

A Service of Thanksgiving  
For the Life of



Christopher Hoggett

13th November 1927 – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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Cheltenham Crematorium (South) Chapel  
Monday 25th September 2017  
At 1.00pm



**Dad As A Boy - 1937**



**Monte Carlo - 1948**

*Processional Music*

*'Melodie' from Orfeo composed by Christoph Willibald Gluck*

**Order of Service**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Tribute**

David Gadsby

**Music for Reflection**

*'Intermezzo' Op 116 No.4 composed by Johannes Brahms*

**Tribute**

Michael and Trish Henry

Patrick Dillon

**Commendation**

**Committal**

*Recessional Music*

*'Un Sospiro' composed by Franz Lizst*

**Pianist**

Em Hoggett

## Chris Hoggett

Chris was a towering figure in the Cheltenham art scene for many decades. Over the years he presented solo shows of his work and regularly contributed to the Artists Open Studios events as well as being the mainstay of the Cheltenham Group of Artists.

He was born at Columbia Place, Winchcombe Street. His Father was a musician and his mother a pianist and piano teacher. The family moved to Bristol where his father was a violinist at the Hippodrome. After his father lost his job – Chris said this was due to the advent of the talkies – they returned to Cheltenham and his father died when Chris was only six. After that, Chris led a rather precarious family life, a defining element in his later artwork.

Throughout his young life he developed his extraordinary drawing ability, including a stretch of Rotols as a junior draughtsman. He was conscripted into the RAF for two or three years and when he came out, was accepted for a place at RCA and after gaining his diploma returned home to help his mother with his now severely disabled brother. He married Rose in 1959, they had five children and he started teaching at Whitefriars School where he designed exciting sets and costumes for their school plays.

In the 1960s, he formed a working friendship with David Gadsby of A & C Black and produced an extraordinary series of beautifully illustrated educational books. A prolonged period of struggle with depression led, in a positive way, to his remarkable book 'The Joker' which catalogues his years of healing therapy through art and dreamwork, and his collaboration with Iron Mill College in Exeter which trains students in psychotherapy and drama therapy.

He leaves a legacy of work in many private collections and, notably, a piece of public sculpture for the Bradford Peace Library, set up by his brother. In any medium that he chose, be it painting, printing, ceramics or sculpture he invariably produced a piece of work of great sensitivity and power and will be greatly missed by all his students and admirers.

## Memories of Grandpa

Visiting Grandpa's house was like visiting a mystical castle. With banisters begging to be slid down, paintings begging to be touched and cupboards begging to be explored. Our visits to this castle were the highlight of our trips home. Grandpa would be waiting for us when we arrived with pink grapefruits sliced and ready to eat, followed by hours and hours of hard work painting together. Waiting for us in the dining room would be meters of brown paper covered in magical scenes, sketched prior to our arrival by Grandpa. Our job, as apprentices, were to paint the views in front of us. Over the years, I think we covered every possible scene – from being explorers in the jungle, to following fish in a submarine. Grandpa stood over us, encouraging, praising and pushing our imaginations to its limits. From miles away, Grandpa's letters encouraged us to continue to draw, replying only with our own designs of his famous Joker, alongside promises to practice in our spare time. Any shred of artistic talent we have left can be credited to Grandpa and his patience. Grandpa's castle is where we learnt to draw and paint, where we first attempted pottery, first tried a pink grapefruit, and of course held our first human skull. We are forever grateful to have had a grandfather who built such a castle, one he shared so generously, patiently and happily with us. Words cannot describe how we wish we could be there with you today; with heavy hearts, we send our love.

**Henry, Jess, Anna and Rachel**

"Thank you, Grandpa, for not always hearing me and getting the wrong end of the stick. It was often very funny especially when you were trying to teach me the ABC when I was 8 years old! Thank you for all the pictures and letters you ever sent me. I will miss you".

**Harry**

"Dear Grampa, I miss the fun times we had together like when you taught me to how to skim a stone, but I mainly miss you. Here is a picture I drew of you in 2015".

**Love Mabel x**



My most recent memory of Grandpa is a trip to the Scottish National Gallery with him and Angela whilst I was a student in Edinburgh, followed by lunch overlooking Princes Street Gardens. It was so lovely to share in Grandpa's passion for art that day, and he will be greatly missed.

**Naomi**

Grandpa was always so loving and had a mind of eccentric creativity. Whenever I went to see him he would always have interesting paintings that he was working on to show me. I will always treasure the paintings he gave me and think of him when I look at them. Thankyou grandpa for your love and care.

**Much love Lucy X**

I have early memories of him teaching me how to paint, make pottery, draw - he most definitely had an influence on my creative side. As an adult, I strongly admire the way he could talk so openly about his mental health, and how he didn't see it as a burden but as a reason to make more art! - which made me view my own mental health in a different light.

When I saw him in his later life, although this was not as often as it could have been, I always enjoyed his company. He was supportive, encouraging and thoughtful and always had something interesting to say, and of course always reminded me that he'd given up smoking on the day I was born (35yrs ago). Inspirational, talented and wonderfully eccentric.

**Emma xxx**

From an early age, I remember being excited about trips to grandpa's. Being a kid and walking into the house full of props, skulls and amazing art was always an adventure and incredibly fun. He was a kind and inviting man who inspired my creativity from an early age and was very supportive.

Even as I got older and into my adulthood he would always be interested in what we'd be up to and my hobbies. Thankyou grandpa for everything you've given us. I'm so grateful to have known you in my life.

**Josh**

He always helped inspire my creative side and when I was 10 we comprised a story together, written by me and drawn by him. It makes for one of my fondest memories and really helped my love for creating and reading grow. He was always inspiring, helpful and encouraging throughout my childhood. I wish I could've spent more time with him in his later life. He was an inspiration to many and a strong, stable figure to my family and me.

**Kate x**

I remember when I was young the excitable anticipation that would engulf me on the journey to 112 Winchcombe Street. I have many fond memories of 112. It felt like a rabbit warren of rooms and corridors. Grandpa has had a huge influence over my creative life, including several mindsets that I have used for performance in music and drama. My siblings and I were encouraged to paint, draw and create anything we wanted and explore our imaginations. He would praise our efforts and would also show us how to improve our techniques, done with encouragement and love. Grandpa you were strong kind and sincere. Thank you.

**Love Jack X**

Dear Grandpa, I am so grateful that you have been a part of my life. You were a truly incredible human being; I looked up to you tremendously from a very young age. Always incredibly supportive and encouraging of my musical life, I remember playing four-hand Diabelli duets with you. We would squeeze on the piano stool and play together.

I have always felt like I could have a completely honest conversation with you about anything. You were an incredibly open, honest, supportive man who loved to teach and inspire. I love you very, very much and will always hold you in my heart with my endeavours as an artist. You always showed me that anything can be made into art, and I strive to make you proud. I aspire to lead a life like yours; full of magic, creation and inspiration. Lots of love always,

**Em xxx**



Near Helston, Cornwall - 2011



*(Dad used to laugh out loud when watching Tom & Jerry and this was always the end Strap)*

Thank you for being here today, and for all your kind messages  
and offers of help and support.

Following the service, we invite you to join us for refreshments where we  
can further reminisce about Christopher  
at:

The Royal Oak Inn  
43 The Burgage  
Cheltenham  
GL52 3DL

Donations in memory of Christopher will be kindly received  
and applied to the work of:

Amnesty International UK and Voluntary Services Overseas



There is a donations box available when you leave the Chapel,  
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