

Ernest Chui – award-holder '26



Being able to learn from a mentor outside of my composition lessons was an immense privilege, Pande (Shahov, my mentor,) proposed suggestions that my composition teacher (at school) and I would not normally come up with, and thanks to his advice I found myself able to approach composition from a wider variety of perspectives via playing themes on the violin, listening and extracting my favourite aspects from new repertoire. I was also very fortunate getting to know the other award holders during the last several months, and I have benefited

tremendously from listening to feedback on their pieces during workshops and rehearsals, as well as how they are inspired to write their string quartets. It is always fascinating to see how different composers respond to the same brief! Hearing *Rewind!!!* performed live by LCEQ was incredible as I will always cherish hearing my pieces performed live by professional musicians, to build a relationship with them through workshops and rehearsals, and to receive their invaluable feedback (not to mention having your piece performed in front of a composer as distinguished as Dame Judith Weir!).

I would like to extend immense gratitude to Pande, Beccy, Simon, Tom, Ali, the MRF trustees and LCEQ for this Unforgettable opportunity!