

the City of London School organ, drawing out its variety of tonality. Francesca played with fluency and evident technical ability and – to her great credit – was not put off for a second by two unfortunate ciphers on the organ. A consummate professional! In the Franck *Cantabile* Francesca drew out all the changes of tonality in the work with great sensitivity. To finish, the Matthias *Invocations* used the organ's Trumpets *en chamade*. Again, her technique was very much to the fore with many complex changes of registration to capture the contrasts in the work. Francesca's new appointment at Peterborough is indeed well-deserved.

Then, finally, Joanna Westers playing a Cuyppers violin of 1808. Trained at the Amsterdam Conservatory and the Utrecht School of the Arts, Joanna is currently at the RCM, has completed the Post-graduate Diploma and now studying for a Master's. She has won the Princess Christina of the Netherlands' first prize and the Donemus Prize. Her imaginative and wide-ranging programme included works by Bach, Ravel, Elgar and Gershwin. The Bach *Sonata in E minor* came first, a very difficult work and particularly so as the first piece in a programme. It immediately showed us Joanna's technical ability and the clarity of her playing. In the Ravel Joanna really got into her stride. She displayed great powers of interpretation and revealed the drama inherent in the work. A gentle and lyrical rendering of Elgar's *Salut d'Amour* followed, which was much appreciated by the audience. To finish, Joanna played Heifetz's transcription of Gershwin's *Prelude 1*; a complex work which she pulled off with great aplomb and brilliant playing. What an end to the four finalists' programmes!

The audience then retired to enjoy a glass of wine and the adjudicators to their deliberations. What a task. The four finalists were, of course, all winners anyway and had demonstrated very clearly why that was the case. When we reconvened in the hall, the Master announced that the winner of the Prince's Prize for 2007, an award of £2,000 and a Silver Medal, was Milos Karadagic.

At the conclusion of the four performances, the audience had also been given the opportunity to vote for the finalist we particularly liked, under the auspices of the Prudi Hoggarth Audience Prize, an excellent, apt and generous addition to the Prince's Prize evening. The voting slips having been counted, that prize and a cheque for £200 was presented by the Master to Joanna Westers.

It was a wonderful and worthwhile occasion which really does deserve to be enjoyed by a much bigger audience of members of the Company.

Freeman Michael Hockney

THE MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2007



Malcolm Torrent

This year's Mountbatten Festival of Music, featuring the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and held annually at the Royal Albert Hall for three nights in mid February, is celebrating its thirty fifth year. The concerts were originally held to honour the memory of Sir Malcolm Sargent who, for twenty years, was the Honorary Musical Advisor to the Royal Marines Band Service. Following the untimely death of Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the concerts were renamed in 1980, not only to preserve his memory but also to continue to support the CLIC Sargent cancer charity.

On Saturday 17 February 2007, The Master of the Musicians' Company, Dr Andreas Prindl CBE, accompanied by fellow liverymen, Patricia Norland and Lt Col (Retd) Malcolm Torrent, were invited as guests by the Royal Marines Principal Director of Music, Lt Col Chris Davis OBE to attend the last night of this extremely popular military band spectacle.

It was a memorable evening, where the massed bands, comprising Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth, Plymouth, Scotland and the Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, joined forces with the Corps of Drums. A very exciting and versatile programme of music, which was both varied and entertaining, was given a high quality performance by the 150 or so musicians on stage. The concert was honoured this year with the presence of the principal guest, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The BBC's main news presenter Darren Jordan was the compère for the evening. It was his fourth appearance

at the Festival and with his background of a West Indies education and at the Royal Academy Sandhurst, followed by seven years as a commissioned officer with the Jamaica Defence Force, he was a natural link during the evening to address the packed house in the illustrious surroundings of the Royal Albert Hall.

The programme of music ranged from traditional military music featuring the Corps of Drums to exciting recently commissioned compositions for symphonic wind band, encompassing modern visual effects and musical technology. Wherever the Royal Marines serve in the world, so a taste of the music was sampled from the Caribbean, the Americas, and Australasia to the *Cry of the Celts*, *Rule Britannia* and *Jerusalem*, there was flavour for everyone.

The music of Liveryman Martin Ellerby featured in a newly commissioned work *Terra Australis*, detailing a thematic interpretation of the vast continent of Australia with its diverse cultures and landscapes. Another commissioned work entitled *Vistas Latinas* by Robin Dewhurst introduced exciting rhythmic combinations in mambo, nautical overtones and reflective themes.

The concert ended with the ever-popular *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* with antiphonal bugles sounding out the nautical calls, ending with the traditional *Sunset*. It brought to a close a versatile and exciting programme, which was confirmed by the popularity of packed houses every night in this regular massed bands event.

Liveryman Lt Col Malcolm J Torrent