

Richard Blackford (President of BSC) writes:

My friend Sandrey Date, who has died aged 76, spent his entire working life as a music librarian in Bournemouth, from which base he was a bedrock of the musical life of the local community.

For many years he served on the board that managed the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra first being invited on to their Music Advisory Panel when still in his mid twenties. He was also a longstanding member of the committee of the Bournemouth Chamber Music Society, for which he was both Concerts Secretary and Secretary.

Sandrey was born in Bournemouth, to Nora (nee Poole) and William Date, a lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy. He attended Wychwood School and later won the first Musical Exhibition awarded by Winchester College on the strength of his talent in cello and piano. There he joined the chapel choir and started a lifetime of choral singing. At 18 years a choral scholarship took him to Exeter College, Oxford to read Music.

After university he took up a job as the first professional librarian at the JBM Camm Music Library in Bournemouth, one of the country's oldest and finest public music libraries.

It was the perfect job for him, and he loved it. His sterling work further enhanced the library's reputation, and under his stewardship it became one of the first public libraries to receive an Excellence Award from the International Association of Music Libraries. From a personal point of view his position also allowed him to develop a high profile in the musical life of the local area, to which he willingly gave his services and encyclopedic knowledge over five decades.

After retirement from the JBM Camm library in 2005 he was invited to join the Wessex Young Musicians Trust, supporting the musical development of young people in the south and west of England, and became its chair in 2012. He also joined the Sir George Dyson Trust, which provides grants for musical projects, and took on the role of national treasurer in 2017. Additionally he was a member and trustee of the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, to which he was Music Adviser, from 1966 until his death.

A quiet, kindly, remarkable man, he was always generous with his time and prodigious expertise. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn (nee Monks), whom he married in 1975.