

Alex Laing is 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.

Alex has recently been appointed as a conductor and course director for the National Youth String Orchestra of Great Britain and as conductor of the new regional String Orchestra for Warwickshire Music Hub. From 2012-2016 Alex was Musical Director and Conductor of the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain East Region and he has recently returned to this role. He continues to act as a violin tutor and conductor on NCO courses.

Alex began his musical education at the Edinburgh Academy and later at St. Mary's Music School. There he studied violin with Warren Jacobs and was privileged to have opportunities of working closely with Lord Menuhin, the School's Patron. Alex is a graduate of Cambridge University. While studying music at Christ's College, he also held one of the University's prestigious Instrumental Awards, which led to master classes with The Endellion String Quartet. Thereafter he attended Birmingham Conservatoire, where his violin studies continued with Jacqueline Ross. He was awarded the Diploma of Professional Studies in Music Performance, the flagship postgraduate degree at the Conservatoire. For his final degree recital he performed the Alban Berg Violin Concerto with the Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra. While in Birmingham, Alex 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 and has received consistently excellent reviews. The orchestra specialises in accessible classical music, and it draws large audiences across all generations. DECO also puts great store on promoting professional performers at the start of their careers. The orchestra has attracted the attention of the country's finest performers. DECO's first soloist was Simon Blendis (leader of the Schubert Ensemble) and other notable soloists include George Caird (oboe) and Jack Liebeck (Classical Brit Award winning violinist and professor at the Royal Academy of Music). Alex himself 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 is highly regarded as an educator and adjudicator. He is a former Head of Strings at Uppingham School and a former professor at the Royal College of Music in the Junior department where he also coached chamber music and conducted the Sinfonia Orchestra. While at Uppingham, Alex conducted the Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Senior String Ensemble. His violin students have been awarded scholarships to study at UK conservatoires, have enjoyed success as members of the NCO and of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and have been competition winners both in the UK and in Europe. He has also coached chamber music to national standard: in three out of four years under his guidance, Uppingham's chamber musicians were chamber champions 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.