

## **A tribute to David Angel by Martin Outram**

It seems impossible to know where to begin or what to think and feel when a cherished friend's life ends so suddenly and unexpectedly. David Angel was such a special human being from every conceivable point of view. He touched so many people's lives with his great gifts both as a man and a musician.

I first met him in early 1983, when the Bochmann Quartet was changing membership. David had been in the Quartet since its inception in 1976 and he and Michael were seeking new colleagues to play viola and cello after Gustav (Clarkson) and Sebastian (Comberti) had decided to leave. Michal and I both joined in the early months of '83. In 1988, Michael left and we became the Maggini Quartet, Tom Bowes becoming the first violin of the group.

From the outset, David's wisdom, sensitivity and judgement guided us through the many varied ups and downs over the years. His was the voice of reason and reconciliation, his the humour that would smooth the way. Musically, his contribution was always passionate, intense, vivid, informed, enabling and challenging.

David relished his role as second violin and we considered him to be an absolute champion in this position, the glue of our ensemble in so many ways. His beautiful, dark, focussed, detailed, infinitely-nuanced sound will never be forgotten by all who heard him.

David and I lived close to each other in Hertfordshire and so frequently travelled together to rehearsals and concerts. These journeys gave time to reflect not just on our quartet life but life in general and David was a mentor to me. I sought his advice and guidance at key points in my life, knowing that his perspective would always be balanced, wise and honest. I could never possibly thank him enough for all the support and help he gave me as a player.

David was a born teacher, able to share and impart just the right challenge at just the right moment. As a coach, he was utterly exceptional. His approach was always fresh, full of imagination, highly original and hugely cherished by all who had the great good fortune to be nurtured by him. David's interaction was life-enhancing and could be life-changing, qualities appreciated by the countless tributes to him from across the globe that Julian, Michal and I have received since his untimely passing.

But we all cherished David for so much more than his huge musicianship. David's humility, his generosity, his amazing (and frequently wicked!) sense of humour, his uncanny ability to mimic friends and colleagues, his fertile and highly individual 'take' on things, his vast knowledge of music, literature, sport (in particular he had an encyclopedic knowledge of boxing!), politics, film, medicine and the many, many other things which contributed to his utterly magnetic personality.

As I write, I can picture him sitting back, crossed legged in the centre of a gathering recounting one of his humorous stories, utterly captivating his audience, the loud roars of

laughter filling the room. David was a master raconteur and we all wanted to hear his stories again and again even if we'd heard them before - it really was so much about the way he told them! Many felt that, with his rich, clear, beautifully-toned voice he could have enjoyed a career on the radio. He had an extraordinary ability to guide absolutely anyone through music of any complexity and his spoken introductions to works at our concerts were legendary.

I could go on and on about my wonderful friend and colleague. It goes without saying that David is already so sorely missed, but I'm trying to focus on the incredible times we shared. We never said 'hello' or 'goodbye' to each other - I guess it will be the same next time we meet.

***Martin Outram***

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This tribute was first published on the Maggini's FaceBook page