



# BIG PLAYERS

in Milton Keynes: Sports, Arts & Media

## Cleo Laine, John Dankworth and WAP at the Stables

*'Cleo Laine is a singer who has done just about everything and played everywhere – from English dance halls to London's Royal Albert Hall, from Carnegie to the Blue Note Cafe. She's been on stage, on Broadway, to London's West End, done opera and the BBC.'*

*'In a career that spans more than fifty years as a performer, composer and conductor, John Dankworth combines confidence and virtuosity with eclecticism and unpredictability... It is unlikely that there is a British musician better known for a wider range of musical activities, crossing musical barriers.'*

### Married together and to music for 50 years...

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth met through music and married in 1958.

In 1979 Cleo received an OBE for services to music; in 1997 she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire. John is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Northern College of Music and Leeds College of Music. He received the Freedom of the City of London in 1994. His services to music have earned him a CBE.

Both Cleo and John have been awarded honorary Doctorates by Cambridge University, the University of York, the Open University, and Boston's Berklee College of Music. They were also awarded the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medal for Lifetime Contribution to British Jazz, and honoured in the annual British Jazz Awards a number of times for their achievements in and services to British Jazz. They have recorded over 160 albums between them and performed with stars like Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson, Ray Charles, George Shearing, Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, Gerry Mulligan, the National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Vladimir Ashkenazy, the London Symphony Orchestra.

### More than music...

In 1969, John & Cleo founded the Wavendon Allmusic Plan (WAP), a vision realised with opening The Stables Theatre in outbuildings of their home as a venue for concerts and education activities. In October 2000, the new Stables Theatre opened its doors on a 398-seat auditorium which now presents over 200 concerts and over 200 education sessions each year.

Over a recent 3-month period The Stables has presented sell-out gigs of the UK's leading comedians - Lee Evans, Jo Brand, Michael McIntyre, Andy Parsons, Lenny Henry and Sandi Toksvig. The 2008 summer & autumn season features more comedians, award-winning world music, Glastonbury 2008 bands, and Global Voices - a weekend workshop of singing leading to a shared community performance.

### Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary John and Cleo!

(information from John and Cleo's website: [www.quarternotes.com](http://www.quarternotes.com))

