

The Ruth Ascher Piano Masterclass 2026
Saturday 22 November 2026
2:00-5:30pm
Radley College, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2HR

Ruth Ascher was a much loved, gifted pianist and teacher who died in 2010 at the age of 97. In her will she left a sum of money, which was used to establish the Ruth Ascher Piano Masterclass series for young pianists. Since then, a total of nine masterclasses have supported 29 young students, eleven of whom have participated two or even three times.

We are delighted to announce the tenth Masterclass in the series, supported by the European Piano Teachers Association (EPTA UK) and sponsored by The Berkshire Music Trust

This is a fantastic opportunity for young piano students of any grade to perform in front of an audience and be coached by the internationally recognised pianist and piano teacher, **Anthony Williams**.

Anthony is a professional pianist, teacher, adjudicator, music educator and ABRSM Examiner, as well as the current Chair of the European Piano Teachers Association. He was, for over 30 years, Head of Keyboard and Instrumental Music at Radley College until recently retiring to focus on his freelance and consultancy work.

Applications are invited from piano students aged 18 years or younger to participate in the Masterclass.

Requirements

There is no minimum grade requirement; we welcome all confident performers from early learners to experienced and advanced pianists.

All we ask is that participants...

- a. ...are confident, fluent and musical performers, able to cope with the pressure of a public performance
- b. ...can offer a choice of two contrasting pieces of repertoire for us to achieve a balanced programme on the day

Numbers of participants are limited, so if we are over-subscribed then other factors, such as their recent achievements or (at advanced level) the likelihood of them pursuing a career in music may be taken into account.

All applications should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the applicant's piano teacher confirming their suitability for the masterclass and providing us with any other relevant information. This information may be sent by mail or emailed and will be treated as a confidential communication between the teacher and the organising committee.

A fee of £25 will be charged, refundable if the application is not accepted. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 July 2026. All applicants will be offered several complimentary tickets to the masterclass.

All applicants will be notified as soon as possible after 31 July 2026 if they have been selected or not and which piece has been selected to play. Dress at the Masterclass will be optional.

THE RUTH ASCHER PIANO MASTERCLASS 2025
SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2026 2:00-5:30_{PM}
RADLEY COLLEGE, RADLEY, ABINGDON OX14 2HR

APPLICATION FORM

I wish to apply to participate in the Ruth Ascher Masterclass 2026

My details

Name (s)

Address:

.....

Tel: Email:

I have attained Grade:

My proposed pieces are:

1.....

2.....

Details of piano teacher

Name (s)

Please tick ONE box

- I attach a confidential letter of recommendation from my piano teacher (in a sealed envelope.)
- My piano teacher will email a confidential letter of recommendation
- I enclose a cheque for £25, payable to EPTA (UK)/A bank transfer of £25 has been made to EPTA (UK) using the payment details below (*delete which is not applicable*)

Payment details:

Account Name: CAF Bank, EPTA UK

Account Number: 00087986

Sort code: 40-52-40

Reference: Please use "RAPM" and your Name (e.g. "RAPM, John Smith")

Send by 31 July 2026 to:

Francis Hayes, 42 College Road, Reading RG6 1QB

Email: francisrhayes@hotmail.com