



# Frank Martin UP-TO-DATE

1890-1974  
2024 | 50th Anniversary of Frank Martin's death

05

JANUARY 2024

## The Frank Martin Year has started!

Visit the special page with an overview of concerts and initiatives [frankmartin.org/fm2024/](http://frankmartin.org/fm2024/).

## Frank Martin **60** SECONDS

A series of short films in which musicians and other experts tell us what Frank Martin's music means to them personally. In this short video the violinist Maria Milstein characterizes his Trio on Irish Folk Songs.

**Maria Milstein** won prizes as a soloist and chamber musician at major international competitions. In 2016 she was awarded the Fellowship of the Borletti Buitoni Trust, and in 2018 she received the Netherlands Music Prize - the highest recognition for a classical musician in the Netherlands, awarded by the Ministry of Culture. With pianist Hannes Minnaar and cellist Gideon den Herder, Maria Milstein is a member of the **Van Baerle Trio**, one of the leading trios of its generation. It's repertoire includes Frank Martin's Trio sur des mélodies populaires irlandaises (Trio on Irish Folk Songs), which they will perform several times in **2024**.



Maria Milstein on Frank Martin

## A broken lance for Frank Martin

A blog by Thomas Beijer

Searching for Frank Martin on Google yields a screen full of images of a surly, bristly haired basketball coach from South Carolina. On half the photos he scowls into the distance, on the other half he does little other than scream at people. [...]

But if you don't give up and dauntlessly carry on scrolling, you'll find the odd photo of a cultured gentleman with thick curly hair and twinkling eyes in a striking elongated face. This is him: the Swiss composer Frank Martin. His name is French not American. And unlike the Frank Martin from South Carolina he is terribly unknown - at any rate for a great composer. And we have to do something about that. ([read more](#))



© Thomas Beijer

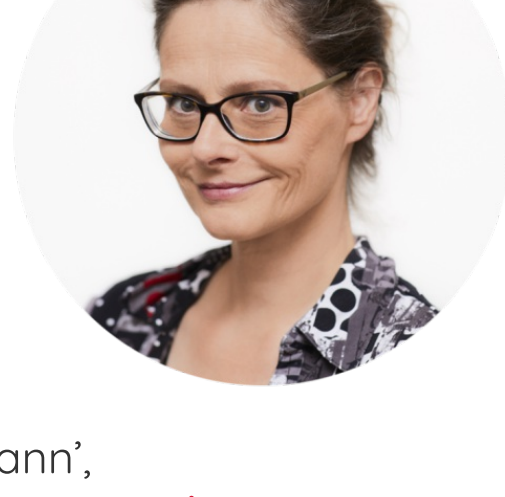
## Musicians' musings

Personal notes on Martin's Monologues from Jedermann

by Anna de Veij Mestdagh - second violinist Concertgebouworkest

The Concertgebouworkest (Amsterdam, NL) has a particular tie with the composer Frank Martin. Besides the fact that his wife was Dutch and he spent his later 28 years in the Netherlands, whenever we played his music it invariably made a deep impression on us. Not least the Sechs Monologe aus Jedermann, which we performed last December under Pierre Bleuse with the baritone Thomas Oliemans. [...]

In a penetrating musical language Frank Martin succeeds in expressing the feelings of this 'Jedermann', feelings of fear, unrest, suffering and final resignation. ([read more](#))



## Ein Totentanz zu Basel

an open-air spectacle at the Münsterplatz, Basel



Upon the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Martin's death, his stage work Ein Totentanz zu Basel, incorporating music and dance, is to be performed in June, in the open air at the Münsterplatz, Basel.

The website [Totentanz zu Basel](#) has been launched!

## Concert highlights - String Trio & String Quartet

**Ilya Gringolts** violin  
**Lawrence Power** viola  
**Nicolas Altstaedt** cello

Laeiszhalle, Hamburg (D)  
Wed 21 February 2024 | 20:00

**Martin** String Trio  
**Schönberg** String Trio opus 45  
**Beethoven** String Trio in Es opus 3

photo: Nicolas Altstaedt  
© Marco Borggreve



This outstanding string trio juxtaposes Ludwig van Beethoven's String Trio opus 3 with two compositions from the mid-20th century by Frank Martin and Arnold Schönberg. The concert opens with the String Trio by Frank Martin, which offers profound insight into the musical world of Switzerland's most important 20th-century composer. Here Martin combines a traditional harmonic language with the modern compositional technique of Arnold Schönberg, whose String Trio then seamlessly follows.



**Utrecht String Quartet**

**Eeva Koskinen** violin  
**Katherine Routley** violin  
**Mikhail Zemtsov** viola  
**Sebastian Koloski** cello

Jisper Kerk, Jisp (NL)  
Sat 24 February 2024 | 20:15

photo: © Allard Willems

**Van Bree** String Quartet no.1 in a

**Martin** String Quartet  
**Beethoven** String Quartet in D opus 18 no.3

The Utrecht String Quartet has played a prominent role in the Dutch string quartet circuit for about thirty years. In addition to their mastery of the standard repertoire they are fond of going off the beaten track. In Jisp they will perform music by Van Bree, Martin and Beethoven.

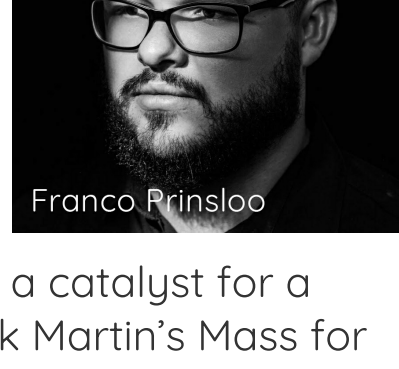
For more information and other concerts see our [Calendar](#).

If you know of a concert featuring music by Frank Martin that is not included in our [Calendar](#), we warmly invite you to send the missing information to [pr@frankmartin.org](mailto:pr@frankmartin.org).

## 'Our Man in Switzerland'

'Our Man in Switzerland', Jaap Verbeek, communicates far beyond the Swiss borders. This is how he came into contact with Franco Prinsloo, a South African composer and conductor from Pretoria, who was inspired by the music of Frank Martin.

Franco Prinsloo: 'Music has the remarkable power to inspire, to connect, and to transcend time and place. It speaks to the human spirit, and one of music can be a catalyst for a composer's creative journey. For me, that catalyst was Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir. When I first heard this masterpiece as a student, I was instantly captivated by its dense harmonies and the expressive use of plainsong melodies. This experience proved to be the beginning of my own journey as a composer.' - Franco Prinsloo ([read more](#))



'Our Man in Switzerland' is a contribution by Jaap Verbeek, who promotes the performance of Frank Martin's music from his hometown of Lucerne.

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## Colophon

This newsletter is published by the Frank Martin Society and was edited by Ferry Jongbloed, Philip Leussink, Stephen Taylor, Jaap Verbeek and Jacinta Wetzer.

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