

David Godden



Biography

David Godden was born in London in 1943. He originally studied the violin with Elisabeth Rajna and also the piano before turning to the guitar in 1960, when his focus was mainly on commercial playing. He came to Bristol in 1964 to join the Dennis Mann Orchestra at the Grand Spa Ballroom, while also appearing on television and radio. During this time he developed an interest in the classical guitar and its repertoire and joined the staff of the Spanish Guitar Centre in 1968, where he taught for twelve years. During this time he played with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera.

In the early 1970s his increasing interest in the music of the 16th and 17th centuries led him to the lute and its literature as well as many other instruments of that period, including the orpharion and viola da gamba. He gave recitals on the Renaissance and Baroque lutes as well as directing his own Early Music Consort 'Poeticall Musicke'.

On leaving the Spanish Guitar Centre in 1980 he became a free-lance guitarist, again working in theatre and cabaret, and became highly regarded on the Bristol modern jazz scene. In 2002 he moved to Spain, where he revived his interest in the classical guitar and began writing for the instrument.