

Preserve Harmony



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

EDITORIAL

Sooner rather than later...

This second issue is earlier than planned due, may we say, to the encouraging response to our first efforts. Both to our Contributors and our Critics, thank you. We apologise to those members of the Livery who were inexplicably deprived of the first edition for reasons beyond our understanding. We hope that you will be more fortunate this time!

A Chord

The Livery Company have enjoyed "the hand of friendship" from the Stationers Company over many years. In our correspondence columns, you will find further evidence of their assistance and support for which we continue to be most grateful.

Participation, Politics and...

As a consequence of your Membership of the Musicians Company what were your expectations and equally what did you consider your contribution might be when you joined?

Elsewhere, you will find a summary of the address given by Sir John Tooley at the Livery Dinner last November. Food for thought! - especially for those who were unable to attend. On the other hand, there is a plea for more support for our own Livery Club. Arguably these activities are not alternatives and we must consider each on its own individual merits. However, if we are perceived to fail in support of our own "in-house" programmes, how might our credibility be viewed vis-a-vis a matter of national concern supposing we were to join the arts education bandwagon?

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From the Master

Jeffrey Lockett Esq

THE 'LAUNCH' OF THE NEW MASTER at the Livery Dinner, an hour after his installation, is very much a question of 'in at the deep end'. The Immediate Pastmaster's contribution to the Company's well-being is very much uppermost in one's mind, particularly in my own, having been lucky enough to follow Malcolm Hubble whose wonderful contribution of industry and diplomacy on our behalf is impossible to match.

He has indeed Preserved Harmony and fostered the Art and Science in a very unique way, with an emphasis on 'Learn the Organ Year' and promotion of The Foundation Fund, which always needs contributions however small.

Since the Company assists opera in the form of The John Christie Award at Glyndebourne I felt that it was best to limit my own contribution to this particular form of music-making to that most generously described in the last issue of this journal. Needless to say we always welcome any help for this from external sources.

Silver Medal for Jazz

The area of our Art and Science which it appears that the Company has almost totally neglected is that of Jazz. I have yet to hear an adequate definition of this but perhaps we could agree to call it 'popular 20th century music originating from New Orleans' as a beginning. I would be most interested on learning how to better describe it.

To try to remedy this omission in our patronage I have asked our Clerk to establish a Musicians Company Silver Medal for Jazz, with Charitable status, and hope to have the approval of the Court by the time you receive this letter.

The idea is to endow this Award so that a medal can be presented annually, to a talented British Jazz musician, and alternate this between an established distinguished artist and an outstanding young talent. John Dankworth has offered to help me 'get this going'. I would hope to co-opt him on to the committee which is being formed to administer it. Any financial contributions to this Award for Jazz will be most gratefully received.

I do hope that we will meet soon at the Company's functions, particularly at a Maisie Lewis Concert, which so urgently and deservedly needs our support.

Modern Movements

WHILE MOZART and Nigel Kennedy are arguably perceived to be dominant in the musical scene this year, in case some think otherwise, the Company's musical spectrum is neither incurably nor conservatively romantic -- except perhaps at our social gatherings in the Stationer's Hall!

Our involvement in the progressive musical world is by no means new. In earlier years, the Company was associated with developments at City University whose

programme continues to include Electroacoustics, Psychology and Electronics. Subsequently there have been new awards for composition embracing electronic techniques.

Currently, in association with the Royal Academy of Music, active consideration is being given to making some funds available for the production of a compact disc which would both promote contemporary music and hopefully give a degree of publicity to the artists concerned.