



# THE RLJ FOUNDERS' CHARTER

*A Public Declaration of Purpose, Standards, and Legacy*

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## Preamble

**Let it be known that The RLJ Music Academy was founded not merely to teach music,  
but to restore discipline, dignity, and cultural ownership to the creative arts.**

**This Charter stands as a declaration of intent —  
for this generation, and those yet to come.**

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## Article I — Purpose

**The purpose of the RLJ Music Academy is to:**

- **Refine the individual**
- **Connect the collective**
- **Inspire the world**

**We exist to develop competent,  
grounded, and culturally aware creative  
artists,  
capable of contributing meaningfully to  
society and sustaining long-term  
careers.**

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**Article II — What We Build**

**The RLJ Music Academy builds:**

- **Systems, not shortcuts**

- **Standards, not trends**
- **Institutions, not personalities**
- **Legacy, not dependency**

**We do not chase visibility.  
We build structures that endure.**

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#### **Article III — Culture & Ownership**

**Culture is not raw material to be  
extracted.**

**It is:**

- **Learned**
- **Protected**

- **Owned**
- **Passed on with care**

**All methods, language, and frameworks developed within the RLJ ecosystem are treated as cultural infrastructure, not disposable content.**

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#### **Article IV — Standards**

#### **We believe:**

- **Time is more important than notes**
- **Conviction matters more than volume**
- **Discipline precedes freedom**

- **Mastery is earned, not claimed**

**All who teach, represent, or lead within this institution are held to clear, measurable standards.**

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#### **Article V — Access & Responsibility**

**The RLJ Music Academy exists to create access with responsibility.**

**Opportunity is paired with:**

- **Discipline**
- **Accountability**
- **Service to the collective**

**No position within the Academy is granted by entitlement alone.**

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## **Article VI — Community & Lineage**

**We recognise that we stand on the shoulders of those before us.**

**This institution is committed to:**

- Intergenerational learning**
- Cultural continuity**
- Building pathways for future leaders**

**We prepare artists not only for stages, but for stewardship.**

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## **Article VII — Independence & Integrity**

**The RLJ Music Academy maintains independence from forces that dilute purpose.**

**We value:**

- **Long-term thinking over quick gain**
- **Integrity over popularity**
- **Clarity over compromise**

**Partnerships are entered with respect, transparency, and shared values.**

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**Article VIII — The Founding Oath**

**All founders, leaders, and certified representatives affirm:**

***“I serve the standard, not my ego.  
I protect the culture, not exploit it.  
I build for those I will never meet.”***

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#### **Article IX — Continuity**

**This Charter shall guide the Academy  
across generations.**

**While methods may evolve,  
purpose, standards, and integrity shall  
remain unchanged.**

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#### **Closing Declaration**

**This Charter is issued as a living  
document —  
to be upheld in action, not merely  
words.**



**The RLJ Music Academy is not a  
moment.  
It is a lineage.**

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 Founder 

**Rick Leon James  
Founder & Custodian  
The RLJ Music Academy**