

A letter of support to the **University of Nottingham Music Department** from the **Music Teachers' Association**

At the MTA, we were both shocked and dismayed to learn of the immediate suspension of undergraduate music recruitment at the University of Nottingham, alongside the proposal to permanently close their four Music degree courses. Such a decision threatens to undermine decades of tradition, excellence and leadership in music education.

As an alumna of the University, I am writing both personally and on behalf of the MTA with deep concern regarding these developments. My time studying music in Nottingham was transformative. I thrived academically and socially, serving as President of the student-led Music Society and engaging fully with many of the opportunities the department offered, including the excellent Philharmonia Orchestra. That experience profoundly shaped my life and career: after graduation, I spent 22 years as a classroom music teacher, including 15 as Director of Music in an independent boarding school. I remain close to many fellow University of Nottingham music alumni both socially, professionally and within the membership of the MTA, where I am now Head of Growth & Operations. My story, shared by countless others, underscores the **critical need for high-quality university courses across the UK, which sustain our future music educators and leaders.**

At the MTA, we welcomed recent revisions to the national curriculum, KS4 music content and Progress 8. These changes aim to tackle inequality in music education and are vital to the future of a thriving music sector. As specialists, we recognise how transformative music can be for young people; we applaud the government's commitment to expanding horizons and developing skills through enrichment activities, with music and the arts at the core.

However, this vision is under threat by the potential loss of well-established university music departments like Nottingham's, which provide essential pathways for aspiring musicians. **The closure of these courses will severely constrain the creation of talented music teachers and professionals needed to inspire future generations.**

We firmly believe that high-quality university music courses are vital to maintaining a thriving cultural and educational Arts landscape in the UK. Therefore, we urgently call upon the University of Nottingham and influential stakeholders to reconsider and reverse this decision. **If we fail to safeguard high-quality music degree courses, we will no longer have expert teachers and leaders to nurture future generations of musicians. We must act now to secure the future of music education.**



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Alumna of the University of Nottingham

