

Royal College of Music Museum

: The Council of the Royal College of Music, delegated to the Collections Committee

22 October 2024

The collections development policy will be published and reviewed at least once every five years.
It will be published on the Museum website.

Collections Committee, October 2029

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of prints, engravings and photographs were substantially created from 1970 onwards. The RCM Museum also includes several acquisitions that have been purchased with the aid of external grants and donations.

The collection of works of art was initiated by donations by Sir George Donaldson (1894) and was substantially enhanced by gifts from Arthur F. Hill (portraits of musicians, 1917–39). As a whole the collection of iconography is of international importance in quality and musicological significance. The main classes of material are representations of musicians and music-making in works of art in portraits, prints, and photographs.

The musical instrument collection consists of over 1,000 items and comprehensively covers the production of British makers since the seventeenth century. It includes an exceptional collection of English viols that represents every important maker active in London between the late sixteenth and the early eighteenth centuries, as well as an extensive collection of over 400 British woodwind instruments. It also incorporates the large collection formed by Sir George Donaldson in the mid-nineteenth century – one of the oldest surviving collections of musical instruments in Britain, which includes the oldest

Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the RCM Senate, having regard to the interests of other museums and libraries.

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