

ON A VERY SPECIAL WEEK FOR THE BROTHERS,  
A UNIQUE LOOK BACK INTO THE FAMILY ALBUM



Julian ... 'great determination'



Andrew ... 'was really clever'

# The young

# Lloyd Webbers: by father

## Talking to David Gillard

'He'd jump around to the tunes for a while and then fall asleep.'

So, coming from such a musical background, did he 'mould' the careers of his famous sons?

'There was never any pressure on them to do anything they didn't want to do,' he says. 'I was always available if they wanted an opinion, but they were both rather determined people, and I wouldn't say I influenced them greatly.'

His CBE in the New Year's Honours turned the spotlight on the patriarch.

A noted composer of organ works, 61-year-old Dr Lloyd Webber has long been a potent, background force on the British classical music scene. Professor of Theory and Composition at the Royal College of Music since 1946 and Musical Director of

Central Hall, Westminster—where he still plays the organ every Sunday—since 1958, he took over at the London College of Music 16 years ago.

Sitting in his spacious office, one of his own compositions (a waltz) on the music stand of the shiny grand piano that stands next to his desk, he blinks mildly through his tortoise-shell spectacles and reflects on the early aspirations of his boys.

## Touring

'Although Andrew was always interested in music—he sketched out his first piece when he was about nine and studied the violin and the horn—we thought he'd probably become an historian.'

'When he was a child we'd spend our summer holidays touring ancient

monuments, getting stuck in fields so that he could look at heaps of old stones. He really was a clever little chap. He was a Queen's Scholar at Westminster, and won a History Exhibition to Magdalene College.

'But, after the first term, he decided to give it all up and try his hand at composition instead. A lot of friends thought I was mad to let him come down, but I wasn't prepared to force him to stay at college. I thought if he didn't have a shot at what he wanted to do he'd be fed up all his life.'

'It took me seven years to learn composition, but apart from a year's short course at the RCM Andrew's pretty well self-taught. That's what gives such spontaneity to his music, I think. But he has a very melodic gift and a natural sense of harmony

## Determined

'With Julian there was always a strong chance that he was going to be a rather good cellist. I fell in love with the organ when I was two, but for Julian it was always the cello.'

'He never wanted to be a member of an orchestra, but always set his sights on being a soloist. I knew that if he didn't become a soloist he'd probably give up. But he showed a tremendous amount of determination and he's done very well.'

His own early ambitions were centred on becoming a full-time composer. 'But in the end,' he says, 'it became basically a matter of finance. It's very difficult to make a living out of composition unless you succeed in the kind of work that Andrew does.'

'I regard music rather like a menu—you select the composer you like. My tastes tend towards the late romantics like Rachmaninov and Cesar Franck.'

LAST night in London's West End, an invited audience of VIPs attended a special gala performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new album, *Tell Me On A Sunday*.

In five days' time over the Thames at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Hall, his younger brother Julian will give a major cello recital, which he plans to take to America later in the year.

For these two remarkable musical brothers, it is clearly an extremely important week.

For Andrew, there is the opportunity to prove he can produce as successful and as memorable music with his new partner Don Black as he has already achieved with Tim Rice.

## Virtuoso

For Julian it is a time to consolidate his burgeoning reputation as an innovative classical virtuoso.

It is hardly surprising that the brothers command such contrasting heights in the music world for their father, Dr William Lloyd Webber, Director of the London College of Music, brought them up, on a diet, not of rusks and milk, but Mozart and Edmundo Ros.

'Andrew was a terror,' admits Dr Lloyd Webber. 'Edmundo Ros was a great favourite of his, and if he couldn't get to sleep, we'd play him some Edmundo records.'