

Martin Slidel, music composer

I have not always situated myself as a 'composer' investing time into art and writing. I have always composed though, beginning with arrangements of popular music for electronic organ. In my formative years, I studied recorder, violin, and Classical organ. My first degree was 'Music with Visual Practice' at Brighton where my tutor was Scottish composer Billy Cowie. During that time, I presented studio-produced compositions for slideshows at The Dance Studio, and at The Sallis Benney Theatre. This extended some years later to an audio installation of three-day duration at Docklands Artists Open Studios (London). I have since produced soundtracks for a TV pilot and for educational videos. This includes a children's song for ABC Kids (London). I have also performed original material at The Seven Dials Club (London).

My first compositions, written at school and university, were for piano. I went on to train as a music teacher at Brookes. At age 30, I contracted reactive arthritis which somewhat limited my performance ability. During lockdown of 2020, a passion for composition resurfaced. This led to new works, and also for small forces (small groups of instruments). I was initially concerned with a level of authenticity regarding performance i.e., playability and range. However, these aspects now balance with the desire to experiment. I now view the electronic recordings both as ideas-based, and as pieces in their own right. To work alongside performers presents a different process and challenge which I very much welcome. I am pleased to convey that my work often features in the Top Five of the ReverbNation Classical Chart (London).

– Martin (December 2021)