

About Tom



Tom Eveson's enduring love affair with music began at a very early age. He played several instruments to a high standard, starting with the recorder aged three and progressively including the piano, trumpet, French horn and orchestral percussion. By age 17, Tom was the principal horn for the County of Avon Schools' Orchestra (CASO), West of England Schools' Symphony Orchestras (WESSO), and the Bristol Schools' Philharmonia. Enthusiasm and encyclopaedic knowledge of Music radiated from him and he hoped to study for a degree in music.

The sudden death of a close schoolmate in a road traffic accident, however, affected him profoundly. He decided to leave school and home, intending to forge a path for himself by composing and performing experimental electronic music (one of his developing interests). During this period he supported himself by doing a wide range of jobs (including managing the Cotham Porter Stores, a well-known Bristol cider pub) and recorded several vinyl discs under the pseudonym [D'Kat](#).

Around this time Tom aspired to turn his life around and concentrate on more conventional music making. He initially aimed to sit for a diploma on the piano from the Associated Board. Local pianist Christopher Northam took him under his wing and Tom's playing was progressively transformed. He decided to pursue his original ambition and study for a degree in music, undertaking further qualifications and gaining a place to study music at City University in London in September 2011.

After a brilliant start to the course Tom began to suffer severe problems from the disease which would ultimately claim his life. He came back home to Bristol in Easter 2012 and over the ensuing months, faced his illness with quiet courage

and uncomplaining fortitude, never losing his legendary, biscuit-dry sense of humour, or essentially optimistic perspective on life.



Tom died from oesophageal cancer in October 2013 and was buried, at his request, under an apple tree in Woodlands Memorial Cemetery in Thornbury.

Here follows a brief but representative selection of comments that were posted on Facebook shortly after Tom's death:

“Tom was one of those people that, even if you didn't know him as well as some, was a presence in the room.....an intelligent, lovely gentleman who was an extraordinary talent on the piano and in music. The world has been robbed of a wonderful human being” . *Steffani James*

“We all thought Tom was an amazing person and an exceptional musician” . *Joe Perkins*

“The most genuinely friendly, talented and compassionate person I have ever met” . *Lewis Robrowson*

“Goodbye Flight of the Bumblebee extraordinaire. A good man, a talented man, a brave man. So funny in the face of all the adversity” . *Sophia Miraculous*

“Tom was always interested in other people's experiences and hopes” . *Morwenna Coniam*

“There was always something magical about Tom. He had the kindest heart, an exceptional intellect, a great sense of humour and awesome musical ability. He was a true gentleman” . *Oliver Lambiert*