

## **PETER ROY COOK**

David C F Wright DMus

Peter Roy Cook was born on 11 August 1937 in All Saints Hospital in Chatham in Kent. He is the second of four children born to Ada and Reginald Cook.

His schools were Forge Lane Primary and Richmond Road Secondary schools both in Gillingham Kent.

He began piano lessons at the age of seven with a Miss James of Kingswood Road, Gillingham, and has been self taught ever since.

On leaving school he worked at W H Smith's bookshop in Chatham, and then as a projectionist at the Regent Cinema in Chatham.

He saw national service during the years 1957 to 1959 with the BUFFS and saw service in Dortmund in Germany. He was in the Band playing the French Horn and piano for the dance band.

His first awakening to classical music came when he was working in the cinema. He showed a film called "Rhapsody", at the end of which was a shortened version of Rachmaninoff's lovely second piano concerto. He bought a recording of the complete work shortly afterwards.

Since then he has devoted his time to collecting and studying piano music including music that is rare and music of neglected composers. He has enabled pianists to make recording of some piano works supplying them with the music. He has supplied music to me to enhance the vignettes I have written and been a great support.

He has been the pianist for several singing groups such as Gillingham Operatic Society and Three Towns Society.

He is currently the music director of The Music Makers, a small group of singers who entertain in the Medway area in old peoples residential homes.

His preference in piano music is the Romantic era and he values Liszt and Rachmaninoff especially.

Peter is an individualist with definite views. He is a very kind and considerate man.

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