

Magnificat (from the Great Service) followed, again beautifully sung by the choir, and we were reminded that, despite the fact that it was composed in the 16th-17th century, there are some unusual harmonies that would seem in advance of their time.

The most exciting item in the programme was the World Première of Ruth Byrchmore's *Quem Pastores* (text: German 14th century), sung by the choir (8 part) with organ and oboe d'amore. This instrument was included in recognition of the Turners' Company's historical trade of turning wood, including musical instruments. It is the alto of the oboe family, a transposing instrument pitched a minor third below

the oboe. Here we had some unusual harmonies, strong rhythms, appropriate colour from the oboe d'amore and splendid playing by the organist who brought real passion to his interpretation. Then came that universal favourite *Three Kings from Persian lands afar* by Peter Cornelius (arranged Ivor Atkins), where mention must be made of the alto who handled the solo sections with taste and musicality.

As the Master and Wardens of the Musicians' Company and the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company recessed, the choir sang Benjamin Britten's *Hodie Christus natus est*. The service ended with an organ voluntary, *Dieu parmi nous* (from *La Nativité*) by

Olivier Messiaen, played by Robert Smith who literally pulled out all the stops making a magnificent end to this all-round splendid occasion.

We then proceeded to the Innholders' Hall where we enjoyed an excellent supper and some good wine. We were also entertained by Joel Raymond (oboe) and Robert Smith (organ), who gave us a selection of music by Handel, Haydn and Vincent, which was very enthusiastically received. Clearly everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves in these very beautiful surroundings. Finally Eugenie Maxwell, the President of the Livery Club, thanked everyone for coming and wished us all a happy Festive Season.
Freeman Margaret Campbell

The Wallace Collection at Hertford House

Valentine's day dawned overcast and it was threatening rain so, clutching umbrellas we approached Manchester Square. Ahead in this elegant square, with its gardens with spring flowers already in bloom, stood Hertford House, a stunning example of 18th century architecture. The President, Eugenie Maxwell, who gave each lady a red rose, greeted guests at the door. We walked through the house into the inner courtyard, now a beautiful, glazed atrium restaurant reminiscent of a Parisian café. Thirty-four members and guests were seated at three tables while a delicious lunch was enjoyed, followed by lively conversation.

Afterwards we formed two groups and mine was very lucky to have Rebecca, an enthusiastic guide who had twenty years' experience at Hertford House. The



condition, from fountains and chandeliers to furniture, china and snuff boxes.

In 1998 over twelve million pounds was spent in refurbishment, improving access and facilities for the thousands of visitors from all over the world who, each year, enjoy free access to the collection. The tour concluded in the Long Gallery where Angharad Wyn Jones and Louise Wiggins played their beautiful harps as a duo. The party enjoyed two pieces by Handel, one by John Thomas and an arrangement of "Bewitched." The room was a great setting

for the music, having a very good acoustic. After the first musical interlude we entered the Hunting Gallery to view paintings and sculptures of the late 18th Century. Liveryman Alan Paul, who has a great knowledge of this period, explained the meaning of the splendid Dutch domestic scenes with many droll comments, greatly amusing both our group and eavesdropping American cousins. More romantic solo harp music then followed.

The day at Hertford House viewing the Wallace Collection was delightful. It surely must be one of London's absolute gems and many thanks are due to Eugenie for arranging such a splendid visit and to the Master, Dr. Andreas Prindl, for supporting her.

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Liveryman Lois Owen-Ward



Wallace Collection was founded in 1719 by the first Earl of Hertford and owned by the family until the childless widow of the fifth Earl, Lady Wallace, bequeathed it and some of the contents to the British Nation in 1897. She was adamant that the collection be kept together and not mixed with any other art. It was to be known forever as "The Wallace Collection."

First we climbed the splendid white marble staircase where the Hertford family coats of arms are incorporated into the balustrades. On the first floor landing we gathered around a delightful white marble statue of Cupid and Psyche as two year olds – a very rare subject indeed. Rococo art surrounded the staircase and filled the next two rooms. Every artefact was of superb quality and in excellent