

# Preserve Harmony



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## NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

### THE MASTER ELECT

FAMILY HISTORY HAS IT that as a somewhat precocious juvenile, at the mere age of 5, your Master Elect once provided an unsolicited vocal accompaniment to all the principal "hits" on the soundtrack of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at a cinema in North London, long since demolished. The Performing Rights Society never had a chance to catch up with him!

There followed a dubious career as a thoroughly amateur pianist and accompanist in closed school music competitions. Any aspirations to achieve "higher things" were summarily abandoned consequent upon an acute fit of nerves under the stern gaze of the demanding, but, in his time, legendary and much respected, Dr. Douglas Fox, to whose achievements, as Head of Music, Clifton College owed so much. That, notwithstanding, Fox subsequently allowed him to join the school choral society, thereby instilling a lifelong appreciation of the many facets of vocal repertoire, is something for which he has never ceased to be grateful. However, he has given his last public musical performance. Yet, while he remembers the difference between a semi breve and a semi quaver and there were obviously no prizes for music, he did win recognition for his interpretation of Madame Jourdain in an excerpt from Molière's *"Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme"* – in French. Subsequently as a mature student, he spent a year at a well known international Business School during which he discovered a latent creative ability as a co editor of a unique "Case Study" about the academic and social mores derived from imbibing a well known beverage. In spite of everything he was accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts some three years ago – thanks in part to Pastmaster Sir Vivian Dunn.

So how is it that the Master Elect achieves office in the Musicians' Company? Given that in 1854, his great grandfather began a textile trimming business just outside the Square Mile with premises for over 50 years in Sun Street and Spital Square, his allegiance might easily have been to one of the textile Guilds or even the Tin Plate Workers, since it eventually became an Electric Cable Manufacturer. Herewith the explanation.

In the early 1950s, as a result of the late Pastmaster Geoffrey Hawkes' connections with the Radio & Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation, the Court decided that the Livery should henceforth include representation from the Electrical Component Manufacturing Industry. From amongst those admitted were senior executives of Bulgin's



*Photo: The Master Elect, Adrian Davis and his wife Barbara.*

(Switches), Belling & Lee (Aerials), Garrard, (Turntables), Telcon (Electric Cables) – in effect those organisations associated with Music Reproduction. Some forty years later, while Adrian Davis – whose father served as a Member of the Court – may only be the first to become Master as a consequence of that decision, the Company has benefited throughout the intervening years.

As for the ensuing year, the Master Elect hopes to maintain the momentum generated by recent Masters, intended to improve the awareness of our cause in which so much interest was evident following participation at the highly successful Livery Companies' Exhibition at the Guildhall in July. This event happily and most conveniently coincided with the establishment of our new office relocated in the City in conjunction with the handover from Michael Fletcher to our new Clerk, Simon Waley.

Adrian Davis considers it a happy augury that both he and Sir Nicholas Jackson, who is both Master Draper and a Liveryman of the Musicians' Company, will hold office simultaneously. As a consequence, it is hoped that the social calendar will offer some fresh attractions at which together with his wife Barbara, he will be able to welcome not only our regular supporters but some of those whose faces we see far too infrequently.