

- APPRECIATION -

## P. J. Clulow

It is with some considerable sadness that I write this short appreciation of Peter Clulow. For the past two years I have been working closely with him on three editions of the music of his teacher, John Sykes. In January 2021, Peter died unexpectedly, as a tragic consequence of contracting Covid and pneumonia, before he could enjoy the publication of his article on Sykes (which follows) and his three editions of Sykes' music.

Interestingly, Peter Clulow and John Sykes had a similar education – Sykes went to Clifton College in Bristol, and then Balliol College, Oxford. Peter went to Kingswood School in Bath, and then onto Keble College, Oxford. Peter later taught music at Haberdashers' Aske's School where he was responsible for teaching me Music A level. I remember Peter's teaching very well. He was always very interested in early music – his lesson on *Tempus Perfectum* is as clear now as when he introduced it to me with considerable zeal! Peter was also very interested in English music. Again, I remember his enthusiasm for Thomas Linley – often known as the 'English Mozart' – a fascinating, though little known, figure in musical history. After Haberdashers' Peter went on to conduct the St Albans Choral Society until the mid-90s. But most of his time was spent on researching English music, and in particular, the music of John Sykes.

I became reacquainted with Peter, for the first time since my school days, at a memorial service at St Albans Abbey about two years ago. We chatted and he mentioned his work on Sykes and suggested a potential project. Among other things, I have my own, small music publishing company. He had already masterminded a CD of Sykes' music (which is available on the Albion Records label), and he wondered whether I might be interested in publishing some of it.

It has been a very interesting project, and Peter has been a delight to work with. Scholarly but practical, always happy to answer questions and a very good proof-reader. Two piano pieces and a choral work should all be available soon.

Outside music, Peter's interests were wide ranging: he was ahead of his time in the early days of computing and set up all sorts of useful technological protocols at Haberdashers' – not least a timetabling system for over 500 weekly instrumental lessons. He was very interested in acoustics and played a major role in setting up the school's new music department. Possibly through his sister, the actress Jennifer Clulow, he had an interest in stage productions and would often be eager to help in set design and production.

I much enjoyed re-connecting with Peter. I hope you will enjoy his article – he was delighted that it was accepted for publication. And I hope you may catch some of his enthusiasm sufficiently to investigate this interesting music further. He would have been very pleased.

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*Paul Harris is one of the UK's most influential music educationalists. He studied the clarinet at the Royal Academy of Music, where he won the August Manns Prize for outstanding performance in clarinet playing and where he now teaches. He is in great demand as a teacher, composer, and writer (he has written over 600 books); and his inspirational masterclasses and workshops continue to influence thousands of young musicians and teachers all over the world in both the principles and practice of musical performance and education.*