

DR. MARC ROCHESTER



Marc Rochester started piano lessons in his native London at the age of 5. At school he took up both the violin and the French horn, and studied the harp at University. However his principal performing interest has always been the organ. He was the youngest British cathedral organist when, at the age of 24, he was appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers at Derry Cathedral in Northern Ireland. He gave many recitals and concerts, radio broadcasts and recordings as an organist and accompanist before moving to South East Asia in 1987. He worked for the Sarawak Government on a project to identify the ethnic music of Borneo, and helped set up and manage the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in Kuala Lumpur. For 13 years he was also Resident Organist and Educational Consultant to the Malaysian Philharmonic, giving weekly recitals and presenting monthly talks and workshops on music.

He was appointed an Examiner for the ABRSM in 1982, and in 2001 transferred to Trinity where he was Assistant Chief Examiner and South East Asia Regional Consultant. He resigned from Trinity in 2014 after touring to almost 50 countries and examining an estimated 150,000 candidates in every imaginable instrument and musical discipline. He has been an Adjudicator at Music Festivals since 1980. Currently Marc Rochester describes himself as a Music Philosopher, studying and thinking about the role of music in our lives and its historical and social context, but he also writes extensively about music for, among others, The Straits Times, Gramophone magazine and MusicWeb International.com, and, since 2014, has lectured in music history and criticism at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory.

For two months every year, Marc escapes from Singapore and from music to drive buses and coaches in the Highlands of Scotland, where he has a home.