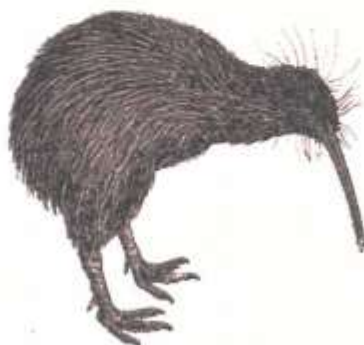




St Hilda's College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

*Personalised New Zealand postage stamps
presented to
St Hilda's College, Oxford
by
The New Zealand Society of Great Britain
to commemorate
the 80th Anniversary of the birth of
Jacqueline du Pré OBE
26th January 1945 – 19th October 1987*



The New Zealand
Society of Great Britain
www.nzsgb.org.uk

19th February 2025

Jacqueline du Pré
1945 – 1987

Photo courtesy of English
Chamber Orchestra Archive



*She was destined to be the greatest ever Cello player.
Her career was tragically shortened by
multiple sclerosis in 1973 at the age of 28.
Du Pré's musical legacy is celebrated for
her passionate and emotive playing.*



Cover 6 / 13

Jacqueline du Pré
1945 – 1987



Photo courtesy of
English Chamber Orchestra
Archive



Jacqueline du Pré
1945 – 1987



Photo courtesy of English Chamber Orchestra Archive

*She was destined to be the greatest ever Cello player.
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Cover 6/13



Photo courtesy of
English Chamber Orchestra
Archive



Jacqueline du Pré
1945 – 1987



Photo © Allegro Films

*She was destined to be the greatest ever Cello player.
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Cover 6 / 12



Jacqueline du Pré
1945 – 1987

© ALLEGRO Films



JACQUELINE DU PRÉ - A PERSONALISED STAMP

Tony Ward

There are many reasons to produce personalized stamps. During 1969 and 1970, Jacqueline du Pré toured Australia and New Zealand with the UK Chamber Orchestra. Jackie was widely regarded as the future greatest ever cello player. I recommend collectors read about her playing accomplishments on Wikipedia (Ref.1).

I had just completed my degree courses and was progressing to teacher training at the time. I enjoyed attending classical music concerts and was very impressed when I attended Jackie's concert in Sydney. In 1971, du Pré's playing declined as she began to lose sensitivity in her fingers, and other parts of her body. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in October 1973. Unable to continue playing, she continued to teach but passed away, after illness, on October 19 1987, at the age of 42. I was deeply saddened; this was a meaningful event in my life.

Over the years, I regularly listened to YouTube versions of Elgar's Cello Concerto. I found it great to listen to, but sad to watch. The recording of Schubert's 'Trout' is joyous. In January 2025, if still alive, Jackie would have reached the age of 80. I thought it appropriate as a personal remembrance to produce some NZ Post personalized stamps. I wanted the stamps to reflect her obvious zest for life and connection with her cello.

There were not many public domain images that I was pleased with, so I reached out to Allegro Films, who originally produced performance films of Jackie, and also the UK Chamber Orchestra Archive. Both groups appreciated my aims and helped in supplying suitable images, for very limited use. All stamps produced were non-commercial, intended for swapping with fellow serious collectors.

Three stamp images were used:



At ease with the cello.

[courtesy UK Chamber Orchestra Archive]



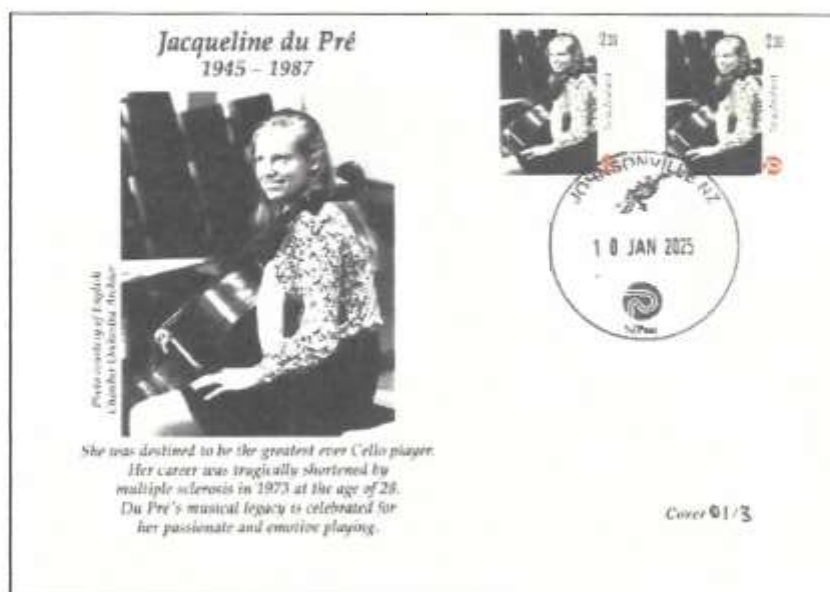
A smiling Jackie.

[© Allegro Films]



Pure emotion playing the cello.

[courtesy UK Chamber Orchestra Archive]



*Covers were produced with both gummed and self-adhesive stamps.
(shown at 70% of original size)*

One sheet of 50 of each stamp was produced, in gummed and self-adhesive formats. In each case, a pictorial cover was produced using a larger version of the image used for the stamp design. Generally, for each variation of design/format, there are 9-13 covers and 4-5 maxicards, leaving about 30 stamps for those who helped, or collectors.



*Maximum cards produced with gummed stamps added.
(shown at 60% of original size)*

Jacqueline Du Pré made only one visit to New Zealand, playing at Wellington Town Hall on 19 September 1970. Consequently it was arranged to have all covers and maximum cards cancelled at Johnsonville, a suburb of Wellington.

As a courtesy, examples of covers/maxicards were shared with both Allegro Films and the archive of the UK Chamber Orchestra. Du Pré was made an honorary fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford, where The JdP Music Building is named in her honour. I propose to gift an example of each cover for them to display in their library.

I have been much pleased by this project and would commend this exercise to all. Hopefully, those who receive a stamp will gain an appreciation of a great musician. Indeed, it is truly 'A Stamp for Jackie'.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Allegro Films and the UK Chamber Orchestra Archive for permission to use images of Jacqueline Du Pré. A new film, 'Jacqueline du Pré: Genius & Tragedy' has recently been released by Allegro Films.

General Reference

1, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacqueline_du_Pré

Further Links

1. 'Jacqueline du Pré A Celebration', at <https://allegrofilms.com>
2. Yo-Yo Ma talks about the genius of Jacqueline du Pré, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MpJ8L9pTYA>
3. Schubert Piano Quintet D667 'The Trout' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESzeLfWyfTw>
4. Jacqueline du Pré & Daniel Barenboim - Elgar Cello Concerto at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPhkZW_jwc0



Jacqueline du Pré Music
Building, St Hilda's College,
Oxford – opened in 1995



NZSGB Secretary - Michael Wilkinson
St Hilda's College

Professor Dame Sarah Springman, Principal
Dr Georgina Paul, Head of Senior Common Room





River Cherwell – a tributary
of the Thames, Oxford