

Christopher Regan

29 June 1929 – 26 May 2015

'I am sorry to report that your son does not appreciate the music of Palestrina' ran an end-of-term report to the parents of probationer chorister, Christopher Regan, written by Dr Thomas Armstrong, organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford after catching young Regan scribbling the words 'I hate Palestrina' on his music during a choir practice. Fortunately for all concerned, Christopher saw the error of his ways: five years later Dr Armstrong was able to conclude his final report on Head Chorister Regan with the words, 'I am pleased to say that he now appreciates the music of Palestrina' and, some years later still, as Principal of the RAM, Sir Thomas Armstrong invited Christopher to join the RAM's professorial staff.

With the passing of Christopher Regan, a family link with the Academy stretching back to well before WWII has been broken. Like father, like son, Christopher followed in the footsteps of his distinguished father, Leslie, as both a harmony professor and as President of the RAM Club. Christopher's influence and stature (and he was a big man in every respect) grew throughout his time on the staff and, by the time he retired, he was Dean of Studies.

I first encountered Christopher in September 1965 as a member of his Div III aural class in Room 14 where his dry humour and general *bonhomie* helped us as we attempted to write down the chord sequences he was playing to the accompaniment of pneumatic drills breaking up Marylebone Road in preparation for major improvements. In later life my wife, Eileen, and I came to enjoy Christopher's friendship through our membership of the RAM Club of which he was a leading light. Always a busy man, his many extra-RAM activities included membership of the Council of the RSCM and serving as chairman and, later, Vice Patron of the Friends of the Musicians' Chapel.

I am sure I am not alone in saying that I shall miss Christopher's telephone calls - which always gave me cause to marvel at his prodigious memory - and the trenchantly expressed views in emails from cpwr@ophicleide.demon.co.uk.

Christopher Field