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Team of Pianists at Glenfern

Cnr Hotham & Inkerman Sts
East St Kilda



Artists-in-Residence

Robert Chamberlain - Partner
Darryl Coote - Partner
Rohan Murray - Partner
Max Cooke OAM
Founder & Consultant

VALE - MAXWELL JOSEPH LORIMER COOKE (February 14, 1924 - April 26, 2021)



It is with great sadness, though with equal wonderment for his professional achievements and immense contribution to the Australian music scene, that the partners of the Team of Pianists announce the passing of our esteemed Founder, mentor and friend, Professor Max Cooke. Aged 97, Max died on April 26, 2021 at Cabrini Ashwood, where he lived in aged care for the last two years.

Max studied piano with Roy Shepherd at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium, before his studies were interrupted by service in World War Two: as a radio technician in the Royal Australian Air Force, Max served in Darwin, where he was responsible for radio communications. Between 1949-51, he studied piano with Alfred Cortot and Blanche Bascourret de Gueraldi at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris. Following his return to Australia in 1951, Max's career as a pianist encompassed activity as soloist, chamber musician, concerto soloist, as well as four-hands performances with Darryl Coote.

As Senior Lecturer, then Reader in Music at the University of Melbourne where he taught for 67 years, he was involved with training generations of performers and was Dean of the Faculty of Music from 1975-1980, a role which involved defending Melba Hall from demolition, as well as overseeing the introduction of the first Music Therapy courses in Australia. He was a member of many committees at the University, head of the Commission on the Training of the Professional Musician (International Society of Music Education, under UNESCO), president of the Australian Society for Music Education, president of the Victorian Music Teachers' Association, Founder of the Team of Pianists, as well as co-designer and co-founder of the Australian National Piano Award.

In the 1960's and 1970's he was head of the piano committee of the Australian Music Examinations Board and he was heavily involved with administering and supporting the Apex Robert Stolz Scholarship and the national Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Scholarship. He authored the ground-breaking **Tone, Touch and Technique** books and DVDs which to this day are admired still for their wholistic approach to piano technique and its' interrelationship with expressive outcome.

Following his retirement from a salaried position at the University of Melbourne, he was appointed Adjunct Professor at Monash University. He was a Fellow of the Australian College of Education, a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal and a recipient of the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Federal Service Cross, first class) from the Federal Republic of Germany, the latter for his contribution to German culture in Australia.

We pay tribute to Max with utmost affection, admiration and respect.

Darryl Coote, Robert Chamberlain and Rohan Murray (Partners - Team of Pianists).