

Alex Laing began his musical education at the Edinburgh Academy and later at St Mary's Music School where he studied violin with Warren Jacobs. Alex is a graduate of Cambridge University and held one of the University's prestigious Instrumental Awards. Thereafter, he gained the Diploma of Professional Studies in Music Performance at Birmingham Conservatoire, where his violin studies continued with Jacqueline Ross, and later with Peter Thomas and Michael Bochmann.

Alex is founder and artistic director of the Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra (DECO), now in its tenth season. The orchestra specialises in accessible classical music, drawing large audiences across all generations. Alex has appeared as soloist with DECO in Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante* and in both the Bach double violin concerto and the double violin and oboe concerto (with George Caird).

Alex's main roles are as conductor and educator. From 2011-2016 he was Musical Director and Conductor of the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain East Region and he continues to act as a violin tutor and conductor on NCO courses. His violin students have won scholarships to leading conservatoires, are prize winners in the UK and abroad and are members of the NCO and of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Alex has a strong love of chamber music and enjoys passing this on to young people both at school and at the Royal College of Music Junior Department where he also teaches violin. His students have regularly been top prize winners in The Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival. Alex's articles on violin teaching are published in magazines for the European String Teachers Association. His reviews on music and education appear regularly in the *Strad* magazine.

From 2010-2017 Alex was Head of Strings at Uppingham School. He is now Artistic Director (Music) at the King's High School in Warwick where he oversees the musical education of children aged 3 to 18. He also conducts the Warwick Independent Schools Foundation Symphony Orchestra.