

Dear Peter,

I seem to remember that Peter was the nephew of Norman Del Mar and am often surprised that a connection was never made in details of either of these 'Gentlemen'.

Like Norma, Brian and Dudley, I was taught by Peter and can confirm the great love for him by everybody I knew. To my shame, I cannot remember Norma other than as a name; Brian (Baz) Astell was one year above me and Dudley a year above that --- strange then that both myself and one Brian King occasionally shared a 'double desk' with him as he struggled to catch up at junior school after repeated operations.

As you know, Peter came to Dagenham in 1950 and, shortly afterwards, arranged for six of us to audition as understudies for Let's Make an Opera. Dudley, Chris Clements and myself were lucky enough to be selected and so met the incredible Norman Del Mar – met a lot of other nice people too!

Regards,

Keith Haley

It was Peter himself that told us of the Norman Del Mar connection so I can only assume that it's true; can't tell you which side of the family but maybe the cousin referred to can help.

The references to Dudley were certainly relative to his foot but there I think that the story became a bit clouded. On a tube journey up to the Lyric at Hammersmith, he explained to me that he had been born with one foot joined to the other. That simply increased the awe in which I held the man. However, being somewhat of a genius, he quickly caught up and moved away.

Having referred to Norma, I thought it best to copy my email to her and hope that I might receive her guidance in connection with what is often referred to as 'the Dudley Piano'. Perhaps we should call it the Peter Cork Piano!

Regards,

Keith Haley