



# Buildings Award

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★ **Winner**

## Hoare Lea - Radley College

The Radley College Music School project delivered a major extension and refurbishment of the existing facilities, creating a unified contemporary home for performance, teaching and practice. Acoustic performance was established as a primary design driver from the outset, with the scheme shaped around the specific functional and acoustic identities required for each space.

Early workshops with the Head of Music, combined with benchmarking of the outdated existing facilities, helped define the desired subjective and operational outcomes. These insights were translated into bespoke acoustic criteria for each room type, guiding the design across a complex mix of retained historic fabric and new construction.

The completed development includes a wide range of specialist spaces: the refurbished Silk Hall for concerts and large ensemble rehearsals; a new Recital Hall for smaller performances and lectures; professional standard recording studios; music classrooms used for chamber rehearsal; and a variety of individual and group practice rooms. Carefully considered ancillary and circulation spaces support these core areas, creating a coherent environment for both performance and education.

Close collaboration between the acoustics team, the client and the wider design team was central to the project's success. Acoustic requirements were embedded early in the architectural and engineering process, ensuring they shaped the design rather than being treated as an add on. Particular attention was given to coordinating building services and infrastructure to avoid compromising performance, especially in sensitive recording and performance spaces where noise control and isolation were critical.

Client feedback highlighted the transformative impact of the new facility. The Head of Music described the "*incredible impact*" of the project, noting students' enthusiasm and the significant enhancement of musical experience across the school. The acoustics of Silk Hall were singled out for particular praise, while new rehearsal and piano rooms were described as elevating musical outcomes.

Judges recognised the strength of the user focused approach, the value of early engagement and the successful coordination of complex acoustic requirements. They noted that while the technical demands may appear typical of music school design, the real achievement lay in the depth of collaboration and the clarity of client satisfaction.

## Acoustic Awards 2026





These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.