



# SALUTE TO BRIAN DUGUID

*Scotland and beyond mourns the loss of Brian Duguid who died on the 10th December 2005*

**B**rian will be sorely missed as a friend to many and as a tireless worker for the good of all in musical education, the wind band fraternity both home and abroad, the brass band movement in Scotland and the arts in general, specifically in West Lothian. In saluting him and thanking him for touching many of our lives, heartfelt condolences and greetings equally go out to Kitty, Mark and Brian's immediate family.

Thirty years ago I gradually became aware of Brian Duguid on the Scottish brass band scene. I'm not that sure we were ever formally introduced. But as reputations grow, nodding terms and then passing the occasional remark naturally ensued. I do recall a remarkable story in those days of a band on stage, but with a missing conductor, in a competition who grabbed the first conductor that walked by and kidnapped him onto the stage and told him "to do whatever to get them through the show". It happened to be Brian, and with no rehearsal, just the show, went on to win the competition. He was brave, talented and blessed!

He struck me then, as one of those interesting chaps with whom you wanted to talk and get to know. At that time, Brian was attached to the Park Main High School and served as an instrumental teacher, conductor and organiser. It was here that he cultivated his ideas and vision of taking youth music onto the world stage. He courted foreign contacts, commissioned music, worked in and for associations such as BASWBE, National Youth Wind Ensemble of Scotland and Clyde Winds. He picked up many valuable experiences on the way.

He was now ready for the bigger stage. That initially came when he undertook a music advisory role for Lothian Region, which subsequently, after governmental reorganisation, led Brian to become the Head of the Arts Unit and Instrumental Teaching service for West Lothian. That was the start of a fine friendship and working relationship that lasted some ten years or so. It was life changing for me as well, as Brian supported me wholeheartedly in making the break from playing in the BBCSSO to establishing an interesting and varied conducting career.

Over the last ten years his thrust was to support the already successful youth outfits and to raise the profile and resources for all the other ensembles. It made West Lothian enviable to many. He used to say, "bring me the plans and I'll make it possible. Just make it special". Special it has been: CD recordings every two years, a tour to Australia, where on one occasion, dressed in a kilt he picked up the Gold Award from the International Music Festival in Sydney. Germany was visited on several occasions and a memorable tour to North America can be recalled, where thirteen concerts were played in seven days and where he met with his lifelong friend Bruce Pearson. There was the opening of Parliament when the Devolution Act was passed in Scotland and there were a number of Royal visits too over the years. Brian was at the hub of musical life in Central Scotland.

Brian Duguid's dear wish latterly was to see the *ncbf* festival visit Scotland. That will happen on April 8-9, 2006. Brian made provision for it, to help make it happen. So, haste ye all to Glasgow where a warm welcome awaits you at the Royal

Scottish Academy of Music & Drama and enjoy a fine weekend of music making. I do know there are plans afoot to mark Brian's memory at that event but specifically he would wish for it all to happen in celebration of what is good in music and in particular youth music.

There are other events of interest planned in 2006 as a mark of respect. A celebratory Gala Concert in West Lothian on April 23rd will be the first of several salutes. And how about this: a new work arrived on my desk this week for wind band, brass band, choir, pipes and narrator called *The Declaration of Arbroath*, composed by Andrew Duncan to be premiered on February 5th at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh and dedicated to the memory of Brian Duguid.

In saying farewell to Brian Duguid, we can all enjoy the memory of his inexhaustible enthusiasm and massive personality and hope to continue his good work to the best of all our abilities.

*Nigel Boddice MBE*

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