



Martin Read Foundation
supporting young composers

We are excited to announce...

MRF Award Scheme & Commission, 2026.

If you are a composer aged between 14 and 17 read on...

THE COMMISSION

This year we will be commissioning our awarded composers to create **new works for string quartet**. We are very pleased to be partnering again this year with the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music, London (RCMJD). The events in the first part of this scheme will take place in London, at RCM's rehearsal rooms and performance hall.

Each successful awarded young composer will be commissioned to write a short piece (maximum two minutes performance time), for string quartet, to be performed by London Chamber Ensemble Quartet.

The writing may include extended techniques, but these must not involve harming the instruments in any way. Selection of the successful applicants in early January '26 will be followed by an introduction to string quartet by [London Chamber Ensemble Quartet](#). The award will fund individual lessons in composition from a designated MRF mentor-composer.

The pieces will be workshopped in mid-February along with pieces by the RCM Junior Department composers. The premieres of all the pieces will be at a concert at RCM in March. A recording will be made of each premiere and provided to the award-holder. All events at RCM will be on Saturdays.



artwork: Gill Robinson

Included with the Scheme is the MRF *Come and Sing – Come and Play* Festival day – on Sunday April 19th at St Lawrence Church, Alton, Hampshire. This is the second part of the scheme and will feature a second performance of the compositions by our award-holders '26, pieces by MRF alumni, and pieces by other contemporary composers.

Ahead of all the in-person events under this scheme, by way of introduction. MRF mentors will meet with you and your cohort of award-holders on Zoom, in early January.

TO APPLY for an MRF AWARD, if you will be between 14 & 17 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.

You will then need to submit 3 documents:

- **2 contrasting compositions**, each maximum 3 mins length.
- **A reference from a music teacher** who is aware of your interest in composition

Please send us your best recent pieces, either complete pieces or substantial works in progress so we can get to know you as a composer. These do not need to have been composed for string quartet.

DEADLINE for receipt of applications - end of Friday 26th December 2025.



Martin Read Foundation
supporting young composers

Awards will be decided by MRF panel and confirmed in early January '26. Those awarded 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.

Awarded young composers must commit to attend the following events:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Thurs. Jan. 8 th | Welcome and Introduction to MRF– Zoom, for MRF people only: award-holders, mentors and trustees.
TIMES: 6.30 – 7pm |
| Sat. Jan. 17 th | <u>Introduction to writing for strings</u> with LCEQ and MRF mentors for RCMJD composers and MRF award-holders.
VENUE: RCM, Room TBC. Meet at reception.
Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS
TIMES: 4 – 5pm |
| Sat. Feb. 7 th | <u>Mid-points workshop</u> with LCEQ and mentors on the developing commissions, for RCMJD composers and MRF award-holders.
VENUE: RCM, Room TBC. Meet at reception.
Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS
TIMES: 4 – 5pm |
| Sat. Feb. 28 th | <u>Final submissions</u> of string quartet compositions, by the end of the day. |
| Sat. March 21 st | <u>Contemporary Concert</u> including premieres of the string quartet compositions.
VENUE: Performance Hall, Royal College of Music
Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS
TIMES: 2.30 – 5pm – rehearsal of string quartet compositions.
5.15pm – concert. |
| Sun. April 19 th | <u>Annual Festival</u> with Come and Sing / Come and Play,
VENUE: St Lawrence Church, Alton, Hampshire (TBC)
TIMES: Day time & evening. |

We look forward to receiving your application.

Further information about MRF, how it supports young composers is at:

www.martinreadfoundation.org

Any queries, please use the contact form:

www.martinreadfoundation.org/mrf-contact