



THE COMPANY OFFICE

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Diary 2007

9 May	The Prince's Prize competition
June 20	Midsummer Banquet Fishmongers' Hall 6.30pm
July 11	Phyllis Barrett Armourers' Hall Informal Lunch 12.30pm
July 21	Livery Club tour Royal Opera House 10.30am
September 11 (tbc)	Bach Cantata & Lunch St Mary at Hill 12.05pm
September 16	Jazz Medal Competition Pizza on the Park 7.30pm
October 3	Musicians' Company Evensong St Paul's Cathedral 5.00pm
October 22	Musicians' Company Maisie Lewis Concert Wigmore Hall 7.30pm
November 8	Installation Court and Dinner Merchant Taylors' Hall 6.30pm

THE MASTER'S YEAR IN OFFICE

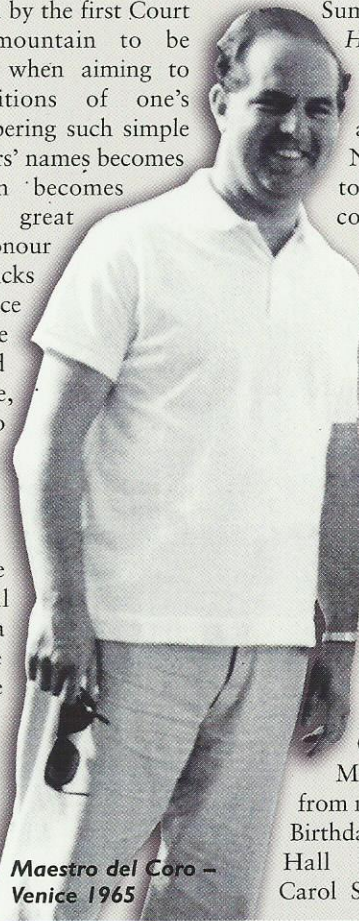
The Immediate Pastmaster, Peter Fowler, gives a bird's eye view of his term of office.

Suddenly from the moment of being installed as Master one's life as a liveryman in the Company changes dramatically. There is a certain amount of deference from the attendees at the Installation Dinner, which is somewhat embarrassing at first, but one can soon accustom oneself to it and I did! But then there is the frightening task of one's first major speech followed by the first Court Meeting, another mountain to be climbed, particularly when aiming to maintain the traditions of one's predecessors. Remembering such simple tasks as Court members' names becomes awesome! Life then becomes calmer and the great enjoyment of the honour bestowed upon you clicks into place. The advice and support from the learned Clerk and Deputy is invaluable, you find there are no written laws about how you should run the Company or what you should do or say.

Where to begin? The Company's financial affairs took on a brighter hue with the improvements in the Stock Market values. The responsibility for the Company's investments fell to Pastmaster Carnwath, Chairman of the

Finance Committee and to Pastmaster Barrett, Deputy Chairman, who successfully chose wisely. Pastmaster Tully took on the Chairmanship of the newly formed Development Committee and is beavering away to improve fundraising for the Company's awards. The Public Relations Committee expanded under the guidance of Chairman Assistant Summerfield, and *Preserve Harmony* flourished with the organisation of Pastmaster Davis, Assistant Campion and Liveryman Patricia Norland. My thanks, too, to all the Chairmen and committee members and Liveryman Andrew Morris, President of the Livery Club and Pastmaster Tully who organised the Jazz at Finsbury Circus, for their time and devotion for the benefit of the Company.

Some high points in my year were the award of the Company Fellowship to Levon Chilingirian, the Company's award of the Silver Medal to Sir Charles Mackerras, the award of The Prince's Prize to Amy Dickson, a winning of the Christie Award at Glynbourne in 2006 by Matthew Rose, and particularly from my point of view, the Master's Birthday Party at Tallow Chandlers' Hall following the Christmas Carol Service on 7 December. The



Maestro del Coro – Venice 1965

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suggested that traditional forms of concert presentation are no longer working. He believed orchestras are living on borrowed time and that the prognosis is bleak. There are environmental reasons, including education and cultural diversity. But also the profession has not helped itself. It is guilty of (a) programming for peers and critics rather than the audience; (b) failing to programme music that the audience wants to hear; (c) presenting concerts in formal garb; (d) putting barriers around

the music in terminology, repertoire, language and dress. Simon went on to say that the profession's task was to look at these issues. 'We are in a business that is change-adverse, risk-adverse and stretched in resources. We have got to find reasons to change.'

Liz Forbes (Concerts Director for the RPO) advocated the need for crossover concerts in order to appeal to more diverse audiences. 'Be passionate', she said: 'make it a voyage of discovery for the audience.' The CD market brings its own audience. Yet she said that live performance is vital –