

Geoffrey Crawford Duggan

(1929 – 2020)

Violinist/Violist and member of Birmingham Conservatoire staff from 1961-1989.



Geoffrey Duggan was born on 9 June, 1929 in Grayshott, Hampshire, and was educated at St John's, Leatherhead.

During army service he played in military bands: for the Royal Artillery at Woolwich and the Royal Military Academy Band Corps at Sandhurst.

From 1947/54 he studied viola part-time and full-time at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama before joining the Carl Rosa Opera Company (1955/7), Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (1957/8) and CBSO (1958/64).

He was with the Birmingham Education Authority (1964/71) and studied for a degree at London University (1971/77) while free-lancing as a viola player.

Geoffrey took up a part-time appointment at Birmingham School of Music in 1961 and became full-time in 1971 teaching Theory and String Studies. He became Co-

ordinator of String Studies in 1982/83 while playing on occasions with the CBSO and Welsh National Opera.

He played in the violas in the orchestra for Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which was staged at The Crescent Theatre from 9th to 13 July, 1974.

He conducted the First Year Orchestra at a Concert which was given on Tuesday 27 March, 1984.

With Damian Cranmer and David Bruce-Payne, he adjudicated the BMI Strings Competition which was held in the ABH on Wednesday 4 June, 1986.

He played in the violas in the BSM Symphony Orchestra at a performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* by Elgar which was given in Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday 18 March, 1989 as part of the Birmingham Centenary Festival (1889-1989).

He retired from BSM in 1989.

Since 1990 he has taught privately and been an extra mural Lecturer at Birmingham University and at the Birmingham & Midland Institute.

From 1980/2007 he frequently adjudicated at Festivals up and down the country and was an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Sadly Geoffrey passed away on 16 November 2020. Geoffrey generously bequeathed his collection of viola bows and instruments to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

1 January, 2021