

Alex Laing is a conductor, violinist, teacher and writer. He is recognised as one of the finest educators in the country.

Alex is Artistic Director (Music) at the King's High School in Warwick, where he oversees music provision for children aged 3-18 and conducts the Warwick Independent Schools Foundation Symphony Orchestra. He also conducts the newly founded regional string orchestra for Warwickshire Music Hub.

Alex is a conductor and violin tutor for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain (NCO), conductor of the NCO Easterlies and has also acted as conductor and course director for the National Youth String Orchestra of Great Britain. He is a former Head of Strings at Uppingham School and a former professor at the Royal College of Music in the Junior Department. His students are scholarship and prize-winners both at home and abroad and are members of NCO and of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Alex began his musical education at the Edinburgh Academy and later at St Mary's Music School where he studied violin with Warren Jacobs. He then went to Cambridge University to read music, where he held one of the University's prestigious Instrumental Awards. After graduation, Alex went on to Birmingham Conservatoire, where his violin studies continued with Jacqueline Ross and he gained the Diploma of Professional Studies in Music Performance. He has also studied with Peter Thomas and Michael Bochmann.

Alex is founder and artistic director of the Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra (DECO), which recently celebrated its tenth birthday. The orchestra specialises in accessible classical music, drawing large audiences **from** 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 and the double violin and oboe

Alex contributes articles on violin teaching to ARCO and JESTA, magazines for the European String Teachers Association, and his reviews of music and education regularly appear in the *Strad* magazine.

This year Alex has begun work with the Benedetti Foundation as a conductor, a role which sees him teaching young musicians and also working with music teachers on how best to lead, direct and conduct ensembles.