

NATIONAL MUSIC THERAPY APPEAL

By Pastmaster Richard Crewdson

"MUSIC ENHANCES LIFE. MUSIC GIVES LIFE MEANING". Those words of Anthony Storr are nowhere more literally true than in the context of Music Therapy which, during the last 50 years, has shown itself able to give and restore the meaning of life to great numbers of children and adults, for whom normal communication is impossible. Music Therapy stands out as a form of treatment that by experiment and research has been found to be beneficial in an ever-increasing number of medical and psychological conditions, at the last count more than 100. This is despite the fact that there are not many more than 300 trained Music Therapists working in the UK. Still one hears, even from medical practitioners, the repeated question: "What is Music Therapy?"

Music Therapists must be trained musicians. They then take a one or two year special course in order to learn how, by combining musical skills and psychology, they can teach people how to communicate through music, albeit at a very basic level, as the patient's music skill will usually not advance much beyond what can be achieved with a couple of sticks on a simple percussion instrument. But it is the therapist's response and gentle guidance along the path from chaos to order over a period of many months which produces the results, sometimes truly amazing, often quite emotional.

The Appeal is intended to help Music Therapists to consolidate all that has been tried and tested so far, and to provide a secure base from which to move forward into the 21st Century. It will help to finance Centres for Music

Therapy under the direction of the MusicSpace Trust in various parts of the UK. It will enhance training and information facilities and support specific research and fieldwork projects to which individual Therapists are committed, but for which there are no other funds available. It will endow the only Senior UK Research Fellowship, which hitherto has been financed ad hoc from annual fundraising by the Music Therapy Charity.

How can you help?

Through the generosity of The Irish Society and the Musicians', the Appeal is being conducted from St Dunstan's House. The Director, Alethea Rogers and her Personal Assistant, Kay Tyler, would be very pleased to provide you with more information. The address is the same as the Company's (telephone: 0171-600-4696). Do please ask for an Appeal Brochure and an "Events Pack" giving 101 ideas for fundraising activities, and ask your friends, relations and neighbours to help you in organising a fundraising event.

N.B. Sunday 28th April:

BBC LIFELINE Appeal (usually about 5.10pm. but check the time). This will demonstrate on TV the work which Music Therapists are currently doing.

Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May:

Classic FM 9am - 11pm; The "Operathon", in aid jointly of the National Music Therapy Appeal and the Welsh National Opera. Lots of goodies to bid for interspersed with a feast of opera and more first-hand information about therapy in action. (See also 'Music Therapy' by Liveryman Margaret Percival in our September '92 issue, Ed).

FROM THE CLERK

TO MANY PEOPLE THE WORD "CLERK" CONJURES UP A PICTURE OF A DICKENSIAN CHARACTER dressed in a frock coat armed with a quill pen, some ink with plenty of blotting paper sitting on a high-backed stool and surrounded by masses of ledgers stacked to the ceiling.

The modern Clerk is responsible for the whole administration of the Company. He has to be conversant with the computer, to be able to keep the Company's books and must produce full accounts ready for audit at the end of each year.

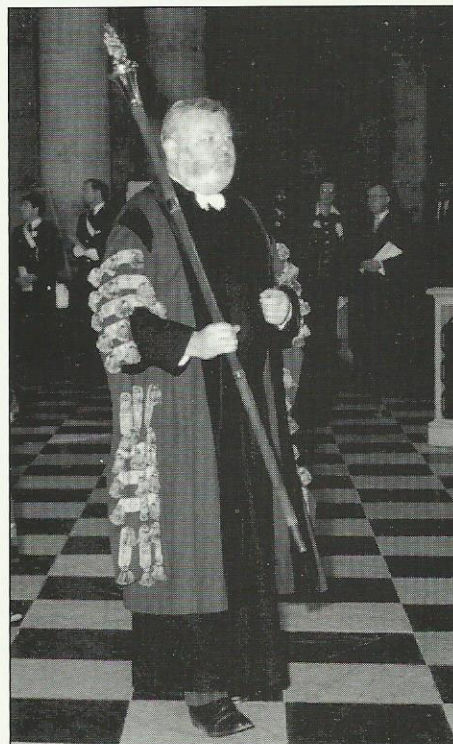
The Company has some 20 sub-committees meeting up to four or more times a year to oversee its various needs. This entails the preparation of agendas and the recording of minutes

of some fifty of these meetings together with the preparation and follow-up which this requires.

There are four Company Dinners a year so the Clerk becomes a caterer on these occasions choosing the menus and wines in conjunction with the Master and endeavouring to see that the books balance. He also liaises with the Hall, plans the seating, assists the Master with the music and all the other associated proceedings. There are also five informal lunches which have to be organised in-house.

There are Ceremonies each year in Guildhall relating to the Election of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and beside the United Guilds' Service, we have our own St Cecilia's Day Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral.

FAREWELL



Philip Chancellor, our Beadle, has resigned to take up the position of Verger in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. We thank him for his loyal service and support and wish him well in the future. Photo: Philip Way

DONATIONS

Liveryman Ivor Mairants is donating a substantial sum to fund an important new prize for guitar jazz performance.

Harry Weinrebe, who has just been elected to the Freedom of the Company, has made two major contributions to the General Fund for possible use towards the re-organising of the Company's archives.

A further contribution of £45,000 to the Constant and Kit Lambert Fund has been received from the estate of Mrs. Camilla Hole.

The Clerk is also expected to support the Master in his City duties as Representative of the Company by accompanying him at numerous different functions.

Another duty is organising the entry of new Members into the Livery, to welcome them into the Company and to try and assist them in getting to know existing Members and to understand our particular traditions.

Finally, we are preparing for our Quincentenary celebrations in the year 2000 which will create a major additional challenge to the Clerk's Office. It will be an exciting part of what is a fascinating job with infinite variety.