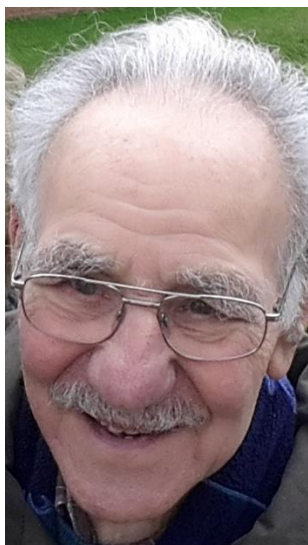


Brendan Sadler

27 April 1927 – 18 September 2021



It is with great sadness that we record the death of Brendan Sadler at the age of 94.

Brendan was a key player – indeed, *the* key player - in the Street and Glastonbury Recorded Music Group, taking over as Secretary in 1960 (the group had been formed in 1953) and eventually undertaking all the planning and administration single-handedly. Brendan was an energetic advocate of the work of the FRMS and actively promoted its mission to develop greater enthusiasm for recorded classical music as well as to widen the musical horizons of its members. His passion for classical music was unbounded and he generously shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with everyone he met. This commitment led him to serve on the FRMS national committee from 1998 to 2000 and he was instrumental in recommending that I consider the role of Secretary when it became vacant in 2018.

Brendan's enthusiasms were not limited to recorded music and he also contributed significantly to the live music offering of his local community. He founded Strode Opera in Street in 1969 and for twenty-five years conducted two staged productions a year, in May and November. The ambition and scope of these productions was enormous for a small rural theatre, ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan and Johann Strauss to the grand operas like 'Carmen'. Brendan retired from the company in 1994. Strode Opera continues to this day and is now known as Strode Musical Theatre Society reflecting another broadening of range.

In 1996, Brendan inaugurated a revival of the original Rutland Boughton Glastonbury Festival, producing, at the theatre in Street, the first live performances since 1953 of Boughton's cult opera, 'The Immortal Hour'. The performance attracted Boughton family members and distinguished aficionados from all over the world together with the broadsheet press. A similarly prestigious production took place in St John's Church in Glastonbury a few years later when Brendan conducted Boughton's opera 'Bethlehem'.

Retirement was not a word that existed in Brendan's dictionary and he continued to be a member of the local theatre board in a more strategic capacity right up to his death. The monthly meetings of the Recorded Music Group, hosted in Brendan's home, were a highlight of the month for many members. Brendan's legacy will be remembered fondly by the very many who have benefited from his vast musical knowledge and his boundless energy.

We shall miss him very much.

Adele Wills
FRMS Secretary

