

GEORGE CAIRD

Since 1970, George Caird has combined a career as an oboist with one as a music educationalist, firstly teaching and later in senior posts at the Royal Academy of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Codarts Rotterdam and The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Coming from an academic family (his father was Principal of Mansfield College Oxford, later Dean Ireland's Professor at The Queen's College, Oxford), George studied the oboe with Janet Craxton and Evelyn Barbirolli at the Royal Academy of Music, with Helmut Winschermann at the Nordwestdeutsche Musikakademie, and privately with Neil Black. He gained an MA in music at Peterhouse, Cambridge, graduating to pursue a freelance career as an oboist. He worked with many of London's major orchestras including the London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, City of London Sinfonia and was a member of The Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields from 1983 to 1993. George has also been a member of a number of leading ensembles, notably as a founder member of The Albion Ensemble, Vega Wind Quintet and Caird Oboe Quartet.

George has toured for the British Council in China, the Far East, India, Egypt, Tunisia and Canada as well as performing in concerts and broadcasts in most European countries. In addition to many orchestral recordings, he has recorded many CDs of solo and chamber music repertoire including '*An English Renaissance*' of quintets and quartets for oboe and strings, and Britten's *Six Metamorphoses after Ovid* as part of his published study on that work. He has recorded Mozart's Serenade *Gran Partita* and seven other releases with the Albion Ensemble and in 2009 recorded the Martinu Quartet with the Schubert Ensemble. Among the works written for him are Paul Patterson's *Duologue*, John Gardner's *Second Oboe Sonata*, Andrew Downes' sonata, *In the Gardens of Burdwan* and John Mayer's *Abhut Sangit*.

George has been a committed teacher throughout his career. He joined the Royal Academy of Music as professor of oboe in 1984, became Head of Woodwind in 1987 and Head of Orchestral Studies in 1989. Across a teaching career of nearly forty years, a great many of his students have enjoyed successful professional careers.

In September 1993, George was appointed Principal of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University a post that he held until August 2010. In 2011, George became Director of Classical Music at Codarts Rotterdam, a post he held until 2016. In August 2017, he was appointed interim Principal of The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, for the academic year 2017 – 2018.

In August 2020, George was appointed Interim Principal of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, continuing as Associate Principal from September 2021 to April 2022 on the appointment of Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE as the permanent Principal.

George was a jury member or chair on many competitions including ARD Munich (1996, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014), BBC Young Musicians (1994, 1996, 1998), Barbirolli International Oboe Competition (2005, 2009, 2013, 2017), Bromsgrove International Young Musicians Platform (1995 and 1997), Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition (2002, 2006, 2010) and Tertis International Viola Competition (2016). In addition he has been an external examiner in many conservatoires including

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the Royal College of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Paris Conservatoire, Conservatoire du Quebec and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

George was a partner of the Music Agency Quadrivium from 1980 to 1990 and a Director of the Claydon Concert Society from 1974 to 1994. As Head of Orchestral Studies at the Royal Academy of Music he directed the orchestral programme from 1989 to 1993 and oversaw the artistic programme for Birmingham Conservatoire from 1993 to 2010. He was a Director of the New Generation Arts Festival, Birmingham from 2006 to 2010, promoted Boulez in Birmingham (2005), idrs 2009 for the International Double Reed Society, Frontiers + Andriessen (2010), *Reach for the Sky* in Birmingham Town Hall (2010) and the Big Day Festival for Codarts Rotterdam in De Doelen, Rotterdam in April 2013 and April 2016.

George was a member of the Executive of the UK's Music Education Council from 1997 to 2010 and Chair from 2001 to 2004, hosting *The Importance of Music* Conference in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London in 2003. He served as Secretary of the Federation of British Conservatoires (now Conservatoires UK) from 1999 to 2004 and was Secretary-General of the Association of European Conservatoires from 2004 to 2010. He was a member of the Board of the national charity, Youth Music, from 2004 to 2010, Chair of the National Association of Youth Orchestras for the same period and in 2006 he joined the Advisory Group for the Department of Education and Skills Music and Dance Scheme. From 1998 to 2010, George was a board member of Performances Birmingham, which runs Symphony Hall and Town Hall Birmingham. In 2017 George joined the Board of the National Childrens' Orchestra.

George is President of the Barbirolli International Oboe Competition and Festival, President of the Bromsgrove International Music Competition, a founder and patron of the British Double Reed Society, a patron of the Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition, a Trustee of the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and Chair of the Music Panel for the Sir James Caird Travelling Scholarships Trust.

George is married to the cellist Jane Salmon. He has five children Adam, Oliver, Edmund, Iona and Elizabeth (Lizzie) and eight grandchildren, Jonah, Miles, Casper, Isla, Eva, Rosa, Nina and Lyra.