents in excess of 400 concerts each year ranging from RNCM orchestras and ensembles and large-scale opera productions, to a host of touring companies and external hires.

In 2014 the RNCM was rated the UK's leading music college for research, and in 2015 it was awarded the Times Higher Education Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts.

About International Chairs

The RNCM employs International Chairs across all schools of study to offer exceptional tuition, masterclasses and coaching each term. International Chairs include: Sir Mark Elder (conducting), Miklós Perényi (cello), Nobuko Imai (viola), Sir John Tomlinson (voice), Kathryn Stott (piano), and Brian Fernyhough (composition).

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