

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on ROSS POPLÉ

(CELLIST, CONDUCTOR)

Born: May 11th, 1945 - Auckland, New Zealand

Ross Pople is a New Zealand-born British cellist and conductor. As an outstanding young cellist from New Zealand, at the age of 18 years he set off to London where he was awarded a scholarship to study under Muriel Taylor at the Royal Academy of Music (gaining a Recital Medal 1962; LRSM; Hon RAM), then the Paris Conservatoire and the Chigiana Academia, Siena, under the guidance of André Navarra. Ross was actually the first New Zealander ever to enter the Tchaikovsky Competition!

He made his debut as a solo cellist in London in 1965. After graduating, and at the age of 23, Yehudi Menuhin appointed Pople to be solo principal cellist of the Bath/Menuhin Festival Orchestra, and he spent some eight years with them. He was subsequently appointed solo principal cellist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra where he worked tirelessly during a whole decade, from 1976 to 1986.

However, already in 1980 Ross Pople had taken up the helm of London Festival Orchestra (LFO) and toured Germany with them. He quickly made London Festival Orchestra a household name through his summer Festival of Music in Cathedrals in England titled 'Cathedral Classics', which he created in 1986, often directing the chamber orchestra from the cello as the "concertmaster" (leader). Since those early days he has taken the London Festival Orchestra on tour throughout Europe, the Americas and even to the Far East. Also associated with Pople's name is the Southbank series 'Birthday Honours', the 'Hochhauser' series at the Barbican, the annual 'Remembrance Sunday Concert' at the Royal Albert Hall, the festival Dutch 'Cornucopia and the Virtuoso Piano' series at Cadogan Hall.

Ross Pople has worked with Yehudi Menuhin, Clifford Curzon, David Oistrakh, Kentner, George Malcolm, Sir Adrian Boult, Rudolf Kempe, Benjamin Britten, Witold Lutosławski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Michael Tippett, Georg Solti, Leonard Bernstein, George Benjamin, John Casken, Edwin Roxburgh, Luciano Berio, John Taverner, Malcolm Arnold, Pierre Boulez as well as many other major orchestras, choirs and soloists.

Ross Pople is Artistic Director of 'The Warehouse', a studio space which hosts BBC3's recording of the New Generation Artists series, the British Music Information Centre (BMIC) contemporary series 'Cutting Edge' and the resident Warehouse Ensemble.

Critics often site Ross Pople's sound knowledge of the orchestra and repertoire which ensures effortless communication between composer, orchestra and audience. Pople has produced a large number of definitive performances and recordings and is acknowledged as an expert interpreter of contemporary music.

Ross Pople has recorded some 80 discs of solo and chamber music for the labels Deutsche Grammophon, Hyperion, ASV, Sony BMG, Arte Nova, Nimbus. Enigma, EMI; London Festival Orchestra Debut Recording. Among these: Felix Mendelssohn: String Symphonies 9, 10 & 12 (released May 1986); Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante Op. 84 and W.A. Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante (released 1987); Boccherini: Symphonies 6, 8, 14 (1987); Johann Christian Bach: Sinfonie Concertanti. More recordings include the complete F. Mendelssohn's String Symphonies; Gustav Holst: The Planets; Richard Strauss: Metamorphosen; Sinfonie Concertanti (by J.S. Bach, Haydn, Stamitz and W.A. Mozart); symphonies of Schubert and F. Mendelssohn; Haydn's complete London Symphonies; Arnold, Igor Stravinsky, Ralph Vaughan Williams, César Franck, Boccherini, Arnold Schoenberg and more.

Ross Pople married Anne Storrs in June, 1965; they have 3 sons and a daughter. His special hobbies: Squash & Tennis



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