

Phil Lawrence Timeline(1955-2025)

THE START

Phil was born in Breck Road, Anfield, Liverpool to musical parents Walter, who played cornet in the Salvation army as a child, and Elsie who appreciated opera and classical music. Phil attended Anfield Road Junior School. He began to learn trumpet from his father aged 10, before moving to Anfield Comprehensive in Breckside Park. Phil's first private teacher was the eminent local pro Bill Flood who lived in Lothair Road next to Liverpool's football ground. Phil would have his lessons on Saturday – lessons would often be interrupted if Liverpool scored and you couldn't hear yourself play!.



1. Walter & his cornet

EARLY STEPS AS A TRUMPET PROFESSIONAL



2 Phil visits Alan in France

When he studied 'A' level music at Mabel Fletcher College he started lessons with the legendary principal trumpet of the Liverpool Philharmonic, Alan Stringer, MBE who was to become a lifelong friend. 18 months later he was asked to play with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, his first professional engagement at the start of his career as a trumpeter prior to studying trumpet, composition and conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music. A successful career followed, performing with orchestras such as the Royal Opera, the Philharmonia,

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra etc. , as well as regularly performing as a soloist.

EARLY STEPS IN COMPOSITION

Phil's passion for composition and arranging began at the age of 13. His arrangements were of particular value for a mixed group of school friend instrumentalists and the pen was to always play a part to his playing. During his A levels he met his life changing mentor James Eastham - Conductor, performer (piano & French horn, Lecturer). Phil knew instantly that there was magic to be had from James and Jim became the fountain of knowledge for Phil. He spent 5 years studying with Jim (During A Level studies and subsequent post graduate studies at the RNCM), mainly in conducting, composition and general music performance concepts.

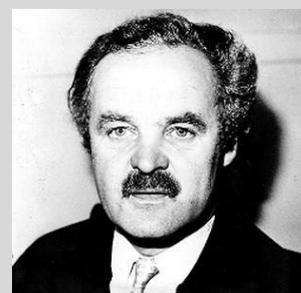


Figure 3 James Eastham

EARLY STEPS IN CONDUCTING

During his A levels Phil became principal trumpet of the Merseyside Youth Orchestra (MYO)



Figure 4 Tim Reynish

under the baton of Tim Reynish, and soon Phil had opportunities to conduct the MYO as Tim's Peugeot 305 was rather unreliable!. This later led to Sir Charles Groves (principal conductor RLPO) coming to see Phil work on Mahler's 4th symphony with the MYO.

James Eastham's guidance continued to influence Phil and encouraged him to conduct the final two movements from "The Rite of

Spring" from memory for his final year exam as well as conducting the college wind band in external concerts at Liverpool Uni. One year later, Phil went to conduct Jim's choral society of the moment for a couple of rehearsals, Formby Choral, & Phil still holds principal guest conductor of the New London Symphony Orchestra today.



Figure 5 Phil conducting

To be continued.....