Introducing the Wolfson Centre in Music and Material Culture
Royal College of Music Museum

November 2023
Richard Martin, Digital & Documentation Officer
Royal College of Music Museum
Part of the Royal College of Music, London

Royal College of Music
Albertopolis / Exhibition Road
South Kensington
Royal College of Music Museum
Re-opened October 2021

New gallery displaying instruments, artwork and manuscripts from late 15th century to modern era.
Interactivity including audio guide and family activity space.
Collection of 14,000+ items, c.150 on display in main gallery.
Royal College of Music Museum
Re-opened October 2021

Concerts

Weston Discovery Centre
Wolfson Centre in Music and Material Culture
Infrastructure

Climate-controlled storage for museum collections.

Conservation workshop
Infrastructure

Retrieval of museum collections to our South Kensington site
Opened September 2022

Object-based learning/teaching

Research facility

Digitisation
Wolfson Centre in Music & Material Culture

Materialising Musical Instruments

Hamburger cithrinchen (cittern), By Joachim Tielke, 1676

Portrait of a lady holding cittern, c.1790

Prof. Gabriele Rossi Rognoni
Chair of Music & Material Culture
Museum Curator
Materialising Musical Instruments

Materialising Musical Instruments is a multidisciplinary research project that engages with European Instruments from 1500 to 1600 from a material culture perspective focusing on their role as products of complex processes of manufacture, distribution, use and circulation to foster a better understanding of them as material objects and their contribution in the making of early modern musical soundscape.
Materialising Musical Instruments

Funded by the British Academy Leverhulme Small Research Grant (2021-2022), the project aims to situate early modern instruments within the larger framework of economic interconnections, cultural history of commodities and their production and dissemination.
Wolfson Centre in Music & Material Culture

PhD Programme Collaborative Development

Collaborative partnership in early stages between RCM, Sorbonne, Leipzig University, and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Part of four university courses in Europe which teach Music and Material Culture:

- aiming to formalise a European network in this area, with the Wolfson Centre as the main aggregator
- co-supervising dissertations across the universities
Music, Migration and Mobility

Base for development of exhibition *Music, Migration and Mobility - the story of émigré musicians from Nazi-Europe in Britain* (January – May 2023).

The exhibition explored the lives and legacies of émigré musicians who fled the Nazi regime and the ravages of war, and their contributions to musical life in the UK.

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the exhibition was part of a major RCM research project in collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London and University of Salzburg.

Learn more:
https://www.musicmigrationmobility.com/
Wolfson Centre in Music & Material Culture

Wolfson/DCMS - 3D Modelling Project
Enabling the creation of 3D printed models of historically important musical instruments from the collection, increasing outreach and engagement opportunities for visitors with additional needs and younger audiences as well as student musicians.
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On display

2D reproduction

3D reproduction prototype
Thank you!