

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

ABOUT THE MAIN ARTICLE STARTING

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

We are pleased for you to have a copy of this article, which you may read, print or saved on your computer. These presentations can be downloaded directly.

You are free to make any number of additional photocopies, for Johnstone-Music seeks no direct financial gain whatsoever from these articles (and neither too the writers with their generous contributions); however, we ask that the name of Johnstone-Music be mentioned if any document is reproduced.

If you feel like sending any (hopefully favourable!) comment visit the 'Contact' section of the site and leave a message with the details - we will be delighted to hear from you!

SPECIAL FEATURE on EDWARD BISHA

..

Full name: Edward Russell Bisha
Birth: 26th August, 1927 (Louisville)
Death: 4th May 1991 (Toronto)

..

..

North American cellist Edward Bisha grew up in the U.S.A. but became a naturalized Canadian in 1973. He studied between 1947-49 at the Cincinnati Conservatory, and then 1950-54 at the Juilliard School with the great professors Felix Salmond and Bernard Greenhouse, and also privately with Janos Starker. He won the Piatigorsky Award in 1949. That same year (July) he featured as soloist in the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra season, playing the Boccherini-Grutzmacher Cello Concerto in Bb Major.

..

He developed a flexible career. He was a member of the American Chamber Orchestra and of the Harp Trio (New York) and gave solo recitals and occasional solo appearances with orchestras. He moved to Canada, where he served ten years (1956-66) as principal cello of the Halifax Symphony Orchestra and simultaneously 1956-67 as a member of the Halifax Trio (later re-named the Brandon University Trio).

..

He taught from 1966-68 at Brandon University. He then was professor at the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon campus) between 1968-75 where he also played (1969-71) in the Amati String Quartet, and then from 1971 to 1975 in the Canadian Arts Trio.

..

He returned to orchestral life in 1975, where he was a member for one season of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. Between 1980 and 1985, Bisha worked in Halifax and Toronto; he played with the Canadian Opera Company and CJRT orchestras 1983-85. Edward Bisha again continued teaching - at the University of Saskatchewan 1985-91.

..

One of his very best students was Ifan Williams, born on 10 July 1945 in Halifax NS, who is still active as a cellist and teacher. He gained great orchestral experience, playing amongst others for the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, New Philharmonia of London and the London Symphony Orchestra. Upon returning to Canada he continued the path of Bisha as an important university cello professor.

..

Edward Bisha was married to the violist- violinist Norma Lee Bisha. They have three sons: Raymond, Bernard and Timothy.

..

..

Photo: The University of Saskatchewan 'Amati' String Quartet in February 1969, with Bishe on cello and his wife on 2nd violin. Have a look in depth at the pic - these instruments - both violins, the viola and the cello - dated back as early as 1607 and were all built by the Amati family of Cremona, Italy!

Violin 1637, Nicola Amati (Nicolo)

Violin 1627, Antonio & Girolamo Amati

Viola 1607, Antonio & Girolamo Amati

Cello 1690, Girolamo Amati II, aka Hieronymus II

This first Canadian Amati quartet disbanded in 1971 but a new one of the very same name was born in 2003, playing together until 2018. The instruments remain in the possession of the university. In case you are interested, here is more info on the cello!:

<https://tarisio.com/cozio-archive/property/?ID=40071>



From left: M. Adaskin, N. Bisha, R. Klose and E. Bisha.

The image linked here is claimed to be used under fair use as:
the photo is only being used for informational purposes.

..

‘documenting the cello’

Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

DOWNLOADS - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

FREE PUBLICITY - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!