

**Martin Read
Foundation**

FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Celebrating Martin – 10 years on:

The Death of Colonel Boles

a cantata for double choir, baritone, cello, recorder quintet & drum.

Performed in the very church where this Civil War murder occurred.

'I have lost the bravest man this kingdom ever saw'



AltonDigitalImage

Supporting young composers:

MRF award-holders: Joel, Josh, Felix and William *photo above* new pieces for solo cello on the theme of **War**

MRF alumni:

new music for Flexible Ensemble, and a new choral piece by **Freddie Hodkin** *photo*



Performers to include:

Joseph Spooner cello, **Paul Sheehan** bass-baritone, choral groups from **Commotio** & **Southern Voices**, **David Gibson** conductor.

Kindly supported by:



'Thank you so much for what you do, it really does change young lives!' **Jakki Faye**, parent.

CONCERT:
Sunday 23rd April,
St Lawrence Church,
Alton, 7.30pm

www.martinreadfoundation.org

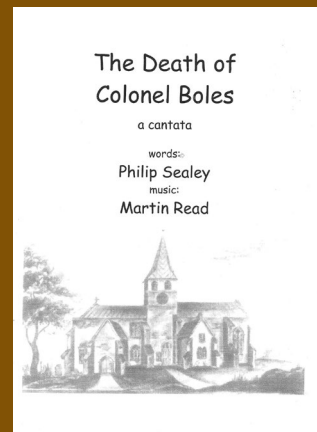
Join the **Audience,**

or **Participate:**

sing in the choir & / or play in the flexible ensemble & perform in the concert.

Rehearsals from 12noon.

Concert ends by 9.30pm.



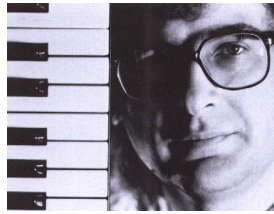
**MARTIN READ
FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING YOUNG
COMPOSERS**

Reg. charity no. 1156661
www.martinreadfoundation.org

Patrons:

Howard Skempton
Gwyneth Herbert
Judith Weir CBE

MRF Festival 2023
Sunday April '23rd, 7.30pm,
St Lawrence Church,
Church Street, Alton,
Hampshire



Martin Read Foundation
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established 2014
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About the Festival:

We're aiming high this academic year to mark Martin's 10th anniversary.

The focus of the Festival will be a performance of Martin's: *The Death of Colonel Boles*. While many of the MRF Annual Festivals have taken place in Alton, where Martin Read taught music for so many years, Festival '23 links contemporary composition with a unique historical event in Alton town center. Established in 2014 in the wake of Martin's premature death, 2012, MRF has so far supported over 15 young composers, setting them on a path to the undergraduate study of composition. The festival is the annual culmination of the Foundation's work.

Having arrived in Alton in 1981, Martin spent his working life inspiring countless young local people through his teaching of music at Eggars School and at Alton College. In this 10th year since his death, the focus of this special annual festival is to be Martin's highly acclaimed *Cantata: The Death of Colonel Boles*, c.25 mins. This is his setting of the true story of the murder of Colonel Boles in St Lawrence Church in 1643 during the Civil War's Battle of Alton.

Commissioned as part of Hampshire's Millennium celebrations, and premiered in St Lawrence in 2000, this 2023 performance of the *Cantata* will take place on that same spot where the Civil War murder took place. The work is scored for double choir, baritone solo (representing Boles), solo cello, recorder ensemble and solo drum. Performance '23 will follow in the footsteps of the popular Sealed Knot re-enactment of the Battle of Alton, April '22.

MRF-awarded young composers: 4, aged 16 - 17, have been awarded for 2023: Joe, Josh, Felix & William. They each live and, or study in Hampshire, and have been commissioned to write a short work each for solo cello, the focus for which will be War, past or current.

MRF alumni are also submitting new pieces:

- Freddie Hodkin, Cornish-based composer, ex Alton College - *Lorem Ipsum*, a short choral piece,
- A piece for Flexible Ensemble - composer TBA.

Performers:

The core of the choir will be from Oxford-based *Commotio*, joined by members of Winchester-based *Southern Voices* and local singers.

Professional musicians: Joseph Spooner - solo cello, Paul Sheenan - Baritone (ENO chrus) in the role of *Boles*, David Gibson - conductor, with a recorder group & drummer.

Joseph Spooner will also feature as the *Performer in Residence* for the MRF award-holders.

