



[Rachel Dadd](#)

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[My five Biggest Influences](#)

Martin Read - my A-level music teacher

Martin was a super cool teacher with massive hair that would bounce about with his enthusiastic head bobbing. He had a love of things not on the curriculum. He'd have the class set up speakers and swing microphones between them to create feedback patterns, and once persuaded John Tavener to come and do a recital for us at the college, where he shared the piano stool and did a piano duet with him, with a massive grin on his face. He introduced me to Steve Reich and John Cage which has shown me how I can use counter rhythm and place objects on the piano strings to change the sound. He was the first person who got me singing my own songs on stage. He grouped me together with the best musicians on my course and then had us performing during the interval at every jazz band concert. I wish he was still alive for me to say this directly to him: Martin thank you from the very bottom of my heart and soul, for showing me that music is not something prescribed and contained within a set of rules, but something unbound and free.