Letter to be closed to signatures at 17:00 BST on Thursday 22 July

Professor Jane Norman
Vice-Chancellor's Office
University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

22nd July 2026

Dear Professor Norman, Members of the University Council and Executive Board,

RE: Possible closure of Music Department and proposed new degree

We are writing as music educators working across the UK. We respectfully request that you reconsider the proposed closure of the Music Department at Nottingham.

We are currently seeing an increase in student numbers at GCSE across the UK and an upturn in the number of specialist music teachers in schools. This, together with the renewed commitment to music education in the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review (2025), demonstrates that there has never been a more important time for undergraduate music to be available. Furthermore, as students are increasingly choosing to pursue their degrees closer to home, it is vitally important that a cold spot for higher education in music is not created in the East Midlands.

Music at Nottingham has long been a crucial provider of music educators to both local and national contexts. Many of its graduates have gone on to nourish and lead music teaching regionally and to lead key organisations including the Music Teachers' Association, the largest and longest established association of music teachers in the UK.

We are also pleased to see the proposal for a BA in Music and Creative Industries, which engages the broadest cross-section of prospective music students. It connects traditional music training and new areas of research including Music and AI with preparation for professional life. It particularly speaks to those students who might have to make difficult choices between a vocational and academic music degree. The degree also follows neatly on from the outcomes of the Government's pilot Creative Careers Programme that improves young people's awareness of careers in the creative industries.

We believe that the Music Department at Nottingham holds a vital place in the wider fabric of the music education sector and that its closure would be deeply detrimental to the renewal of music education in the UK. We believe that a BA in Music and Creative Industries will be popular and fill a market gap for students seeking a Russell Group music degree and industry experience within their studies.

We hope you will properly consider the proposal you have been offered and recognise the important value that the Department of Music adds to our sector.

Yours sincerely,

Link to sign the letter here