



JACKIE - THE UNFORGETTABLE

By John Anderson

Preface

Two books on Jacqueline du Pré have been published. The first, 'A Genius in the Family', 320 pp. (1997), was written by Hilary, her older sister, and Piers, her younger brother, - and soon made into a film ("Hilary and Jackie", 1998). The second, 'Jacqueline du Pré', 439 pp. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1998), is by Elizabeth Wilson, Jackie's friend and interpreter in Moscow. Fortunately, there are also several videos and recordings - e.g. Christopher Nupen - that add to the understanding of this unique personality. Furthermore, there are 2 shorter publications: William Wordsworth, ed.,: 'Jacqueline du Pré: Impressions' (various articles by relatives, colleagues and friends), 143 pp. (London, Granada, 1983), and Carol Easton; 'Jacqueline du Pré', 224 pp. (London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1989). Both these additions are in the latest Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians (2003). And, finally, one more (in German) by Christine Lemke-Matwey and Andreas Nentwich - 'Jacqueline du Pré lesen und hören', 64 pp. (Metzler Publishing House, 2007).

As a final note, I record that a Russian artist, Vladimir Jelnorovich, painted a sort of fantasy of Jacqueline in 1997. He never in fact met her or saw her in the flesh. Living in Omsk, in Siberia, he visited the museum a few times before he saw the video on Jackie. Perhaps he even borrowed the video. But he obviously has a strong impression of the model, and, knowing that I had known her, he presented the unframed canvas to me. It is now hanging in the museum. I thought so highly of it that I offered it to the National Portrait Gallery in London. The rule there, however, is to exhibit only paintings that have been painted from life, which of course mine was not.

The justification for the present booklet is a series of letters I received from Jacqueline during the course of our early friendship - they show that her use of the English language was just as personal as that of music. These letters should reveal another side of this unique and highly sensitive person.