

we are asking for and from whom.

A new fundraising working party has been established and feelers are being sent out to see where and from whom donations could be solicited. It is hoped the prize of prizes, The Prince's Prize, will be made as attractive as possible to potential sponsorship.

Ask not what the Company can do for me....

The Master summed up the Open Day by

saying there was much work to be done as live professional music was always under threat. The Company's financial efforts must concentrate on future excellence with opportunities for tomorrow's professionals to take their work to as many constituencies in the community as possible. It had to take part in lobbying and advocacy activity to ensure its experienced voice was heard and for the Company to make a real contribution.

In conclusion he asked everyone to ask

themselves: "What can I do to make an effective contribution to the Company's aims?" and that it was up to each of us to find and implement an answer.

With this level of commitment and clear thinking it appears that the 500 year old Company is well placed to continue its work in the 21st century, fit for purpose.

Russell Jones is the Director of the Association of British Orchestras.

The Company is grateful to liveryman Judith Rich for her generous support of this event

At this successful Open Day in May, the subject of music education in schools was discussed, including a suggestion that the Company might wish to become more involved in lobbying Government to improve funding for schools' music. Reviewing the morning over lunch, there was some animated conversation on this topic, which has resulted in the following letters being received for publication in this magazine. They are from liverymen each with an interest in music education and its wider application and benefit. Replies are invited.

At the exemplary Company Open Day, the subject of lobbying about Music Education funding was mooted. The topic was raised with the concerns that it might be a divisive issue. It was felt that some Liverymen may not approve of the Company becoming politically active in this way. We were assured that the Court would consider the matter very seriously on our behalf before it ever took action. Although personally I am very happy for the Company to make its views felt to the general public, and would encourage the Company to do so, I do feel it is important that these ARE actually the views of the Livery and not just the Court. I would urge anyone with strong feelings about this issue to make their views known to the Court and Liverymen so that Court members know they can move ahead in the sure knowledge that they are representing the will of the Company. Some people may not be aware of the situation as it affects many of our teachers and music pupils today, and so I should also like to make the following observations about one particular school.

A close friend of mine is Head of Music in a state Comprehensive School. He has, until this last year, laboured for years with a total music department budget of only £400 to teach 300 pupils... Yes, you read that correctly. This was to include instruments, equipment, books etc... Think for a moment what these cost. How much is a manuscript book? There is a new GCSE syllabus which he must follow, and now there is a new text book for that. He can only afford to buy 10 books plus the teaching materials and CDs to go with it, the cost is about £180.

There is no money in the school for

instrumental lessons. The children's parents/guardians pay for them in this school, as my parents paid for mine in the 60's and 70's. These young musicians are guaranteed 30 lessons a year of 20 minutes duration and are charged £370. Any child wanting to study two instruments pays double, unless eligible for a hardship grant or discount for a "Cinderella" instrument, e.g. bassoon.

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Master of the Queen's Musick, gave a most eloquent Royal Philharmonic Society Lecture in 2005* entitled *Will Serious Music Become Extinct?* The lecture discusses the issue of Music Education in Schools and its direct effect on the nation's awareness and appreciation of serious music. We can hope for no finer advocate.

Liveryman Danielle Perrett

*Reproduced in an abridged version in the *Journal of the Incorporated Society of Musicians* (June 2005) or can be requested in its entirety direct from the Royal Philharmonic Society.

As a recently clothed Liveryman, I would like to congratulate the Worshipful Company of Musicians on the excellent Open Day in May. It was most interesting and informative, providing a delightful opportunity to meet members of the Company in an informal setting.

The deteriorating condition of music provision in state schools was discussed in relation to the question of whether the WCM should see lobbying as part of its role. I believe that a Livery Company should certainly act as advocate for certain causes in which it has profound confidence. I consider therefore that our Company should be trying to persuade the Department of Skills and Education, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and OFSTED to include music in the core

curriculum. Simultaneously, the Company should explore strategies to encourage and contribute to the funding of peripatetic music teachers and the direct employment of teachers with music skills in schools.

If high quality music teaching and learning are allowed to decline further in the state sector, the long-term future of the Company will be seriously jeopardised and the spiritual health of the country will be impoverished.

Liveryman Susan Cornish

The Company Open Day at St Botolph's stimulated a number of thoughts about the purposes of the Musicians' Company which might bear more scrutiny, in particular some additional means to achieving our aims.

For instance, it could be interesting to open a debate on the wider aspects of the effects of music and good musicianship: the all-too-often ignored connections between music (whether practised or listened to) and both health and education.

The enhancement of IQ by music has been researched and documented, as has the beneficial effect of musical accompaniment as an adjunct to advanced learning techniques. The beneficial effects of music on health – especially mental health – have also been realised, though not sufficiently practised. It is also well known that the earlier an influence is exerted in life, the more lasting the benefit.

With these thoughts in mind perhaps there may be ways we could enlarge our constituency of influence (without breaking the bank or the staff and liverymen's backs) that could enhance both the Company's reputation and also achieve, through various means, greater good by promoting a wider understanding of the importance and value of music at many levels and in all its forms.

Liveryman Maureen Acland