



# *HARMONY SPECIAL*

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# TERRY BARFOOT 1949-2020



# INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO THE CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE WAS TERRY BARFOOT'S CALLING

Dave Billinge

The company which my friend Terry Barfoot built, *Arts in Residence*, provided music appreciation courses in small country hotels in rural England. Civilised discourse would be continued over dinner. Introducing people to a wide range of the classical repertoire was his calling. His engaging manner and dry wit were prized as much as his deep knowledge and passion for the art.

Later he added tours linked to live concerts and operas in European cities, hearing, for example, Bach in Leipzig and Janáček in Prague. Many events in the UK and abroad were oversubscribed year after year. His loyal customers often became friends.

Born in Portsmouth, where he lived all his life, Terry was initially a primary school teacher. He obtained an Open University degree in 1974, going on to teach at South Downs Further Education College where he was asked to take on the music history related A-levels.

Terry never looked back. He taught adult evening classes, wrote concert programme notes and, over three decades or more, gave dozens of pre-concert talks for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Poole and Portsmouth. He was invited to speak to music clubs, Oxford summer schools and the Royal Opera House, where he introduced a lifelong favourite, Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. In 2015 he presented a series of pre-concert talks at the Sibelius 150 festival in Lahti, Finland. His writings included *Opera: A History* and articles and reviews for BBC Music Magazine. He never stopped planning music events.

Away from music his other passion was Portsmouth football club, which he said in recent years had been an education in coping with frequent disappointment. He was a lifelong socialist and despaired at recent political events.



# HE HAD THE MOST PRECIOUS OF TALENTS: A TALENT FOR FRIENDSHIP.

Roy Westbrook

Terry and I were schoolboys together at the Northern Grammar School in Portsmouth in the 1960s. Terry became a schoolteacher, but soon began a career in musical education for adults. His evening and weekend classes, pre-concert talks, invited lectures, and programme notes made him a familiar and much-admired figure, along the south coast and beyond.

He had many qualities that suited him to this role: a wide knowledge, a fluent and engaging manner (often humorous but never frivolous), and a talent for organisation – things very rarely went wrong. But his special strength lay in his passion for his subject and his genuine interest in every individual in his audience. These two are at the heart of great teaching in most settings of course, but not so common outside institutions, in part-time and occasional contexts where contact is intermittent. Yet he developed a large group of people who became loyal attenders at his events, many becoming friends (and some even benefactors), such was the impact he made and the gratitude he generated. It is worth noting that a number of his acolytes (hardly too strong a term) had a deeper musical background, sometimes a professional one, than Terry had, but still felt they learned a great deal.

I was one of his occasional collaborators on these occasions, and co-author with him on our book *Opera – A History*. When we taught courses together I sometimes wondered what the audience made of our sparring, continued from our playground days, which we still imagined to be witty, and which we hoped might mature (it didn't). He had above all, and in abundance, the most precious of talents: a talent for friendship. His various contributions spanned many years, and would have continued but for his devastating illness, and still more the interruption to its treatment due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Roy Westbrook is a Senior Tutor at St Hugh's College, Oxford.*



In Lahti, Finland on 31 August 2015. We were speaking at the Sibelius Centenary Festival.

# **ARTS IN RESIDENCE WAS TERRY AND IT WAS HIS LIFE.**

**Ian Slater and Ann Roberts**

We first met Terry in 2013. We found an advertisement for an *Arts in Residence* three day event in Canterbury devoted to the symphonies of Haydn. It looked promising and certainly very reasonably priced so we contacted Terry only to be told that the hotel rooms were fully booked. "Never mind", he said, "I can find a nearby B&B if you would like that".

We did like that, and we stayed in the B&B, only five minutes' walk from the hotel. On the first afternoon we went into the hotel lounge for tea and there, in front of us was Terry with a welcoming smile. The lounge was full of fifty or so people chatting and drinking tea, most of whom seemed to be regulars. The sociable nature of a Terry event was immediately obvious. An excellent dinner with much wine and interesting conversation followed a little later, and after dinner the evening session, an introduction to the music of Haydn and his development of the symphony.

The rest of the event continued in the usual fashion for Arts in Residence and we were led through Haydn's symphonic output in Terry's usual informative and engaging style. We realised that almost by accident we had discovered somebody who had created a wonderful organisation that covered a very wide range of musical and artistic subjects in a highly individual way. Talking to the other people made it clear that Terry and Arts in Residence were unique. We knew that we wanted to go to more of his events.

A Terry event was rather like a country house long weekend with many friends, excellent music and a deeply knowledgeable speaker whose presentations were always enlivening. The events were held in pleasing and relaxing hotels and the food and wine were always first class. The centre of it all was Terry, who each year planned a whole season of events generally spread around England in hotels he had carefully selected. He gave most of the presentations but frequently one of his friends or colleagues contributed. Sometimes live music would be provided, perhaps a string quartet, or, if the events were near Poole, a visit to the Lighthouse for a concert.

Terry organised musical tours in Europe in conjunction with Vamos Travel. We travelled to Leipzig with an *Arts in Residence* party in 2019 and found it to be just like his three day events in England but on a larger scale and equally well organised and quite delightful. Terry gave us an introductory talk each morning on the opera we were to see that evening. The hotel was ten minutes' walk from the opera house and well appointed, an excellent choice.

*Arts in Residence* was Terry and it was his life. Although we suspect that his wife played a vital part behind the scenes, it was Terry who was on the stage and it was clear that he wanted to stay there. Sadly the curtain had to fall in 2020.

He will be missed by many who have happy memories of his wonderful events, his knowledge of music and his warm personality. It is said that nobody is irreplaceable but there are a few people who make one doubt if that is quite true. Terry was one of the few.

# SKILL, UNDERSTANDING AND DIPLOMACY

Malcolm Rivers

I had known Terry from a distance and by reputation for many years through his work with the Music Club of London when I was finally able to persuade him to give a weekend with The Mastersingers at the Assembly Rooms in Presteigne as part of David Edwards' *Villainy and Heroism in Opera* in September 2012. I then appreciated the full worth of the man and his work as he undertook to illustrate and guide our team of young singers through a miasma of roles with consummate skill, understanding and diplomacy.

The benefits to the young artists gained over that weekend are still with them today and I am often reminded by some of them how he set the standards for them to embrace throughout their careers. We are all deeply indebted to him for his generous work in this field.



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## A POIGNANT MOMENT ON A MEMORABLE TRIP

Peter Nelson

For *British Composers and the First World War* we visited Northern France. On the Thiepval Memorial we saw Butterworth's name. His great music I had known for over 50 years and since he died in battle and was never recovered, he has no known grave. This was such a poignant moment on a trip that was so memorable, not the least because of very funny repartee between the tour guide and Terry, which helped us all with the burden of emotion at seeing the sites of such epic battles and catastrophic losses. Friends I made on this trip, I am pleased to say, I still know.

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## WE'LL MISS HIS DROLL SENSE OF HUMOUR

Eric Adler



My wife Wendy and I were clients and friends of Terry over many years. I particularly appreciated his ability to teach from his enormous musical background without making us feel that we were ignorant - not easy to do! He took us three times to A Chateau in southern France (above). I cannot think of anyone with such a wide spread of musical knowledge: Wagner, Berlioz, Elgar, Brahms, Bach, Handel, Mahler, Mozart, Richard Strauss, Britten, Hindemith, Smetana..... Add to all this his droll sense of humour which will be missed by all of us.

# THE WORLD OF MUSIC IS A POORER PLACE WITHOUT TERRY BARFOOT

Richard and Hazel Hyland

It was noticeable how many faithful followers Terry had. He treated all of us equally as his guests and he was there for everyone. His venues were so carefully chosen, with excellent food and wine. Terry was the perfect host. Everything ran smoothly, which disguised the fact that there was so much hidden planning. He was also more than willing to bring in other experts like Ken Ward on Bruckner even though he was such an expert himself.

He wore his own knowledge very lightly and his course booklets were a mine of information. His detailed, technical expertise when analysing particular sections of a work was always leavened by his easy and subtle humour: this made him an excellent communicator.

There was nothing of the show-off in Terry. He was not opinionated but did not sit on the fence. Before we went to Nielsen's 5th in Birmingham, he told us "You are going to hear the greatest symphony of the twentieth century."

A member of our University of the Third Age music club said she learned more from Terry than from anyone else about so many composers. She never went on holidays but she attended over 20 of his courses instead. He wrote the majority of the programme notes for the Newbury Spring Festival which has a superb brochure every year. Last summer Imogen Cooper praised his notes. There seemed to be no music he could not write illuminatingly about.

The world of music is now a much poorer place without Terry Barfoot. Portsmouth Football Club will miss him too!

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## HE IS IRREPLACEABLE

Rosemary Frischer

I first met Terry 15 years ago when he asked me whether the Music Club of London would be interested in his lectures and courses. Shortly afterwards he arranged an evening event at a venue in St James's Street, Piccadilly. Since then many MCL members have enjoyed his courses, both at home and abroad.

He arranged a Leonard Bernstein weekend course in March 2018, When he was a guest at our 50th anniversary Christmas Dinner, he asked me to introduce him to Humphrey Burton, who had written a biography of Bernstein. Terry was greatly influenced by this book and was delighted to meet the author.

Terry was an excellent lecturer and produced amazing, informative notes for each course. He must have spent many hours of research producing these. He was a brilliant organiser and participants probably didn't realize that there could be problems. On a weekend course to France, he arranged for a friend and me to meet a lady in Hampshire who would drive us to our destination in France. Terry had three passengers and had arranged that we would follow him to the ferry. Our driver drove straight into the back of his car. Ours was a write-off so Terry took us back to his house in order to re-organise our trip. I must say, this was the only time that I had seen Terry lose his cool. We finally reached our destination in the middle of the night!

I shall miss Terry so much and I find it difficult to believe that there will be no more of his wonderful courses. He is irreplaceable.

# A LOVELY GENTLEMAN AND A FRIEND

**Robert Mansell**

He was true maestro of music: a talented writer, an eloquent speaker and an entrepreneurial host. His vast knowledge of composers and their music I always found to be extremely inspirational and entertaining.

One of my first foreign trips with him was to Nuremberg in 2013 for a production of *Die Meistersinger* in its native town. Terry was an immaculate host - a job which can try the patience of even the very best when there were 62 in the party, all with different questions and demands! On this occasion he even arranged for us to have a talk about the production from Peter Theiler, the chief Executive of the Nuremberg Opera house. We additionally saw Giordano's '*Andrea Chenier*' and Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. This was a lovely trip with an amusing sideline that it turned out that our hotel was right in the middle of the red-light district - ladies of the night were vocally plying their trade to interested gentlemen all night!!

We corresponded regularly about his programmes and future plans. My proudest involvement was to suggest and indeed encourage his new series, *First and Last*, which highlighted several composer's youthful music and then final developments of their later years.

After he was struck down with his illness August last year, I did see him a few months ago in March at Osborne in Dorset when he briefly recovered enough from his awful treatments to attend the Strauss programme he had designed. I think this may have been his last public appearance.

Terry was a lovely gentleman and a friend who will be very much missed.



Proud to be numbered  
among Terry's multitude of friends,  
I have been privileged to put together  
this tribute to someone whose contribution to  
our enjoyment of music has so enriched our lives

**Roger Lee**