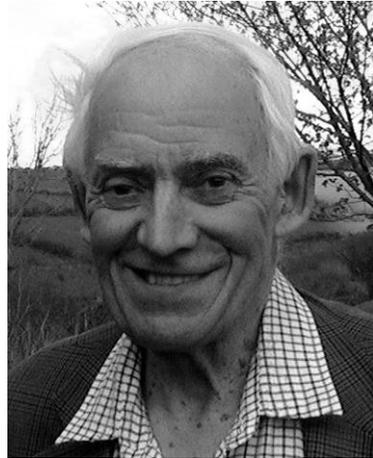


This concert is dedicated to the memory of

HENRY CLIFFORD GARNER

(14th July 1922 – 9th February 2010)

Clifford Garner was born in College Town in Berkshire in 1922. He was the son of the eminent scientific civil servant, Sir Harry Garner, who joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) after World War I as an aerodynamicist. Sir Harry, who was a keen amateur cellist, was the founder Treasurer of the RAE Orchestral Society (later the RAE Symphony Orchestra and more recently the



Farnborough Symphony Orchestra) when it was formed under the conductorship of Sir Ben Lockspeiser in 1922. Clifford had childhood recollections of his father playing with the Orchestra and he himself performed as a guest cellist in a concert in 1946. He wrote in 2007:

In a strange way I feel as if I have related to the Orchestra for my whole life! It was formed in the same year as I was, with my father as the founder Treasurer, an office which I have held for the past 34 years.

In 1928, his father was appointed Chief Technical Officer at the Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment in Felixstowe and the family moved to Suffolk. Clifford attended Westminster School in London, where he was a King's Scholar, and joined other boys from the school singing in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of George VI. He continued his education at St John's College, Cambridge,

graduating in Mathematics with First Class Honours just as his father had.

Clifford began his lifelong career in aerodynamics at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington in the early years of World War II. He was directed there as his war service, and the first of his publications on aerodynamics was issued in June 1944. This was an important contribution to Wing Theory concerned with achieving efficient flight through understanding the forces of drag and lift.

In addition to his passion for mathematics and his gifted musicianship he was very able at chess, playing for the NPL Chess Club and serving as Chairman of the Thames Valley Chess League. Much later, in the 1970s, he took on all comers simultaneously at Camberley United Reformed Church Youth Club, and in his late eighties he could still hold his own against Microsoft's Chess Titans at level 10.

Clifford was a founder member of Concordia, an amateur string orchestra in Teddington, and it was there that he first met Heather (then mainly playing the violin) in the late 1940s. They married in 1957, settling in Twickenham. In 1971, Clifford's work was transferred to the Royal



Aircraft Establishment and the family, which by now included sons, Richard and Julian, moved to Farnborough. It was at this time that Clifford and Heather joined the RAE Symphony Orchestra. Clifford took over the job of Treasurer of the Orchestra from Llewellyn Niblett in 1973 and fulfilled the role until his death earlier this year. He was also principal cello for

over 25 years.

In 1982, Clifford retired from the RAE having authored over thirty technical publications during his career. Many are listed in the Royal Aeronautical Society library catalogue which also records several by his father.

For Clifford, retirement brought opportunities to devote more time to his other interests, all of which he approached with characteristic enthusiasm combined with unswerving analytical rigour. This was just as true of his love of rambling as more formal disciplines, as illustrated in a story related by his son, Richard:



At the beginning of the 1990s I joined my parents on two successive summer holidays to tackle Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk, a long distance route across Yorkshire and Cumbria. My father's careful planning was typical – elegant, yet difficult to explain. It used two cars – walking back to one that had been left earlier, and then driving ahead so that the next day's walk could go back to the second car. The result was that while we progressed from east to west all the walking was in the other direction. This meant that we could pass other walkers going in the opposite direction twice on successive days, causing them some puzzlement.

From 1971 Clifford was an active member of High Cross Church in Camberley, involving himself enthusiastically in many aspects of church life, including singing in the choir, serving on committees concerned with finance and premises and leading monthly church rambles.

Those of us who played alongside him in the Orchestra will remember his unmistakable figure amongst the ranks of the cellos, his passion for ensuring that musical instructions in the score were rendered just as the composer intended, and his very individual financial reports delivered with great vitality. At his thanksgiving service Revd David Hamblin summed up his life:



Clifford will be remembered as a man of great faith, a man who was truly focussed on what he did, and a man of great determination and energy. He fully entered into everything he undertook - his work - his music - his rambling - his chess – his garden - his church.

The last time that Clifford played with the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra was at a family concert on 17th January 2010. The programme for that event included a movement from Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1, which members of the Orchestra also played as a tribute to him at his memorial service six weeks later. For the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra, Clifford's contribution to its musical life over 39 years was immeasurable and we will all miss him greatly.

