

RUTGER GUNNARSSON

ABBA bassist, arranger

(1946-2015)

In 1972, a fellow student at Stockholm's Royal College of Music tipped off Rutger Gunnarsson to the audition that would change his life. The classical guitar major duly got the job as bassist with Swedish folk group The Hootenanny Singers, a band which included Björn Ulvaeus and was a precursor to ABBA. Two years later, ABBA became international stars when they won the Eurovision Song Contest and Gunnarsson played on every subsequent ABBA album and tour, often writing string and horn parts. He went on to work on a variety of big musicals – including *Chess*, *Les Misérables* and *Mamma Mia!* – and played with Elton John, Adam Ant and Gwen Stefani.

ROB HUGHES