

A History of the Concert Bands in Valentine

<u>Mr Algirdis Ulanas, 'Geat', Mr 'U'</u>	1946 - 2000
<u>Valentine Public School Concert Band</u>	1975 - 2001
<u>The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band</u>	1977 - 2001

The stories of these three are inseparable.

Through his work with the bands and, by extension, through more personal contacts, it is difficult to calculate the profound effect this man, Algirdis Ulanas, better known as 'Geat' or Mr 'U', had upon thousands of schoolchildren and their families over a period of 25 years.

"Do I tell you my problems? You come to band unless you're dead or dying!"

Indeed, Geat came to band until he was dying, conducting The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band at the East Coast of Australia Band Championships on June 25th 2000, his last performance, just four months before his death from cancer on October 21st of that year.

When interviewed for their thoughts about Geat, apart from the obvious musical education and experience, so many people mentioned his own dedication and his ability to instil into others this dedication and commitment to the 'team' or band or whatever task was in hand. There must be so many workers out there in the community today, who do a better, more conscientious job in a huge variety of workplaces because of the good habits given them in band all those years ago.

Geat's ability to inspire was truly remarkable. If you played in his band you were a 'musician' regardless of whether you were a brilliant, talented person or you could only manage the first note of every third bar. Everyone who wanted to play in the Concert Bands was accepted without audition and everyone who was willing to try hard was welcome to stay. Geat would shout and rant and regularly 'sack' people (everyone knew to turn up again the next day) but he would also compliment and praise so the band members always knew deep down, that they really were the best. When going to contest in Sydney he would give the same motivational speech each year. He would wave his baton and roar

"We're going to go down there and shake them in their little booties"

And indeed the band usually did.

He is recorded on video shouting at 'The Marching Koalas' (just one of his other band interests) after a win at the Saddledome in Calgary, Alberta , Canada

"Don't let anyone ever tell you that you're not the best in the world!"

Again, there must be thousands of people out in the community today with increased self-confidence and self-esteem because of their experiences in Mr Ulanas's bands.

Geat Ulanas was born Algirdis Ulanas on January 1st 1946 in Germany. His parents were Lithuanian refugees and they eventually migrated to Australia in 1949. The family settled in Boolaroo and Geat attended Booragul High School (now Lake Macquarie High). He excelled in athletics and field events, his discus record still standing in 1984. He wanted to be a teacher, so although he had the choice of several scholarships, he decided to take up a Teachers' College Scholarship at Newcastle Teachers' College. On graduating, Geat was posted to Whitton Public School, a three-teacher school in the Riverina. After three years he returned to Newcastle and a few years later left the NSW Department of Education to work and travel extensively in Africa. He always had exciting and entertaining stories to tell about this part of his life and would eagerly encourage his ex students to go off and follow their dreams in all parts of the world.

When he returned at last to Newcastle Geat was appointed to Valentine Public School in 1974. The following year, 1975, Geat formed a small band with a grant of instruments from the Whitlam Federal Government.

The original instruments were as follows:

- 4 cornets
- 2 single E flat basses
- 2 euphoniums
- 3 E flat horns
- 2 trombones
- 2 timpani (which were later withdrawn as they were only for high schools)
- 4 clarinets
- 4 flutes

This was really almost a brass band with a few clarinets and flutes but the imbalance was soon rectified with the purchase of alto and tenor saxophones and a drum kit. The first children issued with these beautiful new instruments were very keen and felt themselves very privileged and their parents rapidly became enthusiastic supporters. The school purchased more instruments and many members bought their own. The band grew to seventy members quite quickly and then to 100 and during the late 80's and 90's often had around 140 to 150 members.

In 1976 Geat took his newly formed band to the State Championships - the first of many 'contests' - and the band came second in the Own Selection in the Novice Section. The following two years saw them as State Champions and from there they went from strength to strength, entering and winning or being well placed in many different contests.

In 1979 the P& C Association formed a band committee so that Mr Ulanas was freed of the many smaller tasks integral to a rapidly growing band to concentrate on the musical development. Mr Wal Tierney was the original president and he set the tone for many hardworking parents who were to follow him in assisting the band and the bandmaster. Purchase and maintenance of instruments and music scores and general organisation for successful bands requires a lot of behind the scene activity. However, over the years most parents have been so cognisant of the privileges that band membership afforded their children they have been only too pleased to get in and help. Valentine Band parents would have to agree with current research which seems to be showing that learning music helps children to learn and concentrate better in all areas.

Meanwhile, thanks we believe, to the standard set by Valentine Public School, standards began rising all over the state and Geat had to work harder and smarter to retain the band's top position. For his own interest as well as to help the band, Geat studied the clarinet with Clive Amadio. He also studied the tuba, played with Kahibah Brass Band and formed Kahibah Junior Brass Band. He practised with the Valentine School Band every morning before school, Tuesday afternoons in school time and on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. No wonder they were good!

At the end of each year there would be 'solos night' to look forward to. This tradition continues today, with the band giving a concert to show off the years hard work and every sixth class member regardless of standard, playing a solo. Geat and subsequent band directors have always ensured that each child plays something entertaining and suitable for their ability level so that the experience is both a confidence building exercise and a happy memory for the child and provides proud moments and memories for parents and friends.

I quote from Wal Tierney's report in the booklet 'The First Ten Years'

'All spheres of life have their proud, happy and sad moments. It is hard to nominate the proudest or happiest time I had in my close association with Valentine School Band. Thinking back the winning of the NSW Primary Schools Championships and the band's appearances at Sydney Opera House are probably my proudest memories. Happy memories are of the many outings I had with the children of the band over the years. Probably all parents like myself have their saddest

memories of the night when their child leaves Valentine School and plays their solo, for this is their exit from the band. However, there have been very few children who have not appreciated the solid musical foundation they received from Mr Ulanas and the Valentine School Concert Band and have continued on with their musical careers after leaving primary school.'

By 1977, children who had begun to play in the school band were graduating to high school and of course didn't want to give up their banding activities so together with Mr Gary Shaw, Geat formed a community band, which became 'The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band.' As well as the primary school graduates, this band attracted many adults some of whom were complete novices and welcomed the opportunity to do what seemed to be giving their children so much pleasure. As always, Geat welcomed everybody regardless of talents, skills or lack thereof and the adults had to get used to being roared at as well.

Both bands embarked on a round of public engagements, playing at championships, cultural events, shopping centres and local events such as ANZAC Day as well as for many charities and fund raising events.

As if all this didn't take up enough of Mr Ulanas's time, in 1982-3 he helped to form the Hunter Region Combined High Schools' Band, "The Marching Koalas". Now he was out three nights a week and many holidays and weekends, conducting his three bands - making his fortune you may think? Not at all - all these extra hours for all these years were done for his regular schoolteacher's salary - a truly public spirited character!

In 1982 Valentine Lions Club chose Geat as their Lions Citizen of the year in appreciation of his contributions to music in the area. In 1984, along with three other people he was chosen as Lake Macquarie Council's Australia Day Citizen of the Year for his contribution to musical development, particularly instrumental music, in the Lake Macquarie region. In the year 2000 he received the Lake Macquarie Bicentenary Volunteer Award.

In 1975 when he was starting the band, Mr Ulanas said,

"...who knows? Maybe they will be able to make a quid out of their talent, but if not, at least they will be able to play for enjoyment if they want to."

Certainly, many have gone on to 'make a quid' many more are still enjoying making music, listening to music and helping others to enjoy it too.

Many of Geat's students have gone on to become music teachers and teachers who add music to their other disciplines. Gina Caban (Bright) Maree Herzog and Fleur Dives (Taylor) are some of these. There are currently ex-students in the Defence Force Bands, the Police Band, the Fire

Brigade Band, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as well as in stage bands, jazz bands, rock, rap and ska bands - all out there 'making a quid' and having great fun at the same time.

In 1999, Tristram Williams became one of the youngest musicians to be made a principal player in an Australian orchestra with his appointment as Associate Principal Trumpet in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Tristram started playing trumpet on a borrowed instrument in Valentine School Concert Band in 1986 aged 8 and later played in The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band.

Every time you heard a national anthem at the Olympic Games there were two ex students, Meredith Reeves and Kenneth Ellis playing them in the Royal Australian Navy Band. Three ex students, Alister Page, Scott Keating and Tiffany Miller, played in the Olympic Band for the Opening and Closing ceremonies. If you saw the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games you would have seen an ex-student standing at the front of the Combined Military Band playing a fanfare trumpet. If you had been at Gallipoli on ANZAC Day 2001 you would have heard Kenneth Ellis playing the Last Post and Reveille for the 15,000 strong crowd just as he did at Valentine School twelve years before.

If you were to frequent the pubs and clubs around Newcastle you would frequently be listening to ex-students or if you were to engage a group to play at a wedding or function chances are that the group will include some of Geat's graduates. Craig Lembke is a very well known name in this area.

Gareth Williams, an ex student and musician of the year in 1989, was able to step into the breach and take the school band for two years while Geat was ill and after his death. Similarly, a member of The City of Lake Macquarie Band, Sandy Sanson-Fisher has become the new Musical Director of that band. Geat would have been delighted to see the traditions he created upheld.

As well as all his 'band children', Geat had three daughters of his own, Elissa, Sigita and Alex all of whom attended Valentine School and became keen band members. The various bands also owe a great deal to Geat's wife, Margaret, who has backed up Geat's work with great patience and forbearance. Margaret plays the trombone, has often conducted the band in Geat's absence and is invaluable in helping sixth class members with solos both advising and accompanying them.

A number of people have written tributes to Geat and they are included here, after two of the eulogies, which were read at his funeral service on Thursday October 26th 2000. Together they sum up the sort of feelings many people had for Geat Ulanas and the bands he created.

Jadd Sanson Fisher's words:

This is very hard; as far as I'm concerned, Geat was too big a man to be easily summed up. Geat was a one-man crowd.

I, and many others, am the product of the Valentine Public School Concert Band. I first picked up a saxophone when I was eight. And as I recall, Mr U scared the hell out of me. This big, big man was an attractive shade of red and was happily bellowing at a group of kids. And while I haven't met many who shouted louder, or made more bloodcurdling threats, I know that no one ever meant it less. Consider the man; unpaid, taking charge of one hundred plus kids for six or seven hours a week. Some of whom, I should add, had percussion instruments. And yet he never killed even one.

Not only that, we got to play. Made no difference whether you were at all good. You got to play. As he told us, it didn't matter whether you got the notes right so long as you played with confidence. So we confidently played at contests and concerts and eisteddfods, we were recorded for posterity and we finished our career with a solo. He made us musicians. And whether you went on, or never played another note, for those years you were a musician. And when you continued into the senior bands, or just met him later in life, somewhere along the way you would realise that this man who put you in mortal dread was, in fact, your friend.

We all owe him a debt. For one, he told me most of the inappropriate jokes that I know. But mostly because he took more than twenty-five years of children and made them musicians. It's a part of me that I can't even really imagine being without. It's a gift, and if you are looking for a legacy, this is it. He gave hundreds of us a love and understanding of music. From those who became professionals – and there are a lot – to those that just whistle occasionally, we have something that, without Geat Ulanas, we wouldn't ever have had.

That's a legacy, and a debt. It's a magnificent debt, because it was always going to be impossible to pay. He didn't want a reward, or a prize. He was happy to give away the trophies we won. He did it because he loved it. But we still owe him.

He doesn't need a legacy, because he filled up every minute of his life like a one-man crowd. That's enough for him to be remembered and loved. But the legacy is there. My friend Geat Ulanas taught me to play and told me jokes, let me make mistakes and always backed me up. I and so many others, owe him that wonderful debt. And all we can do, all that we could ever do, is to say thank you and remember him.

Gary Warner's words:

I find this a totally overwhelming situation, Geat was such an enormous personality who touched and influenced so many lives it is difficult to know where to start. Within this gathering any one of you would be able to relate your contact with Geat, the influence he had had on our lives and families and the joy he helped us experience both through music and banding and also with his personal involvement in our lives.

Each would have a different story, different anecdotes, different achievements and even with all of these it still would not capture the full extent of Geat's life.

Music of course was his great love and I am glad that we have been able to play two of his favourite pieces today. "Danny Boy" was always his favourite even though it took us ages as a band to play it satisfactorily. No matter what we thought Geat would keep getting it out just as he used to get "Oh Lord it's hard to be humble" out for the school band. At least with us he didn't sing along! "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" was also one of his all time favourites. When all the other bands were playing slow, traditional hymns for the sacred item at band competitions Geat decided we would play this piece and the rousing jazz finale was certainly appreciated by the audience if not by the judges. Geat loved the background to this piece as well. The slow first section is representative of the funeral march but after the funeral was over, the up tempo section represents a joyous celebration of the person's life and in a way today we should celebrate Geat's life and all the wonderful things he has brought to so many people.

So many of us met him through the bands and mainly through the school band either as parents or as players. How many parents and children have arrived at Valentine School to be almost literally blown away by the magnificent sound of the school band. To many of you as it was with us it was a beginning of a family tradition and many of the school band players have returned in adult life to play in the Lake Macquarie Concert Band and some of these have children who are now starting in the school band as well. Our children have all been through Geat's bands and also through his classroom. His gruffness was well known but it was feared more by the parents than the children who soon learned that to be sacked from the band meant that you had to leave but the next morning your seat in the band would still be there just as before.

The school band that Geat built up during the 70's and 80's and continued into the 90's was unique to the area. A huge band made up of such young players who were obviously so proficient at what they did. Geat had a belief in these young people, there was no formal tryout, if a child wanted to join, that was it. An instrument was found, the other children in the line would move up a place and one of the older children would give lessons to the new recruit. The band proved so popular that at one stage half the primary school was in the band. It became a culture. I have heard of two Valentine children who were playing with some other children from out of the area on holiday. The Valentine kids asked the others what instruments they played and were dumbfounded to find that the others did not even know what an instrument was. They thought that almost everyone played an instrument and if they didn't they would certainly know all about them. To Valentine kids, instruments and music were a way of life.

Geat's enthusiasm and encouragement saw these children grow together and they learnt much more than just the music from their association. Geat's acceptance of all comers allowed for many of us oldies to join the band and enjoy the delights of music.

The way I joined the Lake Macquarie Concert Band over twelve years ago is an example of Geat's attitude. I was chatting to him after a school band rehearsal and mentioned that I had played the tenor horn for a couple of years as a boy and was envious of the children in his band. Geat in his typical gusto looked around and said,

"There's an old baritone sax there, you could learn that"

and proceeded to draw on the blackboard the principles of getting a reed instrument to create a sound. I then joined the tradition Geat had fostered and was myself taught by a young girl who played baritone sax. The baritone sax is a big instrument and needs both hands so when I got lost she would point to the place in the music with her painted toenails. When she left Sigita Ulanas took over so I have not been without wonderful and spirited company in the baritone sax line.

Lake Macquarie Band rehearsals were a highlight of the week for the band members of all ages. Geat would rally us together with a tap on the lectern and an imploring

"Come on people".

If some people needed to find music, which was often, he would fill in time with more of his jokes, good and bad we heard them all and over the years we have heard thousands. More than once we have straggled onto the stage at a contest because he had to finish one of his jokes in the corridor. Between pieces we heard anecdotes and stories. From these we learnt of Geat's early working life and travels in Africa, his early teaching career in the country and return to Newcastle. We heard about his way of teaching children and interesting little snippets of what the kids had had to say or do. We heard Geat's great philosophies, occasionally just occasionally, we had a chance to put in our point of view as well. Remember that the band had people from ages 12 to 70 and Geat related to everyone.

His influence of course was much more widespread than Valentine and another of his great achievements has been his involvement in the Hunter Region Combined High Schools' Band, "The Marching Koalas". As a founding director he took many of his original band members from Valentine with him and with other students from all over the Hunter helped form a magnificent band. Once again it was a ground breaking musical achievement. This country at that stage had had very little exposure to marching show bands and the Koalas took the country by storm. Geat was very proud of the response these young musicians gained both at home and overseas. He was even more proud of the fact that the young people themselves had gained so much from their experiences and that their journey through life had been enriched.

You see, the outstanding characteristic of Geat was that he gave endlessly of himself, expecting no reward except to see others benefit from his efforts.

Fortunately he was able to see the rewards of his efforts every day as he would come up against previous band members and discuss their progress through life whether or not it was still involved in music. Of course, many of his players did go on to make professional career in music and to the others it was always part of their life.

To Geat, the all important aspect was the journey. He was not so interested in ultimate achievements, of which he had many, but more the experience of the journey through life itself. He certainly had an enormous variety of experiences in his life. Geat loved his family and was so proud of them. To his delight they all shared the

same passion for music and have had some wonderful experiences in bands together as well as in their many travels.

To Margaret, Elissa, Sigita and Alex I would like to say how privileged we all feel in having been part of Geat's journey. We will certainly miss him, but his legacy will continue for a long, long time.

Geat Ulanas, we thank you.

Happy Band Memories and Tributes to Mr Ulanas

I have many vivid memories about school band.

Firstly, being given the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument was an experience that I feel privileged to have been given. Mr Ulanas introduced me to a clarinet at the end of Year Two. I was absolutely thrilled.

Secondly, the fact that 17 years later I still play music in a band is fantastic. I never thought that when I first picked up my instrument I would still want to play it all these years later.

One of the best memories of school band is going in competitions. This encouraged us to play the best we could.

School band also led to other things – Marching Koalas, Junior and Senior City of Lake Macquarie Bands were all important in my life. Socialising was an important aspect of all these bands. I still see the friends today that I made back in Valentine Public School Band.

The self-discipline that was instilled in me is a quality I will always possess. We had to start school band practice at 8:30 a.m. sharp every day and Monday night practices were also expected of us. When I was involved in Marching Koalas we had to show enormous self-discipline as we waited for great lengths of time to perform.

*One aspect of Valentine School Band I will always remember is getting tested on our scales. We didn't always get tested, but it was a great tactic on Mr U's part. He had us practising our little hearts out at home, regardless. We were too scared not to practise and run the risk of not knowing scales **IF** we were tested.*

Mr Ulanas was a great bandmaster. He encouraged us to play and learn if we were interested. I will always be indebted to him because he has been an inspiration in my musical life.

Nicole Threlfo

'Band' for all of us was always great fun.

We all 'made a quid' through university, TAFE and early working years by playing around Newcastle pubs in a band called SKAZOO. It wasn't exactly the music we learned in concert bands but without that early experience we couldn't possibly have made SKAZOO the success it was over a period of ten years. It still occasionally gets up and has a revival and it isn't every pub band that can boast a euphonium among its instruments!

Our thanks go to Valentine School Band, The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band, Marching Koalas and, of course, Mr U.

Tony Blyth, David Babbage, Ben Coles, Tim Duggan, Andrew, Will and Ken Ellis and Conrad Turnbull.

*Before I met Geat Ulanas I had no rhythm.
I couldn't even spell drum!*

David Bourne, Timpanist. My tribute to Geat Ulanas:

I was handed a clarinet in 3rd class – I got an instrument straight away because I was always nagging Geat to give me one and my older brothers were already in the band.

Through Geat and regular band practice I became a good muso and auditioned for the Marching Koalas, for which I was successful. Geat became one of the original band conductors and everyone liked him. To me, Geat was like a father through all my band days. He was always looking out for me and encouraging me to play better, until finally I became lead clarinet in The City of Lake Macquarie Band.

I've seen a lot of the world and made a lot of longtime friends because of Geat Ulanas and the bands. For that I say

"Thank you Geat"

Vanessa Kozakiewicz (nee Bourne)

Like many, my life has been considerably influenced by Mr 'U'.

I have known Geat Ulanas as many different people. Firstly as a primary school band conductor, then in Year 5 as a schoolteacher. As a teenager I knew Mr 'U' as Music Director of The Marching Koalas, notorious for his role in disciplinary action, and again, as a band conductor (perhaps a little more 'laid back') of The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band

The realisation of what Geat gave to me and so many did not come until years later when as a music teacher myself I would attend the annual Valentine Public School Year 6 solo night to watch and accompany flute students of mine who were 'graduating'. Here I would see Geat, doing what he did best, what he had done for so many years and what he was still doing with such enthusiasm. I would watch this primary school band belt out their tunes...some being the same tunes we had played years earlier (Mickey Mouse March for one)...and I would see how much these kids enjoyed playing music together and the proud smiles on their parents faces and reflect on what all these experiences had given me and I would feel incredibly indebted to Mr 'U'. He instilled in me so many qualities as a person, most of all, an absolute love for music without which I cannot imagine life.

Maree Herzog

I'm a music teacher, teaching at Muswellbrook High School and I put me being here down to two factors – Mr Ulanas and Valentine Public School Band. We were so lucky to have such a wonderful musical influence on us at such a young age. His skill in teaching music and working with all us kids was phenomenal. It's not until I find myself now, in a similar position that I can fully comprehend the time, effort and expertise required to achieve the results that Mr 'U' did.

Geat was a very special and talented man who dedicated his lifetime to offering young kids experiences and skills. I will never forget the effect that he has had on my life, and now my career path.

Fleur Dives (Taylor)

Geat was a man who provided so many children with wonderful opportunities to enjoy music, be part of a fantastic social atmosphere, travel to other countries and participate in musical activities only a few of us could dream about.

We loved his philosophy of playing music for the enjoyment it would create for both the players and the audience. The opportunities it opened up for our daughter, Nicole have been extremely rewarding, Geat is responsible for leaving her with a lifetime legacy of musical appreciation.

We regarded Geat as a personal friend and a man of great talent who sought no reward for his efforts other than for girls and boys, men and women to enjoy and pursue an interest in music.

His humility was an outstanding feature of his approach to the successes he and his bands achieved over a long period of time.

He will be sadly missed

Jeff and Nerida Threlfo

I am so pleased to be asked to write a tribute to Geat Ulanas' dedication to children and music. He not only brought music into the lives of our four children but the band filled a void in my life during the many years I served as secretary to the band. We had great times, many laughs and many happy memories spring to mind when I look back at those hours spent in the staffroom with the band playing in the background.

Early school memories include Geat giving David a "big fat euphonium" when he wanted a trumpet like his "big brother" Aron. Geat was not a patient man and he used to "sack" David on an almost weekly basis. He would come home and say

"I've been sacked again mum."

Jane sat with her flute on her lap for twelve months and pretended to push the keys if she thought Geat was looking. Vanessa couldn't read the music but learned to play by ear and became a good muso. And then there was "capable Aron". I guessed he was one of Geat's favourites if I'm allowed to say that. They all became good musos because of Geat.

Delighted parents had all four of their children in The City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band for the National Band Championships in Adelaide in 1986. That trip is a special memory – a 28 hour coach trip with bodies all over the floor, our accommodation in Hindley Street which we found out too late, was the Kings Cross of Adelaide! Wal Tierney impressed on the bandmembers that they weren't to look over the front balconies. The band practised by the coach one day and passers by were amazed. And then that heart stopping moment when they announced our band "National B Grade Champions".

Nobody, to our kids, was better than 'their Geat'. They all loved him. I used to hear them talking about him, sometimes upset because he had yelled at them, but always going back for more. He made a wonderful contribution to the community of Valentine. Thousands of families have been presented with the gift of music due to his dedication and we count ourselves lucky to have been one of those families.

Geat Ulanas – you legend!

Cath and Jim Bourne.

When I first started in the band I had no talent except perhaps for my ability to look like I was playing. To my surprise I could do this whilst attempting to copy the fingering of the poor soul next to me who no doubt was trying to copy someone else. After a while, I learnt a few notes and the rest is history. Music was my highest scoring mark in my HSC.

Geat Ulanas has had an incredible impact on my life. My most lasting and memorable friendships were founded in his bands. Most of my early character developing opportunities likewise came from music. I would get so nervous before a solo, I felt as if I had sand in my mouth, but the ego developing opportunity was there too – nothing more satisfying than the praise after a good performance!

Geat always made me feel I was special, especially when I 'stuck it out' and remained with the Concert Band well after the end of high school. I realised later that he had made all the others feel special too – he was full of giving and I was one of the many who gladly took. His impact on my life and who I am today has been significant and inspirational and will never be forgotten.

Aron Bourne

"25 Years, What a Man"

I remember back to being one of your babes,
The bellow of your voice would make us behave.
I'd sit in third row of flutes in the band
And watch your arm wave, yet I didn't understand.
Then with practice and guidance I worked my way
up,
With the piccolo you gave me, I moved to the top.
Now years down the line, I look back on these
times,
And with every memory one thing comes to mind.
And that's you, Mr 'U'.
How do you thank a man who has given the gift of
friendship and music to so many, for so long for
so little?
Lots of love and thanks to my father away from
home!

Jane Bourne

A tribute from an early band member that expressed the feelings of many many others.