

ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

Title: Death of Dr Donald Hoskins, MBE and Freeman of the Borough	
Report of: Acting Chief Executive	
Open	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Divisional Director: Fiona Taylor, Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Claire Symonds, Acting Chief Executive	
Summary	
<p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep sadness that following a long illness Dr Donald Hoskins, the former Head of the Music Centre at the University of East London (UEL) passed away in hospital on 30 November aged 88. His burial took place on 14 December near his birthplace of Six Bells, Abertillery in South Wales.</p> <p>After graduating from the University of Wales he spent his early years teaching in the Midlands where he directed local choral groups and instrumental ensembles. During his career he was a lecturer in music at Eastbourne College of Education before moving on to the UEL and its predecessor colleges. He was awarded the MA and a Ph.D for research in the field of English Musical Theatre. He was also a visiting professor at Brigham Young University, Provo, Salt Lake City, Utah and the Music Conservatoire, University of Cincinnati. He was also for many years the President of the Redbridge Music Society. He holds an entry in the International Who's Who in Music and Musicians Directory.</p> <p>Throughout his distinguished career of more than 40 years he successfully managed to combine a teaching role with that of a renowned concert performer.</p> <p>Dr Hoskins had a long association with the Borough spanning over 38 years, conducting many classical music concerts performed by his own professional orchestra, the Aminta Chamber and Concert Orchestra of London which as the artistic and music director he founded in 1985. He gave many concerts in this country and abroad as both pianist and conductor. This included many open-air concerts in the grounds of Barking Abbey, raising funds for numerous Mayoral charities. He also directed concerts for music education events for children, again raising considerable sums of money for charitable and good causes. Over the years he was a guest conductor with the London Mozart Players, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Choir.</p> <p>Dr Hoskins also founded the very popular concert band courses, which included not only University students but also many local musicians from the neighbouring boroughs. These courses culminated in hugely successful annual performances which took place</p>	

over many years in the Great Hall of the University (*the then Longbridge Road precinct*), charity concerts at the Richmond Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen and women as well as in Germany including two in Witten. Notable guest artists who performed included Dame Vera Lynn, Marisa Robles, Larry Adler and Don Lusher.

He received an Honorary Doctorate from the UEL for Services to Music. In 2005 he was awarded the Freedom of the Borough for his outstanding contribution in promoting live orchestral music in the Borough and in 2007 the Queen presented the award of MBE for services to music.

Dr Hoskins will be fondly remembered for his humour and warmth of personality. He leaves a wife of 48 years, Dinah.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to mark his passing with a minute's silence in his memory.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices: None