

# Carl Doy ONZM

People like this music because it's not obtrusive; you can have it on in the background.



**Carl William Doy** was born in Camberley, Surrey, England on 6 May 1947 to Anglo-Swiss parents. His dad Frank met his future wife Anna in 1944 after he escaped from a prison camp in Northern Italy and made it across the Swiss border. They married in Switzerland then Frank repatriated back to the UK. 9 months later they reunited and went on to have two daughters and Carl, the middle one. In peacetime Frank worked as a security officer.

When he was 6 Carl taught himself to play by ear on his grandmother's piano and by watching his aunt entertaining. The popular artists at the time were Russ Conway, Winifred Attwell and Mrs Mills so Carl would have been learning honky-tonk and stride piano numbers. In 1961 Dave Brubeck's *Take Five* was a huge hit and Carl added that to his repertoire along with the *Theme from Exodus*, *Alley Cat*, *Black and White Rag*,

*Side Saddle* and *Nut Rocker*.

At *Camberley Grammar School* his music teachers realised his talent and corrected his technique, taught him to read then encouraged him to work toward auditioning at the *Royal Academy* and the *Royal College of Music*. He won scholarships to both and at 18 he entered the *College of Music* to study piano, organ and composition for two years.

By 1967 Carl had realised that life as a classical pianist was not for him so he joined a world cruise on the *P&O Arcadia* playing in the band, then worked clubs in the UK and *NATO* bases in Greece and Turkey. 'We were playing mainly ballroom music, waltzes and foxtrots and there were no charts. Someone would say, '*Lady Is a Tramp* in C' and I had to work it out on the spot. I didn't know any of these songs so I used to buy busking books whenever we came into a port. I also had a very good ear so I picked them up pretty quickly.' Carl became Musical Director on board the refitted *S.S. Ocean Monarch* in 1971 cruising the Mediterranean and South Pacific until 1973 when he and his wife Kathy immigrated to New Zealand. Work quickly turned up as a pianist and arranger for *Television New Zealand* then, in his down time, Carl toured with a number of international artists including Shirley Bassey, *Gladys Knight and the Pips*, *The Seekers*, Bob Hope, Rolf Harris, Dick Emery, *The Four Aces*, and Del Shannon. There was also plenty of work around town for cocktail pianists.



Turning his hand to song writing he composed *Nothing but Dreams* which won the *1979 Pacific Song Contest*, performed by Tina Cross. The next year *Once Again with You* represented New Zealand in Canada, sung by Tina Cross and Derek Metzger, and came second. Carl also won the open section of the *1981 American Song Festival* in Los Angeles with *Why Don't We Fall In Love*, the *1983 World Song Festival* in Prague with *We Made It* sung by Suzanne Lee and the artistic prize and a gold scroll at the *1984 World Song Festival* with *Show Me How To Be Like You* sung by Rob Guest with a 34 piece orchestra. Local recording companies and radio stations showed scant interest in these prize winning tunes and by the time a recording was worked out the public had moved on. *Nothing But Dreams* did reach the New Zealand charts but dropped off pretty quickly.

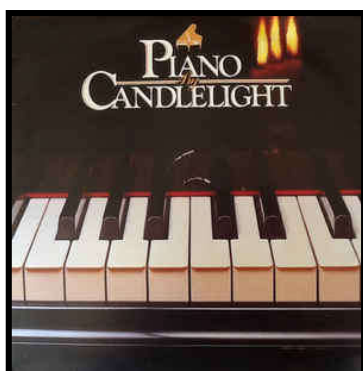
Carl had a residency at the *Fisherman's Wharf* which closed in 1975 then he moved to the *Troika Restaurant* working with Alan Wade (bass) and Clive Cavanah (drums). They played regularly at the *Windsor Park Hotel* in Mairangi Bay with vocalist Maureen Mitchell, often adding a brass section for backing Howard Morrison, Bunny Walters and other visiting artists.

In 1978 he joined Bruce King's band at the *Shoreline*, replacing Mike Harvey who married *Fisherman's Wharf* vocalist Jillian Richards and moved to Australia. Six months later they were invited to a residency at Phil Warren's *Ace of Clubs* on the *Diamond Lil* shows.

In October 1981 Carl played piano on the *Royal Variety Show* for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in the *St James Theatre*. It showcased Ray Columbus, Billy T James, Limbs, Gray Bartlett, Ray Woolf, Doug Aston, Brendan Dugan, Jodi Vaughan, Tom Sharplin, Tina Cross, John Rowles and Howard Morrison; 9 Benny winners in all. Howard sang his now famous version of *How Great Thou Art*. When Pope John Paul II visited in 1986 Carl arranged the Pope's Mass in *Auckland Domain* which involved writing for two orchestras and a large choir. He worked many television series including *Stars on Sunday* and *Hudson and Halls* recording initially at *Mascot Studios* then moving to the *1ZB Radio Theatre*.



His run of success continued in 1987 when he met Murray Thom. Carl had already released a piano album and single in 1984 with Bruce King and Bruce Lynch called *Driftwood* which had done reasonably well but his joint project with Murray, *Piano by Candlelight*, took off, entering the charts at number one in its first week. Eight more albums in the series were recorded over the next twelve years and sold in large quantities in many European countries, the Far East, South America, USA and Canada. These were re-recorded in 2000 using members of the *New Zealand Symphony Orchestra*.



Carl built a studio underneath his home in 1992 after the *NZBC* demolished its *1ZB* recording facilities in Durham lane. With a quality piano and a good desk Carl and Murray continued with the successful easy-listening format with Carl arranging and producing albums for Derek Metzger, Rob Guest, Tina Cross and Howard Morrison. He recently worked on four highly successful pop-opera albums for Yulia and Elizabeth Marvely. He arranged and was musical director on Kiri Te Kanawa's *Maori Songs*. She also sang his arrangement of *E Te Tarakihi* live in the first live broadcast of the new millennium to a television audience of over a hundred million people.

Martin Winch's two highly successful albums were arranged, produced and recorded by Carl. *Espresso Guitar* sold over 80,000 copies in New Zealand alone and hit number one for several weeks. Brian Smith's two *Midnight Sax* albums were also big hits here and overseas.

In 2000 Carl was commissioned to write the music for *Buzz & Poppy*, an animated children's television series now showing in twenty countries, which won the *Best Original Music Award* at the *2002 TV Guide TV Awards*. He was Musical Director for *TVNZ's Dancing with the Stars* from 2004-09 and in 2009 he performed two sell-out concerts with the *New Zealand Symphony Orchestra*, in Auckland and Wellington. Recently Carl has returned to the cruise ships doing a dozen shows a year and performing in retirement villages around the country.



The *Variety Artists Club* awarded Carl a *1981 Scroll of Honour*, the *Shure Golden Microphone Award* in 1990 and the *Benny* in 1992. In 2009 he was awarded an *ONZM* for services to music. Carl is a patron of the *National Youth Theatre Company* of New Zealand which was co-founded by his son James who is also the Director.

Carl and Kathy have two sons, James and Ben, and two granddaughters Willow (4) and Florence (2).