

PROGRESS?

It seems like yesterday that the announcement of an Organisational Review of the Company appeared in these columns – to be precise, in March 1995. Some people know that the wheels of God move slowly and might be forgiven for wondering whether the Musicians have got into first gear!

To put the matter in its true perspective, while the principle was agreed eighteen months ago, matters such as the terms of reference and membership of the Working Party were only finally approved by a specially convened Court meeting exactly twelve months ago.

Membership is currently as follows: Chairman: Dr. John Hosier, The Current Master, The Treasurer, The Clerk, Peter Andry, Adrian Davis, Jonathan Rennert, Professor Kevin Thompson, Nigel Tully, Gavin Barrett and Sir Alan Traill, the selection being partly determined by the need to achieve a balance of artistic and commercial representation!

Subsequently, a number of meetings have taken place which have necessitated the preparation and debate of several discussion papers. As this issue goes to Press an interim Report has been completed for submission to the October Court.

Recommendations include those concerning:

Clarification of the Company Objectives to emphasize and amplify our commitment to excellence in education given the recognition that the most difficult challenge for young musicians is to establish themselves in the professional world.

The Livery size, membership criteria and admission process.

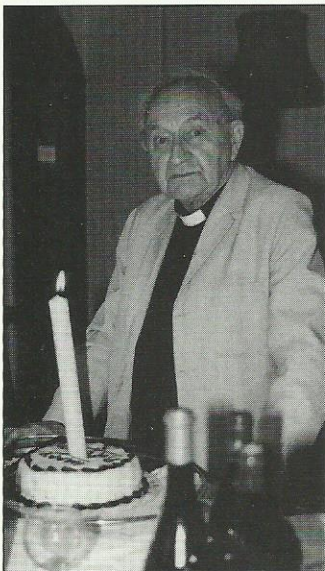
Numerous administrative considerations and the ability of the Company to manage the financial consequences.

Suggestions for activities and projects with which the Company may wish to be involved consistent with its objectives being also mindful of the provisional plans under consideration for the Company Quincentennial celebrations in 1999/2000.

We should also like to record that, where applicable, the Working Party has endeavoured to take account of views expressed in the survey which was completed last year.

More anon!

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Rev Donald Baker

ON THEIR 80TH BIRTHDAYS TO: Our Hon Liverymen The Rt. Hon Sir Edward Heath KG, PC and Lord Menuhin OM, KBE.

On his 90th birthday to: Liveryman, Almoner and Past President of the Livery Club, the Rev Donald Baker who gave us the following prayer to mark the occasion:

'O God who in the gift of music has given us a revelation of thy divine beauty, Grant that through music we may raise our friends from the sorrows of this world to the enjoyment of thy divine loveliness.'

To Liveryman Peter Hewitt on his recent marriage.

To Liveryman Ivor and Mrs. Mairants on their 65th wedding anniversary in October.

MUSICIANS' COMPANY CONCERTS

Wigmore Hall

The Maisie Lewis Young Artists Fund concerts in July were an overall success in spite of the train strikes. The decision to group the evenings into a series was an experiment which, although exceptionally well supported, did not prove to be so popular with members of the Company – particularly those living out of town or on holiday. Nevertheless, the efforts of Liveryman Jan Lowy as Concert Administrator, the Livery Club Action Committee, the Maisie Lewis Committee as well as the Clerk's office combined to achieve the best ever attendance.

As a result, we shall be returning to the Wigmore next year for at least two separate concerts. The Clerk will also try to ensure that the sustenance following the music will be more in keeping with the standards achieved on the platform!

Felix Aprahamian writes:-

Thank you for inviting me to the first of this season's Musicians' Company Concerts in the Wigmore Hall. Your added invitation to a retired octogenarian music critic, even one who hasn't yet reached the advanced state of hating all public concerts, to write about it, courts an unpredictable response.

Hastening to allay your fears, let me reassure you that the one on July 1st now joins a select list of musical experiences heard since 1928 in my favourite London concert room. Among those including French Music were a Debussy programme by Cortot and Maggie Teyte in prewar days and some of the wartime and immediately post-war concerts sponsored there by the Free French.

I had already heard Sandra Zeltzer, winning the Maggie Teyte competition. Her lovely voice, both in cabaret Satie or soulful Duparc, and Felix Holler's immaculate piano playing came as no surprise. On the other hand, the cello and piano duo of Jamie Walton and Daniel Grimwood was a revelation. To my ear, only exceptional tone and technique make unaccompanied cello solos less than penitential but Mr. Walton's Third Britten Suite was a joy to hear. So, too, was the sheer virtuosity of Mr. Grimwood's accompanying Chopin's Introduction and Polonaise.

Their partnership in Debussy's Sonata for cello and piano proved unforgettable. If its almost feline whimsey defeats more stolid players, the sensibility of these two young musicians, controlling every nuance while playing everything by heart, won them a moving ovation.

It is left to the oldest critic speechless with, as the French say, "Rien à dire".

Pizza on the Park

The other major Company platform, the Jazz Evening in the same month was another success. The high standards which are achieved, the active support of famous personalities such as Liveryman John Dankworth are attracting interest beyond the sphere of our Company with the result that we enjoyed yet another full house.

Pastmaster Jeffery Lockett, Chairman of both the Maisie Lewis and Jazz Committees wishes to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.



John Dankworth on stage with 'Bone Structure'. The picture includes the Master with Sir Nicholas Lyell, Attorney General whom, together with his wife and family were guests of Assistant Nigel Tully.

Photo: Peter Holland.