

*An over-view by Liveryman Jill White.*

Liveryman Wing Commander Arthur F. Bulgin endowed this annual award in 1954 to be offered to a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, on the nomination of its Director. Since then, there have been 43 recipients nominated by the four Directors of Music: Dame Ruth Railton (the Founder of the NYO); Ivey Dickson OBE; Dr Derek Bourgeois and myself, since 1994.

In 1966 and 1969 the Medal was not awarded, just in case someone thinks I can't count!

Of the 43 Medallists it is quite astonishing many have made a hugely successful career in music, but the NYO does not only offer the award to players who are determined to make the music their profession. For example, I awarded the medal to the clarinettist, Andrew Russell in 1995, knowing that his ambition was to become a paediatrician. (A Liveryman of our Company does not have to be a musician - there are similarities between the two philosophies). Nevertheless, his contribution to the NYO was of the highest order - distinguished both musically and socially - a model for others in every way.

It is, therefore more than likely that some of the names unknown to me on this impressive award list may have chosen careers other than music. Having experienced the professionalism of the orchestra, which has traditionally recognised that excellence is achieved by a focused mind and hard work, every NYO'er knows how to transfer these skills to all other disciplines. I am confident that all the Bulgin Medallists will have distinguished themselves in their chosen field, whatever their profession.

When Dame Ruth had the idea for the NYO, more than 50 years ago, though still only a young woman in her 20s, she was well aware of the joy of discipline and the enormity of God's creation! What is life if the soul is not fed with great music, art, or philosophy? What is life if we do not seek to be wise? These are mega-challenges of course, a lifetime is not long enough, but there is never any boredom! Is it not more fun to travel than arrive?

Liverymen have had the opportunity to hear one of the recent Medallists - the harpist Catrin Finch who has played a couple of times at Livery Dinners. However, without wishing any offence to those names not included, I would like to mention a few of the Bulgin

*THE GALLIARD ENSEMBLE* (Maisie Lewis Company Concert) met with an enthusiastic reception when they gave a recital at the Bishopsgate Hall for the City Music Society.

*LUMINITA SPINU* (Priaulx Rainier Award) informs us that she is currently studying for a PhD degree in composition at King's College, London under the supervision of Silvina Milstein. Recent commissions and first performance highlights include 'Mass and Songs' for the Department of Continuing Education, University of Wales; an anthem for choir, organ and clarinet on a text by George Herbert entitled 'Let all the World in every corner sing' for St. Marlebone Parish Church and 'Satire' for Chamber Ensemble, Lontano and Odaline de la Martinez at the Cheltenham Festival.

*From SARAH OWNSWORTH.*

"I was the recipient of a £1000 grant from the Company's Allcard fund in 1996, which was awarded towards my postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music. I graduated in July 1998 with a Diploma of Postgraduate Performance with Distinction, and I also gained my L.R.A.M. teaching qualification.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Company for enabling me to gain from the wealth of opportunities I experienced whilst at the Academy. I took part in all the classes available, such as the song classes (Lieder, French, Italian and English song) oratorio and opera coachings, movement and acting classes as well as individual lessons and master classes. There were several competitive prizes awarded each term at the Academy, and I received a number of commendations, particularly for

Medallists - their names I feel sure, will be familiar to you: Christopher Seaman; Iona Brown; Anthony Pay; Paul Barritt; Richard Watkins; Michael Collins; David Briggs; Anthony Marwood; Edward Dusirberre; Ursula Gough and David Pyatt. An alumni list to be proud of.

Every year the NYO has to raise more than £400,000 from trusts, grants and business sponsorship. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may like to support this 'National treasure'. To sponsor a concert may be just the exciting opportunity you or your company has been seeking. You can be assured that the NYO will deliver - youth, excellence and dedication make a heady mixture!

performance of English song. I was a member of the winning ensemble of the prestigious Croft Sherry Prize for Early Music in 1997, which was adjudicated by James Bowman and Andrew Parrott. Early music has become my specialism; I also won the other two remaining prizes available for performance of Early Music: the Helen Eames prize for Early Music Singing and the Hilda Anderson Dean prize for solo recital of music before 1750 (vocal or instrumental).

Choral singing also played a major part in my Academy life. As a member of the Academy Chamber Choir, I twice visited Neresheim Abbey in Germany for a week which culminated in a concert for a capacity audience of 1500. However, the most memorable occasion of my time at the Academy was a concert given by the Academy Sinfonia and Chorus at the Royal Festival Hall, The concert was in memory of Princess Diana, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and featured a number of famous soloists, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, Broadcast live on Radio 3, it was an all Mozart programme, (Mozart being Princess Diana's favourite composer), and ended with a most moving performance of Mozart's Requiem.

May I repeat my heartfelt thanks for the support I received from the Company indeed for the way in which you continue to support many other students who are unable to fund themselves."

*From THOMAS WALKER.*

"I am the recipient of the scholarship you award the City of London School. I thought you may be interested in how I am progressing, particularly the musical activities I have been involved in recently.

I am currently in the lower sixth form, studying four A-levels (maths, physics, music, and english literature), I play three musical instruments (the saxophone, euphonium, and trombone), and also sing in the school's chamber choir, The past term has been, musically, a very busy one. I have played and sung in a number of concerts and recitals, and in a wide range of ensembles and groups. These performances included playing in a jazz band on an open-top bus in the Lord Mayor's Show, singing Carmina Burana and Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms, and playing the Henry V suite with the orchestra. I have also been involved with an LSO workshop on Stravinsky's Soldier's Tale."