

COLIN SCOTT SUTHERLAND

David C F Wright DMus

Colin Scott-Sutherland died at Windmill House Nursing Home, Cellardyke in December 2012. He was 82 and a retired Royal Bank of Scotland manager.

His funeral was at Crail Parish Church on 7 January 2013 and donations to Alzheimer's Scotland were suggested rather than flowers.

Colin was one of those men whom everybody liked. Both his grandfathers were ministers in the Anglican church. He and his wife, Margaret, who he married in 1957, were devoted to each other. His three children are Susan, Christopher and Nicolas and the three grandchildren are Kristy, Colin and Jamie.

In his last few years, Colin suffered from low blood pressure and was subject to falls. He was confined to a wheelchair for about two years and had hearing loss and his sight became impaired. Yet he still worked on his extensive study of the composer Cedric Thorpe Davie.

He was also the expert on Sir Arnold Bax and there is no doubt about that. He once referred me to Lewis Foreman's book on this composer and pointed out serious errors in Foreman's book. I confirmed Colin's findings including Foreman's many errors with my friend Aloys Fleischmann with whom Bax stayed many times. Colin corresponded with the pianist Harriet Cohen, the so-called mistress of Bax.

Colin's book on Bax, published by J M Dent in 1973, is reliable. He also compiled the early love letters and poems by Bax in a book entitled Ideals.

He was also interested in the music of John Ireland and wrote a substantial essay about him around 1980 and, thirteen years later, an article appeared in the BMS journal entitled Edward Thomas and John Ireland. But his main interest was in Georgian music that is to say music written in the reigns of the more modern King Georges. Such composers included Paul Corder (1879-1942) and his father Frederick Corder (1852-1932), Leo Livens (born 1896) and A Greville Cooke (1894- 1992) who was ordained in the Anglican church in 1918.

Patrick Piggott was a composer he attempted to promote and Piggott lived from 1915-1990 and studied with Harold Craxton and Benjamin Dale.

Another interest of Colin's was the pianist and teacher Tobias Matthay about which we exchanged notes. Matthay taught many well-known pianists including York Bowen, Myra Hess, Clifford Curzon, Moura Lympany, Irene Scharrer and Harriet Cohen

Another of his books was Ronald Stevenson: The Man and his Music. There was also Avallaunis in the journal of the Arthur Machen Society and a work about Elisabeth Mary Watt. She was a famous Glaswegian painter. Arthur Machen was a Welsh novelist, a mystic and interested in horror stories, not the type of subjects Colin would normally be occupied with. Colin once travelled to Wales to give a lecture to the Machen Society.

He was very very keen on the music of Erik Chisholm and did all he could to make it known.

He was a great friend and supporter of music and meticulous in his work, a calm enthusiast and very knowledgeable person on many subjects. He was distressed at some of the rubbish on the Music Web International website. He was a humble but not a weak man and often asked my opinion which he graciously acknowledged.

His achievements should be realised particularly what he did for British Music.

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