

Stephen Daw ARAM  
Born 28 May 1944  
Died 27 October 2012

Stephen Daw was born on 28 May 1944 in Caterham, Surrey and was educated at Kibworth Grammar School in Leicestershire before going to New College Oxford where he gained a first class honours in music in 1966, followed by an MA.

Stephen studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Lennox Berkeley (composition) and George Rogers (piano) as a postgraduate student from 1966-1967. He was secretary of the New Music Club and a contemporary of Brian Ferneyhough and Paul Patterson. He promoted and joined in with the performance of avant-garde music with great enthusiasm, designing brightly-coloured abstract posters to advertise lunch-time concerts. He was a striking figure, always wearing his distinctive brown and white striped scarf from New College Oxford. Stephen then studied at Worcester College, Oxford as the Martin Senior Scholar, after which he taught briefly at The Rowans School in Merton, Surrey, before joining the staff of Birmingham School of Music (now Birmingham Conservatoire) in 1971 as a lecturer. He progressed from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer and then Principal Lecturer and during this time he made significant contributions to the development of courses, especially to the BA (Hons) Course which was launched in 1982, as well as to postgraduate studies.

He was an external examiner for a number of universities and served as the School of Music's representative on the Council for National Academic Awards.

His commitment to teaching at the Conservatoire was always underpinned by his outstanding scholarship and especially as a scholar of J.S. Bach. His book, *J.S. Bach, The Choral Music*, is recognised as authoritative and his many articles, essays and translations have established him as one of the major Bach scholars of his time. In 1985 he revised the works-list of Bach in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

He was custodian of the collection of musical instruments held by the Conservatoire.

He was a music critic for the Birmingham Post and Mail and edited *Fanfare II*, the Birmingham Conservatoire Association's magazine, from 1986 to 1989.

He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Birmingham Conservatoire in 2007, and he was awarded the ARAM in 1990.