

Martin Read Foundation
supporting young composers

We are excited to announce our **Award Scheme for young composers 2027.**

Are you an aspiring composer aged 14 to 17?
Find out more here:

Every year, [Martin Read Foundation](https://www.martinreadfoundation.org) (MRF) selects up to 4 young composers to receive an award, provides them with a composition commission and provides composition support.

THE COMMISSION

We are very excited to partner with the [Southampton Classical Guitar Society](https://www.southamptonclassicalguitarsociety.co.uk) for our 2027 scheme, and that [Mark Eden](https://www.markeden.co.uk) (pictured), classical guitarist, will be our performer-in-residence. Each successful applicant to the scheme will be commissioned to write a short piece (3 - 4 minutes performance time), for solo classical guitar, to be premiered by Mark Eden in our Annual Festival, April 25th 2025, Winchester, Hampshire.



COMPOSITION SUPPORT

Composition-mentors:

Each award-holder will be introduced to a MRF mentor-composer. Their award will fund around 3 individual lessons in composition with that mentor through the Spring Term.

Workshops:

Award-holders will attend 2 workshops:

In mid-January there will be an *Introduction to writing for classical guitar*, with Mark Eden. This will be in Winchester on a Sunday.

Part-way into the composing stage, at the end of February, the *Mid-Points* of the pieces will be workshopped with Mark Eden at the same venue in Winchester, on a Sunday.

Annual Festival:

MRF award holders must commit to participating in this event, Sunday 25th April, Parish Rooms and St Lawrence Church, Winchester, Hampshire. A first performance will be given of each award-holder's piece, and a recording will be provided for the award-holder's use to promote themselves as a composer.

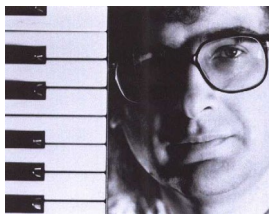
Award-holders are expected to make the most of the Festival opportunities to sing in the Festival choir and / or to play new works by MRF alumni and / or other contemporary composers.

TO APPLY for an MRF AWARD, you must be between ages 14 & 17 during this academic year...

Go to: www.martinreadfoundation.org

On the opening page: *News and Events*, click **REGISTRATION**.

You will be asked to consent to MRF holding your contact details. If you do, please continue with the form and write a short description telling us a bit about you, your aspirations and how you would hope to use any funds, your compositional experience so far and how you heard about MRF.



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You will need to submit the following items:

- **2 contrasting compositions**, each up to 3 minutes in length. *Please send us your 2 best recent pieces, either complete pieces or substantial works in progress so we can get to know you as a composer. These do not necessarily need to be pieces for classical guitar, although if you've written any such pieces, you might like to submit one.*
- **A reference from your music teacher** who is aware of your interest in composition. *As the deadline is during the Christmas holiday, be sure to request this of your teacher during term-time.*

Application DEADLINE: noon Monday 28th December 2026.

Awards will be confirmed by MRF panel in early January '27. Selected applicants will be put in touch with a suitable mentor-composer and will receive a bursary to fund lessons in composition and certain travel costs to MRF events. The bursary is not to be used for accommodation.

Award-holders must commit to attending the following events:

Thurs. 7 th January	<u>Introductions and Welcome</u> – for award-holders led by MRF mentors. VENUE: On-line TIMES: 18.30 – 19.00
Sunday 17 th January	<u>Introduction to writing for classical guitar</u> with Mark Eden, MRF award holders & founder trustee. VENUE: 7, Gladstone Street, Winchester SO23 8TQ TIMES: 19.30 – 20.30 JOINING ON-LINE: MRF trustees & mentors.
Sunday 28 th February	<u>Mid-Points Workshop</u> on award-holders' initial ideas for their commissions, with Mark Eden, MRF award-holders & founder trustee, VENUE: 7, Gladstone Street, Winchester SO23 8TQ TIMES: 16.00 – 18.00 JOINING ON-LINE: MRF trustees & mentors.
Sunday 28 th March	Final submissions of guitar pieces to MRF, allowing time for Mark Eden to rehearse.
Sunday 25 th April	<u>Annual Festival</u> VENUE St Lawrence Church , Winchester TIMES: 12.00noon – 8pm

We look forward to receiving your application.

For further information about MRF and its scheme supporting young composers,
please see www.martinreadfoundation.org
Any queries please email beccy@martinreadfoundation.org