

Concerto for percussion and embroidery machine

BRYANT AND TUCKER is a small family firm specialising in machine embroidery. Its origins date back over 100 years to the grandmother of the present owner Judith Hornby. The new factory is now computerised in virtually all its aspects.

Both Judith Hornby and husband Robert have been active in the Arts, namely music, sculpture and painting. This resulted in their involvement with the Warwick Festival. The idea was mooted of putting on a performance inside the factory. The suggestion of a percussionist soon had the thinking directed towards the idea that the machinery might play a part. Matthew Griffiths, a member of Yehudi Menuhin's scheme Live Music Now, and already booked for other work in the Festival, visited the factory to hear the machines and test the acoustics.

Next came the challenge -- creating a computer control program for the embroidery machine. The aim was to make the machine perform its proper function and produce a finished embroidery whilst making an interesting range of sounds. The design theme chosen was Peter and the Wolf, being related to a main theme of the Festival. The company's chief designer produced the idea which, once approved, was converted into a program by the senior pattern-maker. The program was then edited to elicit the required sounds breaking up the normal



Robert Hornby with Matthew Griffiths meeting the challenge production chatter into a syncopation suitable for 'instrumentation.' The factory was re-arranged to give the best layout both for the audience and the acoustics, This involved moving some forty tons of machinery and equipment — all to be back in place for production after the weekend.

The event was a sell-out and thoroughly enjoyed by the very wide range of audience present. This original musical experience was also the subject of a national television programme, The Clothes Show.

Court Composition

AT THE November Court, the resignations of two Pastmasters, Nat Abrahams MBE (1976/1977) and Leonard Halcrow JP (1978/1979) were notified. We are happy to record their agreement to become Honorary Assistants.

While with typical modesty, neither could be prevailed upon to comment upon their contributions to the wellbeing of the Company, for those who would question its conservatism during their years of office -- amongst many noteworthy events -- a new scholarship was provided at the City of London School for Girls, a Research Fellowship in Electronic Music was awarded and Maisie Lewis artists performed both at the Wigmore Hall and in the Isle of Wight!

Given their attributed leisure/hobbies, we hope that they will long enjoy swimming in warmer waters and the pursuit of crime!

CLERK'S OFFICE

**1 The Sanctuary, Westminster
London SW1P 3JT
Tel: 071 222 5381**

Please note: Liverymen wishing to raise a matter for consideration at a Court Meeting are asked to write to the Clerk not less than three weeks beforehand.

Correspondence

In April 1986 I was clothed and became a Liveryman of the Company. The following November I attended the Installation Dinner for the Master Elect. It was a thrilling occasion for a new Liveryman, though I thought it strange that on the most important occasion in the Master's year, his Lady was absent.

As each year passes this seems to me more absurd. In fact it is an insult both to the Master and his Lady that he is unable to invite his 'most important' guest to his Installation Dinner. It is time that this archaic and anachronistic practice ceased. Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Charvet

I noted in your previous Editorial that the present Master's request for answers to the question 'How can you help your Company,' produced a disappointing response from Members. As a new Freeman, and not yet a Liveryman, it is perhaps presumptuous to offer help so soon. But as Head of one of the four Specialist Music Schools in England it occurs to me that there might be occasions when the Worshipful Company might appreciate some musical entertainment from some of our extraordinarily gifted pupils. I would be only too pleased to put this to the Director of Music if you feel that the idea is attractive.

John Baxter, Wells Cathedral School

Horse Play I

We are forming a polo club having already held our first tournament which was a great success.

I would like to know whether it would be possible to organise an inter-livery company tournament this summer. Perhaps a number of livery companies will be able to field teams and that others might merge for the purpose of putting forward joint teams. I look forward to hearing from polo players and would-be polo playing members of your company.

Toby Greenbury
City of London Solicitors' Company

Horse Play II

Sir Thomas Beecham, conducting a rehearsal of *Gotterdammerung*, was already in tetchy mood at what he regarded as a poor performance by the orchestra when Brunhilde's horse wandered onto the stage, and decided to relieve itself. Turning to the orchestra, Beecham told them: "The spectacle may be distressing, gentlemen, but that horse is a damn fine critic."

Two new stars recently made their debut at the Royal Opera House. Casius and Buster are black geldings, measure 16 hands in their hooped feet. They made their entrance in the fourth act of the new production of *Carmen*. Given past experience, the idea was a brave one. There is no critique as to how the new stars performed.

From the Daily Telegraph