

Alex Laing is a conductor, violinist, teacher and writer. He is recognised as one of the finest and most versatile educators in the country. His work with the Benedetti Foundation sees him teaching musicians from young beginners to conservatoire students and adult learners as well as working with music teachers on how best to lead, direct and conduct ensembles.

Alex has a long and close relationship with the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. For many years he was conductor of the NCO Easterlies and is regularly a tutor and conductor for the NCO age-banded orchestras. He has also acted as course director for the National Youth String Orchestra of Great Britain. Alex 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 Boehmann.

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.

From 2017-2022 Alex was Artistic Director (Music) at the King's High School in Warwick, where he oversaw music provision for children aged 3-18 and conducted the Warwick Independent Schools Foundation Symphony Orchestra. He also conducted the newly founded regional string orchestra for Warwickshire Music Hub. In 2021 King's High received national recognition by winning The ISA School of the year for Excellence and Innovation in the Performing Arts.

Alex is now Director of Music at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset where he leads a team of over 100 music staff at one of the very few specialist music schools in the UK.