

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 8th December 1973

MUSICIAN DIES, 65

Mr. David **MACKERSIE**, aged 65, of 5 Dover Street, Ryde, a prominent Island musician, died at his home on Friday week.

Mr. **MACKERSIE** was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, and studied music both in Scotland and Brussels.

He came to the Island about 13 years ago, and became director of music at Bembridge School, a position he retained until his retirement last July.

A noted pianist and organist, he joined the Ryde Philharmonic Orchestra about seven years ago. More recently he became conductor of the Dunford String Orchestra, making his only appearance with the baton a fortnight ago at Ryde Town Hall.

A fellow musician, Mr. Gordon **CREIGHTON** who worked with him at Bembridge School, described Mr. **MACKERSIE** as "a brilliant musician who did a lot for Island music." About a year ago, Mr. **MACKERSIE**, who was a bachelor, underwent hospital treatment.

He is survived by a sister.

The funeral service was held at Binstead Church.

Messrs. H. V. **TAYLOR** and Son made the arrangements.

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Musician of wit and sagacity

In common with many hundreds of Island music-lovers, I was much saddened to read of the death of David **MACKERSIE**.

Few areas of Island music were deprived of the benefit of his happy enthusiasm and informed leadership. His wit and sagacity enlivened many a session of the Isle of Wight Musical Competition Festival committee, and many of us will cherish the memory of his cheerfully infectious conducting of the Bembridge School Orchestra, which he had trained to such excellence, in the overture to the Saturday prize-winner's concert in Ryde Town Hall, afterwards leading performers and audience in the customary finale, **PARRY**'s "Jerusalem."

Island music will grievously miss the warmth of his personality, his infectious good humour and kindness, and the invigorating vitality he brought to every aspect of his versatile music-making.

HARRY BLACKMORE.

Highfield,
87 Leeson Road,
Bonchurch.

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200 AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR Mr. D. MACKERSIE

Every musical organisation in the Island was represented among a congregation of 200 at a memorial service held at All Saints' Parish Church, Ryde, on Saturday for Mr. David **MACKERSIE**, 65, of Dover Street, Ryde (whose death was reported last week).

Until his retirement in July, Mr. **MACKERSIE** had for 13 years, since coming to the Island, been director of music at Bembridge School. He had been conductor of both the Dunford String Orchestra and Ryde Philharmonic Orchestra, and was a noted pianist and organist.

A fellow member of the Philharmonic Society, the Rev. George **RAYNER**, rector of Wootton, conducted the memorial service, and Mrs. Kathleen **INGRAM**, of Ryde, another member, was the organist. Bembridge School Orchestra also accompanied the hymns, and played **CORELLI**'s "Pastorale."

Mr. Frederick WHEELER of Shanklin, chairman of the Philharmonic Society, read the lesson, and Mr. RAYNER gave the address.

Mr. MACKERSIE, a native of Kirkaldy, was a bachelor. He leaves a sister.

Researched & typed by

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