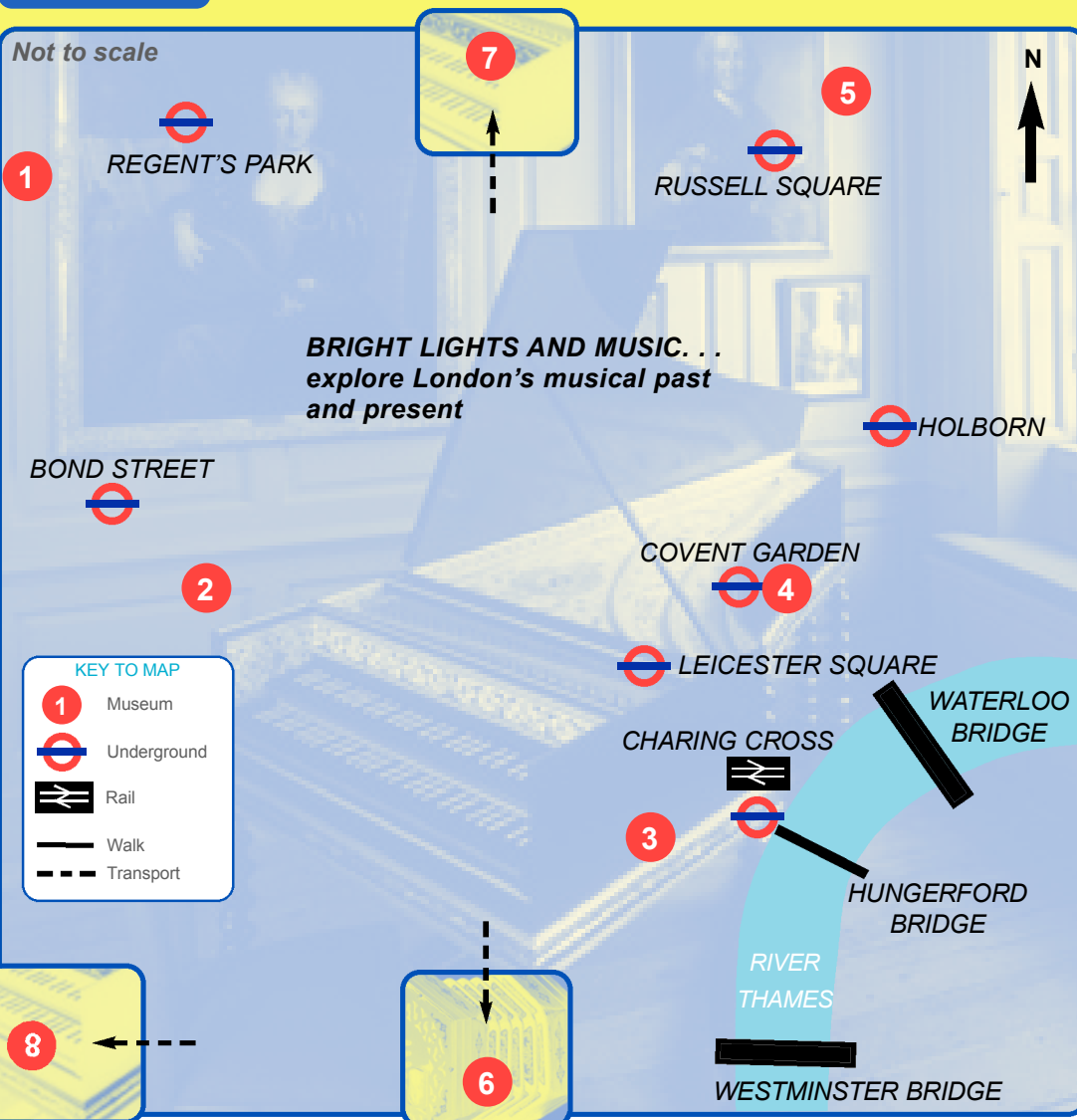


Not to scale



the campaign for museums

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND MUSIC...

Pick and choose for a half day or full day trail

This trail explores some of London's historic musical past as well as some more recent musical interludes. London's concert halls, opera houses, cathedrals and churches, rock venues and recording studios are world famous. Not surprisingly musical collections are widely dispersed but this trail will lead you to most of them.

Each of these venues adds a different strand to the story of music in London. The Royal Academy of Music Museum tells the story of musical instruments as well as musicians; it is still a world famous teaching venue. The Royal College of Music is in Kensington (not included in the tour) but worth checking the website for events (www.rcm.ac.uk).

At the Horniman Museum there is an outstanding collection of instruments from around the world and the fabulous Music Gallery means you can listen to some of them. At Fenton House, a wonderful selection of keyboard instruments is regularly in use. And at the new Musical Museum in Brentford a different story of musical instruments is told – self-playing organs and keyboard instruments. We have included some venues too, as well as two historic houses connected with the great composer Handel.

Complete your day by going to a concert in one of London's many concert halls.

- 1 Royal Academy of Music Museum
- 2 Handel House Museum
- 3 St Martin's in the Fields
- 4 Royal Opera House
- 5 Foundling Museum
- 6 Horniman Museum
- 7 Fenton House
- 8 Musical Museum, Brentford

...go to next page for addresses & summary

Royal Academy of Music

Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT
www.ram.ac.uk/museum
 Open: 1130-1730 Mon-Fri; 1200-1600 Sat, Sun
Tel: 020 7873 7373
 Musical instruments, images, artefacts, events, family activities

Handel House Museum

25 Brook Street, W1K 4HB
www.handelhouse.org
 Open: 1000-1800 Tue-Sat (1000-2000 Thurs),
 1200-1800 Sun, closed Mon Admission charge
Tel: 020 7495 1685
 Home of George Frideric Handel for 36 years

St Martin-in-the Fields

The Gallery in the Crypt
 Trafalgar Square, WC2
www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org
 Open: 1000-1800 daily
Tel: 020 7766 1100
 Famous musical church with gallery in the Crypt

Royal Opera House

Covent Garden, WC2
www.royaloperahouse.org.uk
 Open daily; tours at 1030, 1130, 1230, 1330,
 1430 daily
Tel: 020 7304 4000
 Admission charge
 Home to the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet companies

Foundling Museum

40 Brunswick Square WC1N 1AZ
www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk
 Open: Tues-Sat 1000-1800, Sun 1200-1800
Tel: 020 7841 3600
 Admission charge 16+
 The story of London's first home for abandoned children

Horniman Museum & Gardens

100 London Rd, London, SE23 3PQ
www.horniman.ac.uk
 Open: 1030-1730 Daily
Tel: 020 8699 1872

Fenton House

Hampstead Grove, Hampstead, London NW3 6SP
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
 Open: 2-5 Wed, Thu, Fri, 11-5 Sat, Sun.
Tel: 01494 755563
 Admission Charge

Musical Museum, Brentford

39 High Street
 Brentford TW8 0DU
www.musicalmuseum.co.uk
 Open Tues-Sun 11.00 - 17.30
Tel: 020 8560 8108
 Admission charge

CHILDREN'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Royal Academy of Music - Family play days and other activities

Handel House Museum - regular family weekend events

The Café in the Crypt at St Martins in the Fields welcomes children
Covent Garden - lively street performers in action

Foundling Museum - drop in events and family activities

Horniman Museum and Gardens - a treat for children of all ages - a chance to try out a range of musical instruments

Images
 Handel House Museum
 Royal Academy of Music
 Handel House - Harpsichord
 Horniman Museum - Concertina



BRIGHT LIGHTS AND MUSIC. . .

TRAIL SUMMARY

This trail starts at the **Royal Academy of Music's Museum**; just a stone's throw from Madam Tussaud's – this living museum of music showcases the Academy's musical past. From here, explore Handel's London – starting at the **Handel House Museum** in Mayfair just one hop on the tube from Baker Street; nearby in Hanover Square is St Georges Church where Handel worshipped and which is now home to the annual Handel Festival. Follow the Handel Trail to the **Foundling Museum** in Brunswick Square, partly funded by Handel. On the way you can take in two other important musical venues. **St. Martin's in the Fields** in Trafalgar Square is an important musical as well as religious landmark with regular concerts. In Covent Garden stands the **Royal Opera House**; the building is partly open to visitors on most days. From here, you can walk on to the Foundling Museum, or choose one of London to three suburban musical collections.

To the South is the **Horniman Museum** at Forest Hill with its outstanding collection of musical instruments in a recently redeveloped gallery which means you can listen to and handle some of the instruments.

To the North West at Hampstead is **Fenton House** with its collection of keyboard instruments in a National Trust property. And to the West the new **Musical Museum at Brentford** is a must for those interested in cinema organs and self-playing instruments of all kinds.

As yet, London has no pop and rock museum as such, but there are walks which takes you to places associated with recent pop history, such as Abbey Road and its studio in St. John's Wood and the Hard Rock Café in Piccadilly with its collection of rock memorabilia. Coincidentally, rock star Jimi Hendrix lived at 23 Brook Street, which is part of the Handel House Museum and has a small display of Hendrix photographs.

To enjoy music, there is a eclectic choice of venues and only a few can be mentioned here because of their history as much as their music: The Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank, impressively restored to its '50s glory; the Royal Albert Hall; and the historic Wigmore Hall, famous for launching singers and soloists.

Plan your own journey by visiting Transport for London's website www.tfl.gov.uk

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Start this trail Baker Street Underground Station. Walk along Euston Road past Madame Tussauds, till you reach the **Royal Academy of Music Museum**. This intimate museum of three floors is based on material from the Academy's extensive collections of instruments, archives, manuscripts and images. Most importantly, this is a 'living museum', acting as a showcase for the work of performers, composers, instrument makers and scholars from a wide range of musical and other relevant disciplines. On the first floor, the stringed instruments from the Academy's working collection narrate the lineage of 'Revolutionary Violinism'. This exhibition includes the craftsmanship of Cremonese makers usually including the 'Viotti ex-Bruce', which was famously saved for the nation in 2005. On the second floor, the 'Experimental Pianism' exhibition displays pianos from the early 19th century depicting the design ideals and dreams of keyboard-makers during the industrial revolution, resulting in the modern piano we know today. Regular public events, workshops and demonstrations on instruments take place in the galleries.

From here it is one stop on the underground from Baker Street to Oxford Circus, or you can walk, heading towards Oxford Street. From Oxford Circus walk (or get a bus or tube) to Bond Street, walk south to Brook Street and turn towards Grosvenor Square. You may wish to take quick look at the famous Square, dominated by the American Embassy on the west side. There is a permanent memorial garden in the Square opened in 2003 to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. There are also several memorials including one to Eisenhower and another to Roosevelt.

Back in Brook Street, visit the **Handel House Museum**, home to the baroque composer George

Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759 and where he composed his most famous works including *Messiah*. The museum is located on the upper floors of numbers 23 and 25 and the entrance is in Lancashire Court at the back of the museum. The house has been meticulously restored to the early Georgian interiors Handel would have known. Portraits of Handel and his contemporaries and artworks from the 18th-century, musical scores, instruments and changing exhibitions provide a real insight into the composer's life, his music and his time. There are live recitals every Thursday evening and regularly at the weekends. Musicians can often be seen rehearsing in Handel's music room during opening hours. For families there are trails, quizzes and weekend activities.

Return along Brook Street, cross New Bond Street and you arrive at Hanover Square and the fashionable **St George's Church** where Handel was a parishioner and played the organ. The church is a favourite venue for society weddings and among those married there were the Duke of Sussex, 6th son of George III, Benjamin Disraeli, Theodore Roosevelt, H H Asquith and George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans).

Your options now are to take one of the many buses from Regent Street down to Trafalgar Square or to walk along St George's Street, Old Burlington Street, through the Burlington Arcade to Piccadilly, past the Royal Academy and along Haymarket to **St Martin-in-the-Fields** overlooking Trafalgar Square. With one of the finest musical reputations in the world, this church has played host to some of the greatest musicians: Handel played on its first organ and Mozart is said to have given a concert in the church. Lunchtime recitals normally take place Monday, Tuesday and Friday and candelit concerts

normally on Thursday to Saturday. Book in advance for the latter.

The Church has recently completed a £36m restoration project revealing the stunning interior in a new light. Some work is still continuing in the Crypt but the Café and London Brass Rubbing Centre in the ancient stone vaults of the Crypt have now reopened.

Walk along The Strand and turn into Covent Garden from Southampton Street. In the north corner of the piazza, you will see the **Royal Opera House**. This reopened after refurbishment in 2000 with a new extension in what was previously Covent Garden's Floral Hall. A second auditorium and rehearsal rooms as well as bars and a café were added. It started its life as a playhouse for serious musicals beginning with the operas of Handel. Regular tours through the day offer a unique glimpse behind the scenes, including an introduction to the colourful history of the theatre, an insight into the recent re-development of the Royal Opera House and a look at aspects of current productions.

Exit the Royal Opera House towards Long Acre and turn right towards Kingsway and then left to Holborn Underground Station. You can get the tube here to Russell Square but it's just as easy to continue north along Southampton Row and then turn right into Guildford Street. Hunter Street on the left leads to Brunswick Square and the final stop on the Handel section of our trail.

The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children and of three major figures in British history: its campaigning founder the philanthropist Thomas Coram, the artist William

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Hogarth and the composer George Frideric Handel. This remarkable collection of art, period interiors and social history is now housed in a restored and refurbished building adjacent to the original site of the Hospital, demolished in 1926. Handel was a Governor and benefactor of the Foundling Hospital, and annual performances of *Messiah* provided vital sources of income for the Hospital. In addition to the score and parts of *Messiah* bequeathed to the Hospital by Handel, the Museum now holds the Gerald Coke Handel Collection, an internationally important collection of material relating to Handel and his contemporaries. There are changing exhibitions, concerts and events at the Museum.

From here, there are several options:

1 The **Horniman Museum** at Forest Hill is best reached by frequent “overground” train from Charing Cross or London Bridge. It’s just a 15 minute journey and a short walk up the hill to this 100 year old museum founded by the tea merchant Frederick Horniman.

Part of the Horniman’s internationally renowned collection of over 8,000 musical instruments and objects is displayed in a dynamic new gallery, featuring instruments from around the world including a number of prestigious collections from western traditions including the Carse Collection of brass and woodwind instruments, the Dolmetsch Collection of early English keyboards, and the Wayne Collection of concertinas. The Horniman added the Story of Boosey & Hawkes to its collection in 2003 illustrating 150 years of instrument making. The museum also features pre-eminent collections of instruments from Africa and Asia, with ensembles acquired recently in Nigeria and West Cameroon, plus a wide range of instruments from Uzbekistan, India and China.

You can hear the sound of many of the instruments at sound stations. The chance to play music is also available, with a hands on space complete with specially commissioned instruments. There are special exhibitions, concerts and events for all the family. Until November 2nd 2008 it will be showing a new exhibition of instruments commissioned from makers in India since the year 2000 in various regions of India, from Punjab to Kerala, together with a range of films showing performance highlights.

2 The second option takes this trail to Hampstead and **Fenton House**. From the Underground Station walk up Holly Hill to Frognal and Hampstead Grove. This attractive late 17th-century house contains an outstanding collection of porcelain, 17th-century needlework pictures and Georgian furniture, and the Benton Fletcher collection of early keyboard instruments, most of which are in working order. The delightful walled garden includes fine displays of roses, an orchard and a working kitchen garden. The property is now managed by the National Trust.

The Benton Fletcher Collection includes harpsichords, clavichords, virginals, spinets and pianos, all of which are kept in playing order. Music students may audition to play (by arrangement) and the curator gives occasional tours of the instruments.

3 The third option on this trail is to head west to Brentford and the new **Musical Museum**. Take the “overground” train from London Waterloo to Kew Bridge (about 25 min); turn right and walk along Kew Bridge Road to the Museum (ten minutes).

The Musical Museum opened in its new premises in 2007. It houses the collection of Frank Holland which was previously on limited display in a nearby

church. The Musical Museum contains one of the world’s foremost collections of automatic instruments, collected by Frank Holland over many years. From the tiny clockwork Musical Box to the self playing ‘Mighty Wurlitzer’, the collection embraces an impressive and comprehensive array of sophisticated reproducing pianos, orchestrions, orchestrelles, residence organs and violin players. This is a treasure trove for anyone interested in self-playing instruments, many of which are playable. The displays show some of the larger as well as smaller instruments and explain how the music was captured and then replayed.

The Museum also has a unique collection of 30,000 music rolls. There is a concert hall with regular performances on the Mighty Wurlitzer, a café and a shop.

The fourth option, rock and pop, is harder to achieve as London currently has no museum of contemporary music. There are walking tours of famous rock and pop spots in London; or take the tube to Abbey Road and head for the Abbey Road Studios where stars of the past and of today record. The pedestrian crossing is famous the world over from the Beatles’ record cover. And failing a museum collection, head for the Hard Rock Café in Piccadilly and its shop full of pop memorabilia.

The British Music Experience – a history of popular music from 1945 – will open at the O2 (Greenwich) in the Spring of 2009. www.theo2.co.uk

End your musical day at one of the many concerts on offer in London.