

Preface

It is a such a pleasure to be invited to write this preface for the Classic Music Set by my long time friend and colleague, Phil Rooke. I have been associated with Phil in at least some of the many aspects of music at which he is expert.

He is very knowledgeable, for example, in the complex business of recording music and I have been associated with him in this area, when we recorded some trumpet music for the launch of a book by Edward de Bono. His wealth of knowledge in this area makes this present publication so good to listen to, when using the compact disc which is included - using real instruments and - in the very useful department - played at three different speeds.

This brings us to Phil's skill as a performer - anyone lucky enough to have heard him (as I have) play with equal ease on violin, viola, cello, guitar and piano will only be able to marvel at these accomplishments. His knowledge of classical style and jazz styles of playing is enviable - we all wish we could be so versatile and convincing !

Also, for all of us to have such a person as a teacher is exceptional, and I think that in order to spread Phil's wealth of knowledge and skill among a wider audience and to a wider band of students, the present series of books is a tremendous bonus for the music teaching community.

I should relate a short story here, which happened in July, 2008. To mark my 70th birthday, the Director of Music at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith, Valda Silvy, organized a concert of my music and a master class attended by more than 100 senior school students from the area. Phil was one of the teachers present, and in a totally impromptu situation I asked him to help me organise the students. He did this with ease and in no time had helped them create, and perform, some new music. This made the master class quite exceptional.

In the Classic Music Set, Phil introduces some wonderful music from the Baroque and Classical era to young students in his inimitable fashion, so that the music appears as something living, to be enjoyed, and not at all fusty. He then creates opportunities to practice along with the disc either in a solo situation or from almost any combination through to string ensemble. In this way the student can become fully involved in the music, and while having the pleasure of performing, he or she is also becoming acquainted with some of the masterpieces of classical music.

Whichever instrument you play, this book and compact disc is for you to learn from in the most enjoyable way possible.

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