

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on KERRY MINNEAR

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Kerry Churchill Minnear (born in Shaftesbury, Dorset, England) is a classically trained multi-instrumentalist who played in the progressive rock band 'Gentle Giant' during the 1970s.

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Minnear didn't particularly enjoy schooling, but took refuge in music, especially in timpani with some violoncello playing added! The family moved to Gloucester from Dorset, his birth area. He loved studying written scores, so enrolled in a classical music education at the Royal Academy of Music (London), gaining a degree in composition originally he had originally thought of studying percussion. He later said he was not particularly aware of pop music whilst at the Academy, but he founds links between the very classical avant-garde (Berio, Stockhausen etc.) and heavier 'aristocratic' rock! He had a tough period in which he struggled to find a way ahead (and not so far from starvation for a few months in Germany) but very slowly forged his career. The band 'Gentle Giant' had a slow but sure progress until working with the finest producers then around.

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Contributing to the band's success as one of the composers and arrangers, Kerry, unlike most of the keyboardists of his time, chose to create natural sounds from his keyboards. Like the other members of Gentle Giant, he is quite adept on a number of instruments including the cello, drums, guitar, bass, idiophones, recorder, vibraphone, theremin, and timpani.

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Minnear composed the soundtrack to the 1996 video game 'Azrael's Tear', along with bandmate Ray Shulman.

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He now lives in Solihull (West Midlands) with his wife Lesley and has three children, Sally, Sam and Susie. Still part of the 'Gentle Giant' franchise, he also composes for film and television. In the years since the disbanding of Gentle Giant, Minnear has been a member of 'The Reapers' during the 1980s. He has also been a teacher and a church musician (he is a Christian). He and his wife Lesley own 'Alucard Music', which releases Gentle Giant CDs and DVDs. His son Sam Minnear is a founding member of alternative pop band 'Misty's Big Adventure'.

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SONGS WRITTEN BY KERRY MINNEAR - ORIGINAL SONGS:
<https://secondhandsongs.com/artist/96514>

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'documenting the cello' - www.johnstone-music.com

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!