



Carl Davis OBE conductor

Born in New York, Carl's early work showed great promise. In 1959, the revue *Diversions* won him an off-Broadway Obie. Since then he has composed extensively for radio, film and TV including *The World At War* (re-released on DVD and CD), *Last Night Of The Poms* with Barry Humphries; the BBC's *Pride And Prejudice* and *Goodnight Mr Tom*. Numerous feature films include *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, *Scandal* and *Topsy Turvy*.

The *Hollywood* TV series introduced Carl to composing full-length scores for archive films, starting with the incredible 5½ hour score for Abel Gance's *Napoleon*, first shown in London in 1980. This led to a further 50 full-length restorations including *Ben Hur*, *The Thief Of Bagdad*, *The Wind* and *Phantom Of The Opera* (shown at the Royal Opera House in 2006). Carl recently recorded a new documentary on Greta Garbo for Turner TV; he has also recorded the music for all 12 of Chaplin's 'Mutuals', now available on DVD (conducted by Carl and shown live on four consecutive evenings in August 2007 at Cadogan Hall in London with members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra).

The score for *Napoleon* resulted in the French Minister of Culture naming Carl Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Other honours and awards include: Honorary Doctor of Arts from Bard College; Honorary Doctor of Music (Liverpool University); a BAFTA Special Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003; and an honorary CBE for his contribution to music in 2005. He is also an alumnus of the New England Conservatory and Bard College.

As part of the RLPO's 150th anniversary celebrations, in 1991 Carl and Paul McCartney composed a full-length work entitled *Paul McCartney's Liverpool Oratorio* which has been performed all over the world. For eight years, Carl held the position of Artistic Director and Conductor for the RLPO's Summer Pops. He also works with orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Hallé and CBSO. In 2004, Carl was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain.

His real love is to compose music for dance and Carl has written 13 ballets, including: *A Simple Man* (the life of Lowry); *A Christmas Carol* for Northern Ballet Theatre; *Dances Of Love And Death* for London Contemporary Ballet; *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* for Birmingham Royal Ballet; and *Alice In Wonderland* for English National Ballet (to be revived this year). *Aladdin* for Scottish Ballet and *Cyrano De Bergerac* for Birmingham Royal Ballet (choreographed by David Bintley) were premiered in 2007.

Carl's musical *Wind In The Willows* is often performed in Regents Park; *Alice In Wonderland*, written with the late John Wells, was revived by the West Yorkshire Playhouse for its 2005/06 Christmas season and performed at the Birmingham Rep during the 2006/07 season.

Carl lives in London. He is married to actress Jean Boht and they have two daughters, Hannah and Jessie. www.carl-davis.com