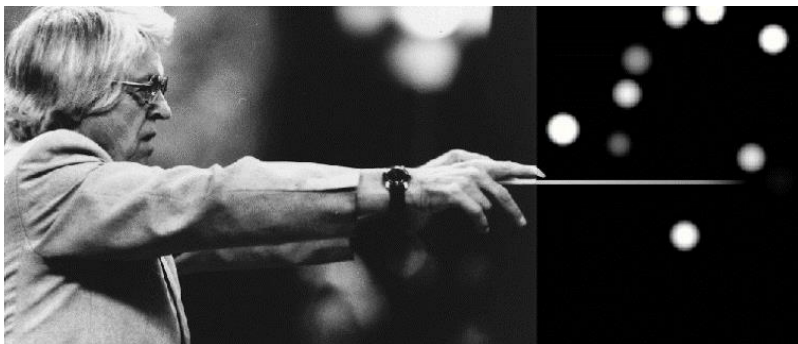


## The Swing of the Pendulum

### George Lloyd and The Crisis of the Romanticism

Musicologist Peter Davison reassesses George Lloyd's significance in the history of British Music

The composer George Lloyd (1913-98) was for many years an 'outsider'; his reputation damaged by the pendulum's swing away from Romanticism towards extreme forms of Modernism. In this extended article (15,000 words), musicologist Peter Davison, (previously Artistic Consultant to Manchester's Bridgewater Hall) charts the conflict between Romanticism and Modernism, explaining how modernist orthodoxy triumphed after the Second World War.



With the re-emergence of tonality and tuneful composition in our own times, this is the right moment to re-evaluate the remarkable life and work of George Lloyd, treating him as pivotal cultural figure.

Davison concludes: *"I discovered a man of thoughtful integrity, a modest man of great talent, someone who was determined to be himself regardless of the pressures placed upon him. His success late in life was richly deserved, and his music shows that a romantic outlook can still be relevant in the contemporary world."*

#### About the author - short version.

Peter Davison was Artistic Consultant and director of the *International Concert Series* at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall from 1994-2018, where he created a successful high-quality classical music programme without the assistance of direct subsidy. Until 2014 he was Director of the *Two Rivers Festival*. He is an internationally renowned Mahler scholar and in 2010 published *Wrestling with Angels* about the life and work of Gustav Mahler. He has lectured at several Universities and acted as an assessor and financial analyst for the Arts Council of England and for major orchestras and concert halls. Peter Davison has an M.Phil. in Musicology from the University of Cambridge.



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