

MURIEL TAYLOR
Scholarship Fund for 'Cellists

Established 1972

Muriel Taylor, F.R.A.M.

Muriel Taylor was an exceptional person. Her simplicity, her integrity, her great musical talent, her complete dedication to music and to her students; all these qualities she possessed in abundance. More than that, she had a keen sense of humour and she was full of life and fun.

Inspired by the late Nannie Jamieson, her friends founded a scholarship to help talented young 'cellists continue their studies. Her Scholars will surely want to know something about her.

Muriel was born in England but was brought up from a very early age in Canada, and throughout her life she retained a great love for that country. She came back to England in her late teens and studied with Herbert Walenn at the London Cello School and, later, with Feuermann and Mainardi. She was much influenced in her work by Max Rostal and Yehudi Menuhin.

She always had a deep love of chamber music and in 1939 Muriel, Robert Masters, Nannie Jamieson and Ronald Kinloch Anderson all met at Dartington Hall and became members of a chamber music group which was eventually to become internationally known as the Robert Masters Quartet. From 1955 she was a much sought-after, admired and beloved professor at the Royal Academy of Music.

Alas, she fell victim to leukaemia, but she steadfastly continued her teaching as long as her strength lasted, facing even death with humour and quiet courage and making the very best use of the time left to her. She died in 1971 and the first of the annual Competitions took place in 1972.

Thus her work continues and her spirit lives on. There are 48 young, very talented, 'cellists who have won the Muriel Taylor Scholarship since 1972. All, between the ages of 17 and 23 and at a crucial time in their studies, have been financially assisted to further their study by winning this competition. The one significant prize awarded enables students to really widen their horizons with their study plans, and this is exactly what Muriel Taylor would have encouraged in her own students.