

Martin Slidel

Martin was born in Portsmouth (an historic naval port on the south coast of England) and grew-up in a village in the suburbs. At school, he learnt violin and recorder. From home, Martin studied electronic organ – progressing in his teens to classical organ under Alan Bartlett of Petersfield. He was a founder member of Petersfield Area Schools' String Orchestra and Quartet. Both groups won respective categories at Portsmouth Music Festival. Martin also designed the orchestra's logo which is still in use today. He was a student of Combined Arts (Music with Visual Practice) at Brighton where his tutor was Billy Cowie. During this period, Martin participated in The International Festival of Live Art at The Sallis Benney Theatre. He graduated with a 2:1 and continued to work as a private music tutor before training formerly at Brookes; attending workshops with WNO and vocal specialist Lin Marsh. Martin went on to lead Music departments at London schools and in 2009 gained an MA in Art Education (London). His grade A dissertation is held at The Newsam Library.

Martin made his first concert appearance age nine, at a Yamaha event in his home city, supporting Jazz organist Steve Lowdell. He went on to be an Area Winner for Yamaha Centenary Festival and performed at the Regional Finals at The Victoria Rooms, Bristol. During the 1980s, Martin played at Haslemere Organ Society and was principal organist for St Margaret's Patronal Festival in Fernhurst (West Sussex). As an undergraduate, he worked as a pianist for a children's Eurythmy Studio. Martin's output became more experimental, with numerous presentations combining studio composition with hand-made slide. He has since produced an audio installation in collaboration with NZ sound engineer Alex Madill (Open Studios, London Docklands). Martin relocated to London in 1999 and worked for a short period as a video editor for MTV. It was during this time that he contracted reactive arthritis for an extended period of four years. Martin's compositions feature regularly in the Top Ten of the ReverbNation Classical Chart. He has also completed a video presentation in proposal for a picture book and song.
