

15/5/05

To Brian Kay's 3 for All: http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/3forall/request_form.shtml

My request is for Brahms's Academic Festival overture. This is in connection with your World War II theme.

I was an RAF pilot in World War II. In 1941 the Air Ministry started a programme of six-month university courses as initial training for RAF aircrew cadets. I was on the first of these to be held at St Andrews University, Scotland's oldest university. There were 55 cadets on my course in 1941, 25 of whom did not survive the war.

I was 17, and remember that it was while listening to a concert in the student common room at St Andrews University that I suddenly woke up to the fact that classical music was essential to me. I bought a portable gramophone in St Andrews town which I took around with me during my wartime service in Britain, Canada (flying training), and the Mediterranean (antisubmarine patrols with 221 Squadron, RAF Coastal Command).

The Academic Festival overture was the first classical music record I bought.

www.francisbennion.com

22/6/05

From: lisa.lermon@bbc.co.uk

Dear Francis Bennion,

Thank you for your e-mail to Brian Kay at '3 for all' requesting to hear Brahms's Academic Festival Overture. I'm pleased to let you know that Brian has chosen this to feature in his programme this coming Sunday, 26th June 2005, at 4pm. I do hope you're able to tune in.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us, and I hope you continue to enjoy the series.

Best wishes,

Lisa Lermon

3 for all

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>