

## **Citation for Deryck H Cox to be considered for the award of Honorary OF.**

Deryck Cox followed Eric Copperwheat as music master at Framlingham in the autumn of 1959. Whilst Eric considerably developed music at Fram Deryck powered it to a much higher level.

As an indication of what was to come on his arrival he immediately set about his role with vigour by the testing, against the headmaster's advice, all the boys for their suitability to join the choir. From then on until his departure in 1974 developments followed one after another.

During his time at the College wider and more ambitious interests were explored, involving not only College and Brandeston Hall musicians but choirs from other schools and innumerable artistes both amateur and professional.

School productions included The Beggars Opera (T.D. Otho-Briggs, 1956-70, in fine voice as Macbeath), The Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore, all performed in the Town Assembly Hall, and Menotti's inspiring Amahl in the 'Centenary Hall'. This work being preceded by a light-hearted home-made opera, The Netherby Flier, for which Deryck Cox composed fitting and delightful music. The acclaimed Sorcerer was his last production.

Of particular note was Britten's Noyes Fludde. This powerful and moving work was given four performances before its final presentation on Speech Day ('70). The cast of nearly eighty included many from Brandeston Hall; the orchestra numbered nearly the same; stage assistants thirty-five. Costumes were made by parents; animal-masks were devised and painted at both schools. The East Anglian Daily Times considered the production as 'remarkably fine'.

Deryck conducted the not inconsiderable vocal and orchestral element at the outstanding production of summer '73 of The Yeomen of the Guard. This was performed on one rain-swept and two calm summer evenings within the perfect setting of the walls of the Castle; thus reviving and decorating an old custom.

Expeditions were made during his time to Covent Garden, the Maltings at Snape, Ipswich, and the London Coliseum for recitals, ballet and operas, which included Madam Butterfly, Carmen and Peter Grimes.

He invited the public to performances whenever it was possible. It could truly be said that during his time at the College it became a recognised music centre. Large-scale presentations included parts of the Messiah (once with girls of St. Felix, Southwold), the Bach Sr. John Passion, Hiawatha, The Creation with Olive Quantrill and a section of the Northgate Girls' School Choir, and Bach's Christmas music - these being sung in Chapel, in the parish church or at Southwold.

He started the occasional concerts that were given by students from the Royal College, including Martino Tirimo and, for the first Subscription Concert, Marlene Fleet. Two notable recitals were given by the internationally acclaimed bass, Donald McIntyre. Among those who also gave recitals or concerts were Gerald Moore, Owen Brannigan, Marlene Fleet, David Franklin Mow, the Baccholian Singers, the Opera Players and the Ipswich Gilbert and Sullivan Society, for which Deryck was its conductor, who brought to the new 'Centenary Hall' their full production of The Pirates of Penzance. Two 'Victorian Evenings' were staged and he arranged a special concert that was given to raise funds for the Centenary Appeal.

During his time at the College the Chapel Choir and Choral Society were enriched in experience and continued to present major religious works sometimes augmented by the choirs of Brandeston Hall and St. Felix.

Britten's St. Nicolas was performed in the parish church (and was repeated as part of the Speech-day concert in '69). Parts two and three of Handel's *Messiah* were given in '69 in the parish church and at Southwold, with a choir of over one hundred and fifty boys and girls. In the same year Bach's Christmas Oratorio, with carols to make up the programme, was performed in December in Southwold and Framlingham. He organized the production of an LP recording incorporating singing by the whole School in Chapel. It was made to celebrate the inauguration of the new organ in '68. In the spring of '70 Faure's Requiem was sung in Chapel and at Swaffham Parish Church.

The library also benefited from Deryck's time at Fram. During his time the somewhat thin music section of the library was nourished by a gift of some forty books from Deryck.

After some fifteen years as Director of Music, he left to take up a similar post at Sedbergh School. To quote from 'The Second Sixty Years 'His influence had been enormous; in teaching, pioneering, conducting and gathering musicians, his enthusiasm had been infectious. He had been a patient or - if need there was - a bold champion of College music'.

*Much of this citation is plagiarised from The Second Sixty Years by Leslie Gillett. Considerably more of Deryck's achievements are to be found in Leslie's book.*