

Concert in Celebration of
the Life and Music of

DAVID FROST

Composer, Arranger, Conductor,
Trumpeter, Teacher, Mentor and Friend

Compère: Russell Pascoe

Suzanne Manuell: soprano

Cheryl Brendish: soprano

Philip Montgomery-Smith: violin

Martin White: violin

Barbara Degener: cello

TRURO CATHEDRAL

Saturday 29 September 2018

7.00 pm

RETIRING COLLECTION

to set up a fund to support young Cornish
composers and conductors



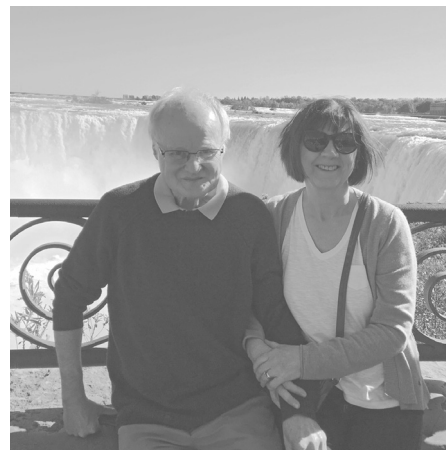
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PROGRAMME

PRE CONCERT: 18.50

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

BEATLES MEDLEY

arr David Frost

St Mewan School Orchestra



From the Cathedral Gallery

FANFARE FOR A NEW BEGINNING

David Frost

Cornwall Symphonic Brass Ensemble



WELCOME & PRAYER

The Dean, The Very Rev Roger Bush



THE HEBRIDES OVERTURE

Mendelssohn

Cornwall Youth Orchestra



ESTREN: A CORNISH SONG

AMOR EN GRIS: CARACCILO'S TANGO

arr David Frost

St Mewan Sinfonia



MUSIC FOR PIECES OF WOOD

Steve Reich

Percussion Ensemble



REJOICE IN THE LORD

Bach, arr David Frost

Cello Ensemble



MOUTHPIECE RAP

St Keverne Junior Band



I WOULD LIKE to thank each and every one of you for attending this evening's concert in order to honour and celebrate the life of my husband David Frost.

David would sincerely be moved by the outpouring of affection that all of you have bestowed in his memory.

I am most grateful to the Dean of Truro Cathedral, the Very Reverend Roger Bush, for kindly hosting this evening's concert, and to all the musicians and dancers, young and old, for donating their time and talent. It is especially heartwarming to see so many ex CYO players here this evening, both playing and in the audience.

David respected and understood musicians and artists more than most; he had the

ability to reach and inspire all ages and abilities. A man who devoted his life to sharing his love of music with others; a man who for many years smilingly conducted concert after concert without missing a beat whilst struggling with poor health. There were no half measures with David, whether working with beginner brass players or professional musicians - only the best would do. He was a wonderful, warm-hearted man, able to bring out the very best in everyone, and he gave so much to us all for as long as he could.

David may have left us, but his legacy lives on and he will be remembered by many as an inspirational teacher, colleague, conductor, composer and friend. We are all the better for having known him.

Karen Frost

GIANT BOLSTER PAGEANT

David Frost

A procession and children's chorus featuring the children of St Agnes ACE Academy School

—◆ I N T E R V A L ◆—

Opening sequence from THE MERMAID OF ZENOR

David Frost

Duchy Ballet with the Cornish Sinfonia



UN BEL DI VEDREMO

Puccini

Suzanne Manuell with the Cornish Sinfonia



BRASS BUFFOONERY

David Frost

Cornwall Symphonic Brass Ensemble



CORNISH LAMENT

David Frost

Barbara Degener with the Cornish Sinfonia



VILYA from THE MERRY WIDOW

Lehár

Cheryl Brendish with Duchy Opera



THE LARK ASCENDING

Vaughan Williams, arr David Frost

Philip Montgomery-Smith with the Cornish Sinfonia



TRELAWNY

arr David Frost

audience invited to participate



Retiring collection

PRE CONCERT: 18.50

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
BEATLES MEDLEY**

arr David Frost

St Mewan School Orchestra

THE ST MEWAN C P SCHOOL Orchestra is extremely fortunate to have had David's guidance and support on a number of musical projects over the last few years. He kindly arranged music specially for us, came into school to take rehearsals, and conducted us in performances at the Hall for Cornwall on a number of occasions.

All our staff and players will remember him as a true gentleman, who so willingly shared his talent and expertise, and for whom nothing was too much trouble. He was an inspiration to so many of our musicians, and will be fondly remembered for his calm and caring nature.

Alison Harvey

From the Cathedral Gallery

FANFARE FOR A NEW BEGINNING

David Frost

Brass Ensemble directed by Sara Munns

CORNWALL SYMPHONIC BRASS is a collection of players on whom David had a most profound influence. Each player either sat alongside David as a peer, was taught by him, or directed by him in the Cornwall Youth Orchestra or Cornwall Youth Brass Ensemble (CYBE). All still play, either as full time professionals or as highly skilled amateurs, or are now teachers themselves. Each one owes a debt of gratitude to David for his care and inspiration. The group came together for David's funeral, and decided without hesitation to continue to play together as regularly as scheduling would allow. David's passion was for orchestral brass, and it is a privilege to play in his honour.

David wrote and arranged many pieces for a 10-piece ensemble. *Fanfare for a New Beginning* was written for CYBE at the inaugural Cornwall Music Service Trust concert; while *Brass Buffoonery*, to be heard later this evening, was written to take into a workshop setting and inspire young people to learn brass instruments.

WELCOME & PRAYER

The Dean, The Very Rev Roger Bush

THE HEBRIDES OVERTURE

Mendelssohn

Cornwall Youth Orchestra directed by Tim Boulton

DAVID FROST WAS principal conductor of Cornwall Youth Orchestra for an amazingly productive 30 year period, retiring in April 2008. Everyone who has played in a larger youth orchestra will know how the potent combination of teenage temperament and the buzz of symphonic repertoire can have life changing consequences. But David added his own special gifts – inspiring thousands of young musicians to better appreciate the wonders of orchestral music. David was not only a fine musician and a great communicator, but he taught the players orchestral and musical discipline and cultivated an atmosphere of fun, where lifelong friendships were made. Unusually for any youth orchestra, David's legacy with the orchestra lives on, since the majority of today's coaching team were themselves members of CYO under David's baton.



Tim Boulton

David Frost rehearsing members of CYO in 2001

ESTREN: A CORNISH SONG

David Frost

TANGO: AMOR EN GRIS

Alberto Caracciolo arr Frost

Martin White with St Mewan Sinfonia, conducted by Nigel Wicken

STMEWAN SINFONIA, Cornwall's only string orchestra, was formed in 1974. The Director at that time left shortly afterwards and the young David Frost took over. Karen had also joined the orchestra at the same time and the then leader, Monica Pethybridge, moved into match-making mode. She invited the pair to tea on the nights that St Mewan rehearsed, and was highly delighted when they announced their engagement after a concert in Bude. After a while pressure of work and various house moves caused David to relinquish his conducting role, but after the death of Director Alan Slaughter in 1998 he returned to the orchestra, and continued to direct us until ill-health forced his resignation in 2013.



Members of St Mewan Sinfonia

David's wife Karen says "He always enjoyed working with string players and was full of admiration as to the commitment everyone gave to the orchestra and what everyone was able to achieve, given that everyone had their 'day jobs'. The highlight every year was the tea party and concert at St Winnow, which he always looked forward to and talked about often."

Tonight the current members of St Mewan are joined by some alumni to play a couple of pieces special to David. The orchestra is conducted by its Musical Director, Nigel Wicken.

Estren is Cornish for 'stranger'. In composing this short piece David imagined a stranger travelling from America across the Atlantic, the ebb and flow of the sea being heard in the first few bars.

David loved arranging works for his string orchestra to play and Caracciolo's *Tango Amor en Gris* is one of many.

Members of the orchestra have said:

'David was one of the best musical coaches we have experienced. He knew what we could achieve and never tired of helping us play better than we ever thought possible. We still remember much of his advice and in this sense he still lives on and his influence will be with us forever. He will certainly never be forgotten by the St Mewan Sinfonia, because even future members will feel his influence when they join us even though they may never have met him.'

'Thoroughly nice sort of chap. We all enjoyed playing for him.'

'As soon as he lifted the baton, David's total engagement with the music could be seen in his face. He always seemed transported to another place and whatever my technical limitations, took me there too.'

'Such a great musician, such a nice man.'

MUSIC FOR PIECES OF WOOD

Steve Reich

Percussion Ensemble directed by Paul Hiley

TONIGHT WE ARE performing a shortened version of Steve Reich's *Music for Pieces of Wood*, which was a staple of the Cornwall Youth Percussion Ensemble's (CYPE) repertoire after its formation in 1984 and was subsequently performed by the CYPE in a number of concerts around the country, including The Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and London's Royal Albert Hall.

David and I shared a love of contemporary twentieth century music, which included avant garde and atonal works. David's enthusiasm and foresight led to the introduction of many young Cornish musicians to inspirational contemporary works, including *A Short Ride in a Fast Machine* by John Adams, Toshio Mayuzumi's *Mandala Symphony* and Toru Takemitsu's *A Flock Descending on a Pentagonal Garden*, which David conducted with the Cornwall Youth Orchestra, who performed the piece with great enthusiasm and energy – probably the most modern piece of music Bodmin had ever heard at that time!

I am privileged to have been able to call David a friend, and my respect for his musical knowledge and abilities both as a player and conductor continues. A truly remarkable musician!

Paul Hiley

REJOICE IN THE LORD

Bach, arr Frost

Cello Ensemble

Liz Brazier — Barbara Degener — Ben Hoadley — Danielle Jones
Olivia Loewendahl — Helen Lunt — Becky McGlade — Tim Pratt

DAVID WAS ALWAYS happy to help with arranging music for particular ensembles, no matter how unusual. Cornwall cello community was no exception. Over many years he has been helping to extend their repertoire of pieces for eight cellos. Whether *Simpson's* theme tune or



Members of the Cello Ensemble

early music by Gabrielli, J S Bach or *Schindler's List*, or writing his own compositions (for example *Parameters, Angles*), it was always a very creative collaboration with a lot of mutual respect.

MOUTHPIECE RAP BANSLE DE CHAMPAGNE

David Frost

St Keverne Youth Band conducted by Karl Long

ST KEVERNE YOUTH and JUNIOR BANDS are demonstrating work from David's highly respected teaching resources. On Karen's request, they will be doing the *Mouthpiece Rap*. This is still the first piece any group of First Access brass pupils will learn. It creates a wonderful sense of fun whilst getting the learner to place the mouthpiece in the correct place, with the correct mouth shape in order to create that all important buzz. Please imagine these young players as they might have been at the ages of 8 or 9!

The *Bransle de Champagne* is one of very many slightly more advanced pieces written by David for training band.

GIANT BOLSTER PAGEANT

David Frost

A procession and children's chorus featuring the children of
St Agnes ACE Academy School

IN 2013 DAVID was fortunate to secure a grant through Arts Council England to write a Community Ballet/Opera and deliver an educational project in schools. Four local primary schools quickly signed up to the project. Dance and music workshops were led in schools by Duchy Ballet and the truly inspirational staff of the then 'Music Cornwall' team,



Giant Bolster parading through the streets of St Agnes in 2013

now Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST). It started with the question: “How can dance/music help to convey/invoke a sense of atmosphere (scary, happy etc) or define a character (big and ugly or young and beautiful)?”

The challenge was for each school to take one of the main ‘Bolster’ legend characters and create a performance piece using whatever they wanted, that would be easily transported to the Hall for Cornwall for the final performance.

David’s notes in the programme at the time say:

*“Having spent virtually all my life teaching, performing, conducting and listening to music, never, even in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would compose anything more than basic tunes and exercises to supplement published music available for my brass students. This is the second Cornish legend I have put to music, having written *The Mermaid of Zennor* three years ago, but for me the resultant score is subservient to the educational workshops leading to the four character cameos, in music and dance; created, developed and performed by children from the four participating schools.”*

The end result was a 40-minute work involving children from the four schools, Cornish Sinfonia, Duchy Ballet, New Cornwall Opera and the St Agnes Pageant Puppeteers.

This evening we are grateful to have the Puppeteers, drumming band and the children from St Agnes school, led by Sarah Wormersley, singing the short children’s chorus which comes near the end of the opera.

INTERVAL

Opening sequence from
THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR
David Frost

Duchy Ballet directed by Kay Jones
with the **Cornish Sinfonia**, conducted by **Michael Reed**

THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR is an age old myth set in the rugged scenery of the west Cornish coast. Within this hamlet lies a small church.

It is within this church that the myth of the Mermaid of Zennor (Morvoren) is celebrated in a medieval carving on the side of a pew.

Matthew Trehwella was a very handsome young man who also has the voice of an angel. The whole village turned out every Sunday evening to hear him sing evensong in the church. Morvoren, in disguise, left the safety of the sea to join the congregation just to

listen to his voice. She always left before the end of the service and, although they never speak, the couple fall in love. Eventually meeting close to the stream that runs to the sea Matthew declares his love for her and returns with her to the sea.

David's work with Duchy Ballet

IT IS A GREAT honour for our Duchy Ballet youth company to be asked to share in this evening's celebration of the life of David Frost and the wonderful contribution he has made to all of our lives!

Duchy Ballet has had a long, warm and fruitful association with David from our initial production of *The Nutcracker* in 1998, when the Hall for Cornwall first opened, until the final performance of the same ballet twenty years later. Duchy Ballet's producer and assistant director, Maureen Pascoe, introduced me to David in 1988, when he brought together and conducted an orchestra, for my first production of this well-known favourite! Our personal journey from there is full of fond memories. David was gentle, kind, always ready to help and to share his boundless knowledge of music with everyone. When budgets could no longer stretch to allow Duchy Ballet to have live music for all our performances, David was always there to help, not least in organizing studio recording for us, so that we could have wonderful arrangements for *Stepping Out to Gershwin*. This year, he enthusiastically stepped in to add arrangements for the Jazz Suite, used in the *Kingdom of Sweets*, played by Truro School's Senior Jazz Orchestra.

Following Duchy Ballet's successful production of the late Ian Hughes' *The Mousehole Cat*, it was Maureen who suggested that we take another Cornish theme and transform it into dance. *The Mermaid of Zennor* was one of her favourite tales.

It took almost two years before *The Mermaid* reached the stage, interpreted by compelling choreography, devised by the late Lucy Graham. David wrote in the programme: "We have endeavoured to evoke the powerful natural energies contained in the area around Zennor, and we pay tribute to Cornwall's rich cultural heritage. At the same time we are celebrating the various facets within Duchy Ballet which I have observed over a twelve year time span, especially the community-centred ethos that underpins the Company."

Duchy Ballet also presented David's arrangement of the Giant Bolster legend. This included an educational project with the schools in St Agnes parish with Duchy Ballet hosting dance workshops in the schools. At the theatre performance, in collaboration with David, we staged an interpretation of the story with the Cornish Sinfonia and choir choreographed by Terence Etheridge.

This year, David and I were planning a re-staging of both *The Mermaid* and *Giant Bolster*; I hope that both of these projects will happen so that we may continue to celebrate the life and work of this very special person who gave so much to the community.

We all owe a great deal to David Frost for his huge and enthusiastic contribution to our Cornish cultural lives. May his work live on through performances of his work and the spirit with which he supported Duchy Ballet and many other bodies. May this spirit help to support Karen and his two sons during and after this celebration of his memorable life!

Kay Jones

UN BEL DI VEDREMO

Puccini

Suzanne Manuell with the Cornish Sinfonia, conducted by Michael Reed

DAVID WAS ONE of the founding members and directors of the Cornish Sinfonia. He used the orchestra when he was conducting the Duchy Ballet & Opera, and went on to become principal conductor after the death of Ian Hughes. He was a joy to work with, both as a conductor, colleague and friend. His enthusiasm and drive were infectious, and we managed to put on regular and imaginative concerts.

Our planning meetings, for choosing repertoire, were always accompanied by a bottle of wine, which fuelled our ambitions and ideas, but inevitably led to more practical solutions in the cold light of day. I shall miss these get-togethers greatly.

Players always respected his professionalism and knowledge, which meant there was always a desire to give the best possible performance for him. It also helped greatly that he had a relaxed and friendly manner, both on and off the rostrum. Of course, that's not to say that he couldn't give a firm word when the occasion merited it! David was always warm and generous in his praise for a good performance and would never forget to thank all who had helped make a concert a success.

If there is an afterlife, I'm sure that David will be busy composing, cajoling and encouraging all the indolent musicians in heaven to perform his latest work. For once, there'll be plenty of rehearsal time and no doubt he'll reward their efforts afterwards with a pint of ambrosia or a glass of nectar of the gods. Sowyn, (*Cheers*) David!

Dave White

I MET DAVID over 35 years ago; he was playing in the pit and I was on stage with St Austell Amateur Operatic Society. Little did I know I would have the privilege of working so closely with him.

I always felt secure with David at the baton: he was a consummate professional, a perfect gentleman and a wonderful friend. I have so many happy memories to treasure. It is an honour and a privilege to sing in David's memory tonight.

Suzanne Manuell

MICHAEL REED

ATAGORE GOLD MEDAL winner at the RCM, Michael Reed has conducting, orchestrating and arranging credits for over twenty West End shows including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Aspects of love*, *Joseph*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *Mr Cinders* and *Singin' in the Rain*. He was Musical Supervisor for the worldwide productions of many of Lloyd Webber's musicals as well as for his 50th Birthday Concert. Michael's international credits include *Dance of the Vampires*, directed by Roman Polanski, *Die Drei Musketiere*, *Ich war noch niemals in New York*, *Dallebach Kari* and *Gotthelf*. His compositions include *Der Besuch der Alten Dame* with Moritz Schneider; *Garbo* with Warner Brown and Jim Steinman; *War in Heaven* with Fay Weldon; *Rock in a Hard Place* with John Theakston, and *The Beauty of Magic* (Las Vegas). He recently won, with Roy Moore, the Deutsche Musical Theater Prize for Best Orchestrations.

His film, television and radio work include five Royal Variety Shows, the Eurovision Song Contest, three Royal Galas for the Prince's Trust; *Guys and Dolls*; *A Little Night Music*; *Jesus Christ Superstar* on BBC Radio 2, and *Furia* (with music by Brian May). He has featured on recordings including Coward's *Bitter Sweet*, *Ziegfeld* and *The Phantom of the Opera*; *Michael Crawford performs Andrew Lloyd Webber*, Sarah Brightman's *Surrender* album and José Carreras's *Passion* album.

He is currently writing *Charley*, a new musical based on the English farce *Charley's Aunt*, with Jon van Eerd which will have its premiere in Rotterdam in December this year.

BRASS BUFFOONERY

David Frost

Brass Ensemble conducted by Sara Munns

BRASS BUFFOONERY WAS written by David to showcase all of the brass family. Generations of Cornish brass teachers have performed this piece in schools across the county, to inspire listeners to take up a brass instrument.

CORNISH LAMENT

David Frost

Barbara Degener with the Cornish Sinfonia, conducted by Michael Reed

THE CORNISH LAMENT was first performed in 2006 by Barbara Degener and David's orchestra The St Mewan Sinfonia. David later used it as the slow movement in his *Concertino for Cello and Strings*, which was performed by Barbara's Atlantic String Orchestra.

It is the perfect piece to express the deeply-felt Lament about the gap David leaves behind in Cornwall.

VILYA *from* THE MERRY WIDOW

Lehár

Duchy Opera with the Cornish Sinfonia, conducted by Paul Drayton
Cheryl Brendish: soprano

DAVID WAS A much-loved and highly respected Musical Director of Duchy Opera from 1980 to 2004. Together with Ben Luxon, Chris Warner and Leon Lovett, he took the Company to new heights of innovative theatre, making opera accessible to audiences throughout Cornwall by inaugurating the touring chamber operas in venues as far north as Bude and as far west as St Ives and Penzance. Apart from acting as both Chorus Master and MD for the main annual production, he was also involved in arranging themed evenings, Country House Concerts and the very popular, sell-out Last Night of the Proms. Not only was he the figurehead of Duchy Opera but also he was an integral part of the Company and formative in decision making.

A proud moment for the Company, under David's leadership, was being asked to perform the first ever concert in the new Hall for Cornwall to test the acoustic. His swan song with Duchy Opera was the very successful production of *Madame Butterfly* in the Hall for Cornwall where there were capacity audiences for every performance with a waiting list for cancellations.

He was a wonderfully inspirational man with very high standards, and he will be greatly missed.



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THE LARK ASCENDING

Vaughan Williams, arr David Frost

Phil Montgomery-Smith: violin

Jake Montgomery-Smith – Chris Prindle – Barbara Degener

THE LARK ASCENDING is a poem by the English poet George Meredith about the song of the skylark. David scored this for string quartet last year as a special request for a friends wedding; the solo violin beautifully played by Phil Montgomery-Smith.

Tonight we dedicate this piece to the memory of our dear friend Veronica Woodburn, for her kindness, loyalty and friendship. She will be remembered as a wonderful musician and an inspirational teacher who had boundless energy.



IOWE A DEBT of gratitude to both David and Veronica. They were both friends and colleagues, and without them I may well have not been playing at all. They both introduced me to musical life in Cornwall at a time when I had really given up playing the violin after a crisis of confidence and a change in career. The wonderful friends I've made, the rich musical experience I've had are in so many ways down to David and Veronica's influence. My two children, Jake and Millie, loved working with David in St Mewan School Orchestra, as did I in everything we did together.

Phil Montgomery-Smith

CORNWALL MUSIC SERVICE TRUST (CMST)

is extremely proud and honoured to be supporting this amazing concert.

David Frost was a founding Trustee of CMST. His involvement, drive and passion for music education insured a sustainable, equitable Music Service for the children and young people of Cornwall. The majority of the Trust's 130+ strong staff base, who delivery over 1,000 hours of music education to 10,000 pupils every week, have all been influenced and inspired by David's wonderful approach to teaching, conducting and composing.



CORNWALL MUSIC SERVICE TRUST

TRELAWNY

Based on the SONG OF THE WESTERN MEN by R S HAWKER

arr David Frost

The Cornish Sinfonia conducted by Michael Reed

Audience invited to participate

A good sword and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do!

And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

CHORUS:

*And shall Trelawny live?
And shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!*

Out spake their Captain brave and bold:
A merry wight was he:
'If London Tower were Michael's hold,
We'd set Trelawny free!

We'll cross the Tamar, land to land:
The Severn is no stay:
With "one and all", and hand in hand,
And who shall bid us nay?'

CHORUS:

And shall Trelawny live? etc.

'And when we come to London Wall,
A pleasant sight to view,
Come forth! come forth! Ye cowards all:
Here's men as good as you.

Trelawny he's in keep and hold;
Trelawny he may die:
But twenty thousand Cornish bold
Will know the reason why!'

CHORUS:

And shall Trelawny live? etc.

RETIRING COLLECTION

TO SET UP A FUND TO SUPPORT
YOUNG CORNISH COMPOSERS AND CONDUCTORS



Another score to try!

A very special thank you to...

The Dean and staff of Truro Cathedral

Russell Pascoe for compering

Tony Burke of Pocket Publications

for donating the orchestral score and parts for *The Merry Widow*

The *Giant Bolster* puppeteers

Ginny Hellier & Julieann Kinsey for the loan of their *Mermaid of Zennor* paintings

Dee Gordon Jackson for her invaluable help and advice organising this event

Camilla Comeau for programme layout

Cornwall Music Service Trust for donating the cost of programme printing

Dave White, the CMST managers, and all performers
for helping to make this concert a great musical event

