

MEMBERSHIP

For some months – certainly within the confines of the Court, and perhaps outside – a lively debate has been joined over whether or not the numbers admitted to the livery should be restricted. With opinions evenly divided, it has been agreed to delegate the matters to the Master and Wardens' Committee for review on an annual basis.

COMPANY CREST

With the advent of the quincentenary, the opportunity has been taken to modernise and to standardise Company literature and stationary – and we are extremely grateful for the interest and work of designer John Hawkins, who, with liveryman Anthony Peagam, has refreshed a great deal of existing material and created a great deal more, such as the Funding A Future brochure, this newsletter and the soon-to-be-published register of Company members.

The 1889 crest that has been formally “adopted” for future use is by Alfred Scott-Gatty, with an additional scroll prepared by the College of Heralds and carrying the words “Preserve Harmony”.

WEBSITE

The Court has approved the setting up of a Company website, and if you have the kit and the knowhow it's immediately worth a visit: www.musicianslivery.co.uk.

It is intended that some pages will be exclusive to members of the livery. In addition, the site will provide details of the Company calendar and the programme of the Livery Club, and carry extracts from *Preserve Harmony*.

PRIZE WINNERS

Constant and Kit Lambert Awards at the RCA.

Junior Fellowship The 1999/2000 award has been made to the composer Kenneth Hesketh.

New Horizons Award The first winners are the Belcea Quartet, who have subsequently won the prestigious Osaka Prize.

Allcard Fund Winners for Postgraduate Study Konstantin Boyarski, viola; Heather Tomala, recorder; Ian Farrell and Helen Withers, voice.

DONATIONS

Grants totalling approximately £5,000 have been made to: Lord Mayor's Appeal; St Paul's Cathedral; Peter Warlock Society; Sadler's Wells; YCAT; British Music Society; Lontano; Royal Northern College Quarterfest; Jennifer Bate International Organ Festival; Southwark Children's Foundation; and St Michael's Cornhill.

PROFESSIONALS' FORUM

At the invitation of the Master, Professor Malcolm Troup, a group of liverymen has met to consider the creation of a professional musicians' forum, to advise on issues of importance to the Company.



Challenging HORIZONS

The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, one of Europe's leading and most active conservatoires, is well-prepared for the new century, writes Penny Steer

In November 1997, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama presented a production of what is nowadays regarded as Haydn's best comic opera, *La fedeltà premiata*. The School's established reputation for the professionalism and excellence of its opera work once again ensured capacity audiences and, as usual, the production attracted a number of highly complimentary reviews in the national press.

The opera was sung in English in a new translation by the School's Head of Opera Studies, Clive Timms, and as well as recording the visual, vocal and musical achievements in general terms, each review interestingly singled out for special mention the clarity of the diction.

At first sight such a comment may seem unremarkable, but the reference in one of the reviews to the “bemusingly

international cast” opens a window on what has become a constant and fundamental aspect of the Guildhall School's ethos and reputation – its internationalism.

To describe the School as offering a truly international environment is no exaggeration, and a further particularly striking instance of the “bemusingly international cast” was a recent performance of a quintessentially English work, Vaughan Williams' *On Wenlock Edge*. In this only the tenor soloist, Adrian Thompson, was British. The accompanying ensemble was composed of three students from Bulgaria, one from Ukraine and a Piano Fellow from Israel. The interpretation was revealing, refreshing and intensely moving.

Within the School as a whole over one third of its 660 or so full-time students typically come from outside the United Kingdom. In the 1998/99 academic year

