

George Hurst, 1926–2012

Monday, September 17, 2012



Staff, students and alumni of the Academy were saddened to receive the news that George Hurst, Visiting Professor of Conducting, died on Saturday 15th September at the age of 86. We know that countless performers across the world will join us in crediting George, who gave termly lessons at the Academy over the course of many decades, as one of their very most important influences.

[Colin Metters](#), the Academy's Director of Conducting Studies, writes: 'It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of George Hurst on Saturday. He had been unwell for some time and had become progressively weaker over recent months. He died in his sleep in the early hours of Saturday morning. George influenced the lives and musical development of so many young conductors over the course of more than 60 years. For myself, I first met George when I was 18 years old, studied with him and taught with him. He became a close and dear friend. Words cannot express my gratitude to him and my immense sense of loss.'

Tribute from the Principal, Jonathan Freeman-Attwood

With some conductors, one just knows that their influence will be felt for generations to come. George Hurst, who died on Saturday at the age of 86, is one of them. I've been struck, but certainly not surprised, by the number of people who have rushed to share their memories of working with George, recognising his insights as crucial elements in their development. His termly classes at the Academy have become the stuff of legend, and particularly so because for many years he taught only here and at Canford. I have fond memories of George from when I was 13, going to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts at Winter Gardens where he was a regular guest. More recently, with his supportive colleague and wife Denise, he has continued to be a valuable presence in various ways. I was especially pleased to dig out a picture of him in his early years in Canada which neither of them had seen! We will miss him greatly and I offer heartfelt condolences to his close family friends.