

## **Musical Memories**

One of my earliest musical memories is of a brass band leading the annual carnival procession through the streets of the Cornish harbour town where I grew up. The Floral Dance was one of the many tunes that they always played and the atmosphere was one of excitement and celebration.

Towards the end of my own school days the Beatles were the band we all followed. The person who brought into school their latest single and played it on the ancient record player in the school hall (strictly against the rules!) was very popular.

At about this time I started to enjoy listening to and watching on TV Dusty Springfield. She seemed to me to be very stylish in her performance and also very versatile in the songs she sang. My favourite song of hers was and still is “My Colouring Book”.

The organist at our church introduced me to the work of George Frederic Handel. I loved the intricate nature of Baroque music and was intrigued to learn that The Water Music was first played for King George 1 in 1717, with the

musicians sitting on boats as they were rowed along the Thames.

I learned the piano as a child and though I didn't get very far with it, I learned enough to appreciate the amazing skills of professional pianists. Two very different performers that I have seen and enjoyed are Jools Holland and Lang Lang. I saw them both at the Albert Hall and on both occasions every seat was taken. They each showed what a keyboard instrument can do in the hands of experts and the speed of their fingers was to be marvelled at. In their different ways they evoked the atmosphere and style of the composer perfectly and took their audiences to another place.

**Jan Rees   January 2025**