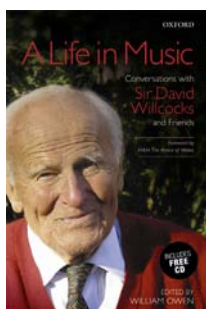


Press Release
1 May 2009



Celebrating a life in music – Sir David Willcocks



The life of one of British music's most eminent living figures is celebrated in a new book published by Oxford University Press.

A Life in Music reveals the fascinating life story of Sir David Willcocks, the renowned conductor, organist, and composer who remains very much in international demand as he approaches his 90th birthday in 2009.

In his foreword to the book, The Prince of Wales writes:

"[Sir David] has brought a love of choral music to countless people here in Britain, in America and elsewhere . . . This book represents a wonderful tribute to a remarkable man."

Through a series of interviews with the book's editor, William Owen, Sir David tells his extraordinary life story: his idyllic childhood and choristership at Westminster Abbey; his experiences in the Second World War; and his Directorships at King's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. There are a wealth of anecdotes revealing Sir David's zest for life and impish sense of fun: encounters with pop stars, royalty, and composers, tales of vivid performances, snapshots of pre-war life, bizarre college rituals, and astonishing musical feats.

Each chapter is followed by reflections from esteemed friends and colleagues, from Dame Janet Baker to John Rutter with whom Sir David worked closely on the famous *Carols for Choirs* series. The book also includes a CD which intersperses extracts from many legendary recordings and breathtaking performances with spoken reminiscences from Sir David.

Together, the book and CD provide a rich and moving chronicle of the life and music of a truly inspirational musician.

A Life in Music was published in hardback on 29th August 2008 priced at £19.99. It is available from all good bookshops and music shops or from Oxford University Press Customer Services: music.orders.uk@oup.com or +44 (0)1536 454590

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Notes to editors:

For more information or to enquire about an interview with Sir David Willcocks, please contact Rachel Fryer: rachel.fryer@oup.com or +44 (0)1865 355067

'A Life in Music' edited by William Owen

RRP £19.99 (hardback)

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