



Martin Read Foundation
Annual Festival '24
presents...

Come & Sing – Come & Play

Sunday 28th April
Martin Read Hall
Alton College GU34 2HU



Artwork:
with grateful thanks to
Gill Robinson www.gill-robinson.co.uk

Workshops:

- 11:00 – 12.30 Flexible Ensemble - directed by Pande Shahov
- 1:00 – 2.30 Festival Choir – directed by Pande Shahov
- 3:00 – 4.00 Percussion workshop - led by Toril Azzalini-Machecler.

Audience welcome from:

- 4:30 – 5.30 Composers and performers in conversation, masterclass-style. Discussions on the pieces by our award-holders & alumni, facilitated by our composer-mentors.
- 5:30 – 6.30 PICNICS and bar - *donations to MRF*. Find a spot in the Forum Grounds or, if the weather is unfavourable, in the Martin Read Hall.
- 6.30pm Festival Concert: Toril will give a recital of the 4 award-holders' pieces for percussion and each of today's 3 workshops will perform, announcing their pieces.

Welcome...

to this 10th year of the MRF scheme supporting composers, and associated events.



L to R: Simon Speare – composer-mentor, Albert, Charlie, Joe & Will – award-holders, Dame Judith Weir – patron & Freddie Hodkin – trustee.

In the Spring Term, we were thrilled to form a partnership with Royal College of Music Junior Department and through this to provide highly valued support and inspiration to our 4 award-holders. This culminated in their pieces being premiered by Cameron Sinclair, Head of Percussion.

Dame Judith Weir, our patron, said:

...it was an immaculately organised and thought-through event, and it was a pleasure to hear the RCMJD director immediately say that she would like to repeat the project, a true endorsement from a musical institution with the very highest standards.

I am hopeful about the future of music education

because I have the great encouragement of seeing enterprises like MRF constantly at work to keep the channels open for students of all backgrounds, hard work though it of course is. But also so enjoyable to see and hear a concert such as (this) and sense all the activity behind it. Bravo to all who were involved - I'm looking forward to the next chapter!

Come & Sing – Come & Play...

is an opportunity for us all to explore and celebrate contemporary music, to provide a platform for our alumni and to hear again those new pieces by this year's award-holders.

We are thrilled to have performing for us and running a percussion workshop: Toril Azzalini-Machecler, BBC Young Musician finalist 2020.

Each of today's 3 workshop groups will give a performance at the early evening concert: Their concert items will be announced during the concert.

The 4 pieces for percussion are by our award-holders Albert Heathfield, Joe Jolliffe, Charlie Jones & Will Sharps. Programme notes on these pieces are below.

Thank you for joining our Festival event today. We hope to see you next year!

Beccy J. Read Trustee

Concert items:

Percussion Workshop group – directed by Toril Azzalini-Machecler

Mace by Albert Heathfield, award-holder – performed by Toril Azzalini-Machecler

Flexible Ensemble – directed by Pande Shahov, pieces by Pernille Faye Felix Sladen-Jewell – alumni and Astor Piazzola.

Elixir by Will Sharps, award-holder – performed by Toril Azzalini-Machecler

Collision by Charlie Jones, award-holder – performed by Toril Azzalini-Machecler

Festival Choir – directed by Pande Shahov & Ella Laughton, pieces by Ella and by Alison Willis

Evolution by Joe Jolliffe, award-holder – performed by Toril Azzalini-Machecler

Finale...

Festival Choir + audience:

On the Steps of the Buttercross, Martin Read 2000, words by Wendy Cope, with jazz group – Susannah Wettone, Ella Laughton, Claire Woodhead, Ben Whiteside & piano – Alex Ling, directed by Pande Shahov.

CHORUS after verses 1 & 2:

I will give you the rivers
and the high rolling downs,
I will give you the villages
and the old market towns,
I will give you the forest
and the road to the sea,
if you'll come and spend you life –
in Hampshire with me.

CHORUS after verse 3:

I will treasure your rivers
and your high rolling downs,
your churches, your villages
and your old market towns,
and we'll teach our little ones
to treasure them too,
while I'm growing old and grey -
in Hampshire with you!

A bit about those involved...

Toril Azzalini-Machecler - performer-in-residence: Toril is a percussionist and composer and an undergraduate student at the Royal College of Music. In 2020 he reached the Percussion Finals in BBC Young Musician, where he was praised for his performance of Aperghis's *Le Corps a Corps*. Toril was the winner of the Sussex Young Musician competition 2020 and won first prize in his category in the Medici International Competition.

Albert Heathfield - award-holder '24: *Mace*

Mace is a piece written for solo percussion that is roughly 2 minutes and 45 seconds in length. It features a large diversity of rhythmic ideas and sonic textures, making use of every instrument seen in this particular percussion setup, and two different types of mallets. The name 'Mace' refers to a weapon of the Middle Ages, a kind of bludgeon, and is reminiscent of the aggressive feel of the piece.

Joe Jolliffe - award-holder '23 & '24: *Evolution*

Joe says: *My piece develops a main melodic and rhythmic theme, evolving from being untuned-percussion dominated to ending in a long cadenza-like solo vibraphone passage, hence the choice of the name "evolution". I have found writing for this challenging instrumentation very enriching, and have enjoyed taking part in the Martin Read Foundation award for a second year. I feel privileged to have composed for such a skilled soloist*

Charlie Jones - award-holder '24: *Collision*

Charlie says: *My piece, Collision, explores a range of rhythmic and harmonic ideas using a limited instrumentation. I was very inspired by natural themes such as rainforests and the environmental factors impacting them. This piece represents the conflict between our natural world, and the human impact on it. Writing Collision was a truly inspirational experience, and one which has given me insight into an unfamiliar area of the world of percussion.*

Will Sharps - award-holder '24: *Elixir*

Will says: *I wrote Elixir whilst experimenting with the different sounds, textures and contrasts available with this wide range of percussion instruments. Throughout I have tried to move between different moods and feelings within changing settings exploring changes in tempo, harmony and, of course, instrumentation. I am so excited to present Elixir and hear it performed at such a great place.*

Felix Sladen-Jewell - award-holder '23. Felix said of his award: *The scheme exceeded my expectations greatly as I did not expect to get this quality of mentoring and performance.* He has accepted an offer to study undergraduate composition at the Royal College of Music from Sept. '24. *Congratulations, Felix!*

Ella Laughton - award-holder '22. Ella said of her award: *To anyone considering applying I would say go for it! The MRF has created a fantastic community that I feel privileged to be a part of.* She is currently studying composition at the Royal Northern College of music.

Pernille Faye - award-holder '21 & '22. Pernille says: *I (was) awarded a scholarship to study composition at the Royal College of Music (from) 2021. MRF has been a massive help in getting me to where I am today and I will always be so grateful for all of the support I've received.*

Dr Pande Shahov - director of ensembles: Pande's music has been performed by the Macedonian and Skopia Philharmonic Orchestras, Macedonian National Opera Orchestra, Cabrillo Festival Orchestra and New London Chamber Choir. He is a Director of Music at Alton School, and at the Royal College of Music. www.pandeshahov.info

Simon Speare - composer mentor: Simon is the Head of Composition and Contemporary Music at the RCM Junior Department. He teaches composition at The Purcell School and has lectured and examined at universities and conservatoires. He is an experienced leader of workshops in schools and colleges and an experienced adjudicator and has been a judge for the British Composer Awards. www.simonspeare.co.uk

Dr Alison Willis - composer mentor: Ali is a composer and educator based in the East of England. Loves all things medieval, forgotten voices and English folk song. www.alisonwillis.com

Martin Read Foundation

Trustees: Tom Armstrong, Freddie Hodkin, Alex Ling, Beccy Read, Simon Speare & Alison Willis.

Patrons: Gwyneth Herbert, Howard Skempton and Dame Judith Weir.

We hope you enjoyed this year's Festival!

Funds are needed to ensure the continuation of this unique support for young composers.

Please consider donating either a one-off amount or, preferably, by regular direct debit.
MRF acc. no.: 67199909 · sort code: 08-92-99 www.martinreadfoundation.org

Thank you.