

# Cellists' Corner

## Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

*prepared by David Johnstone from public information*

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## SPECIAL FEATURE on PENELOPE LYNEX

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Birth: 30th August 1936 - London

Death: 26th August 2015

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Born in London, Penelope Lynex studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Douglas Cameron from 1954 to 1958, where she won all the cello prizes and was awarded the Suggia Scholarship. She attended masterclasses under Pablo Casals in 1958 and 1959, and she undertook further study in Paris on a Countess of Munster Award with Paul Tortelier. Tortelier described her as 'one of the most talented pupils he had taught' and 'a faithful friend and brilliant colleague'.

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Penelope Lynex then forged an individual career in many different areas. She performed in Europe, the USA, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand; she was a prolific recitalist, performing nearly always from memory!

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She was also very open to receive and premiere new contemporary music. Composers such as C.W. Orr, Peter Dickinson, Simon Speare and Simon Phillippo dedicated works to her. Known for her radiant tone, musicianship and bravura, her unusually large repertoire found its way into recordings too, including the complete music of Frank Bridge for cello and piano on the 'Somm' label. Hear these brief Bridge excerpts, a lovely sound, and I hear Tortelier influence!:

Spring Song - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQ\\_M6gYxrQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQ_M6gYxrQ)

Cradle Song - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B\\_7dF0Y5wE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B_7dF0Y5wE)

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Her many favourable reviews included the following:  
\*\* *'technical brilliance and sound musicianship'* (The Times)  
\*\* *'an uncommonly fine control of staccato, both on and off the string'* (The Strad)  
*'... a cellist of formidable gifts ... her enviable sense of line'* (M&V CD Spotlight).

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Penelope was also a much sought-after professor, especially known for coaxing the best from the younger pre-professional players. She taught cello at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department from 1973 to 2001, at the International Cello Centre in Scotland from 1989 to 2005, and for the Benslow Music Trust from the mid 1990s until 2013. This gave her an insight into the production of useful material, and her book publications still sell worldwide.

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Her publications include:

\*\* *'Cello Ideas: A Practical Guide'* - a book of exercises and advice [see the image attached, I have glanced at a few pages and it looks great!]

\*\* Original duets for teachers and students [see more details here: <https://www.sjmusicpublications.co.uk/product/lynex-christmas-carols> ]

\*\* *'20 Carols for a Cellist and Friends'*.

She also composed cadenzas for the classical cello concertos....

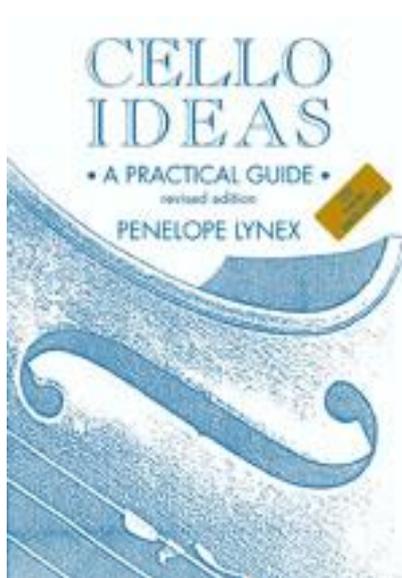
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Logically, following on from this, she has also had articles published in leading musical journals and magazines. On top of all mentioned she was often invited as an adjudicator for the cello in varying panels and gave masterclasses and directed cello courses.

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Penelope died in 2015, just a few days short of her 79th birthday - a cellist we shouldn't forget!

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*'documenting the cello'* [www.johnstone-music.com](http://www.johnstone-music.com)

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