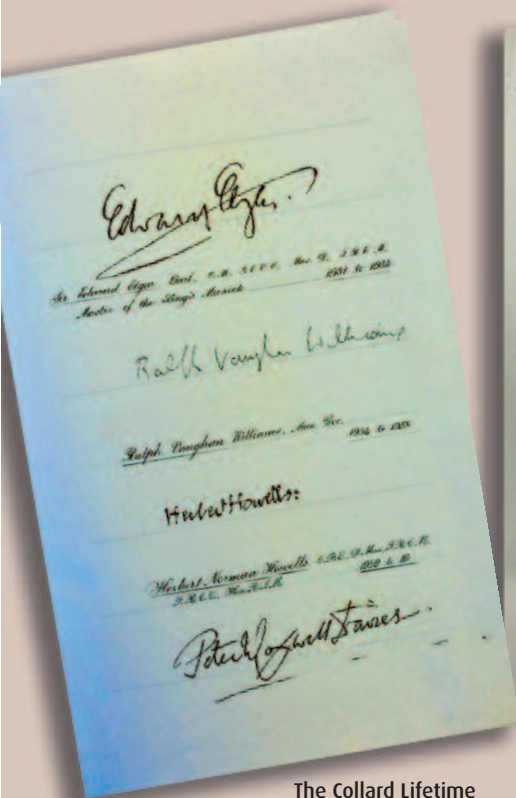


THE COLLARD DYNASTY AND THE FELLOWSHIP



The Collard Lifetime Fellowship Signatures

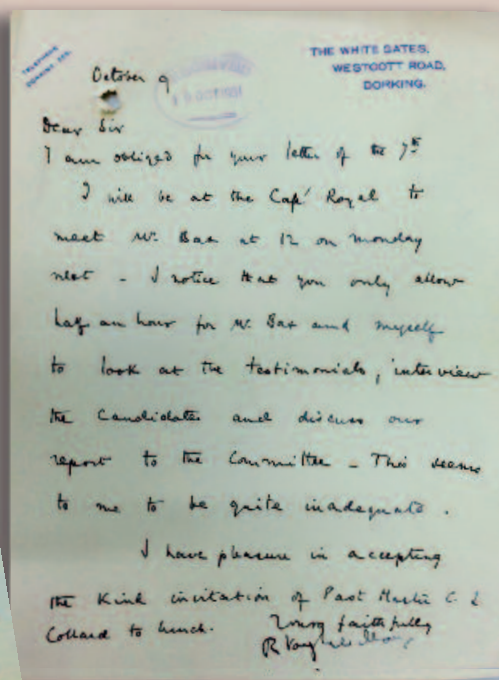
The Collard Fellowship is one of the most distinguished awards that the Musicians' Company makes and since its inauguration in 1931 (endowed by a £8,500 bequest from John Clementi Collard) holders have included many celebrated composers. The terms of this financially generous Fellowship are that it should be given to:

"...a musician of proven ability (minimum age 28) but prevented by financial stringency from fully exercising and improving their talent".

The first Collard Fellow in 1931 was Herbert Howells at age 39. On the selection committee for that inaugural award was Ralph Vaughan Williams. Howells went on to become Master of the Company in 1959 and was actually awarded the Collard Life Fellowship in that same year. The Life Fellowship (also inaugurated in 1931) is for the most distinguished British Composer of the time. It has been awarded just four times, namely Sir Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Professor Herbert Howells and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

The Company's Archive website www.wcomarchive.org.uk contains a good deal of information about these Fellowships and indeed the Collard family, who served the Company throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. It also gives further details with images regarding the Medals awarded, lists all the recipients since 1931 and presents the 'Fellowship Signature Book'.

The Collards were well-known piano manufacturers in London for well over 100 years. The first Collard to distinguish himself within the Musicians' Company was **Frederick William**



Letter from Ralph Vaughan Williams

(1771-1860) who served as Master in 1826, 1845 and 1846. In 1834 the Company gave him an engraved silver snuffbox, in appreciation of his "... zealous exertions towards promoting... the Company" (about which, more later). Frederick William's nephew **Charles Lukey Collard** (senior) (1807-1891) was elected Treasurer in 1860, and was Master in 1864 and 1865. C. L. Collard's family comprised six children, two of whom continue our story.

William Stuartson Collard (1843-1904) and the afore-mentioned **John Clementi Collard** (1844-1918) served their apprenticeships, were admitted to the Freedom and clothed with the Livery on the same day in 1871. W. S. Collard was elected to the Court that same year and was elected Master in 1877 and 1889. He took on the Treasurer's responsibilities in 1887, a position he held until 1904.

However, it is John Clementi Collard who lies at the heart of our story. Elected to the Court in 1886, he served as Master in 1893 and again in 1899. He served as Master once more in 1901 when Sir John Stainer, celebrated composer, died in office. In 1904 J.C.C. was elected Treasurer of the Musicians' Company, a post he held for the rest of his life.

On the unexpected death in 1909 of the Junior Warden (Rev. Robert Henry Hadden), his 20-year-old apprentice was "turned over to Mr J. C. Collard". The apprentice's name was Adrian Boulton, who in later

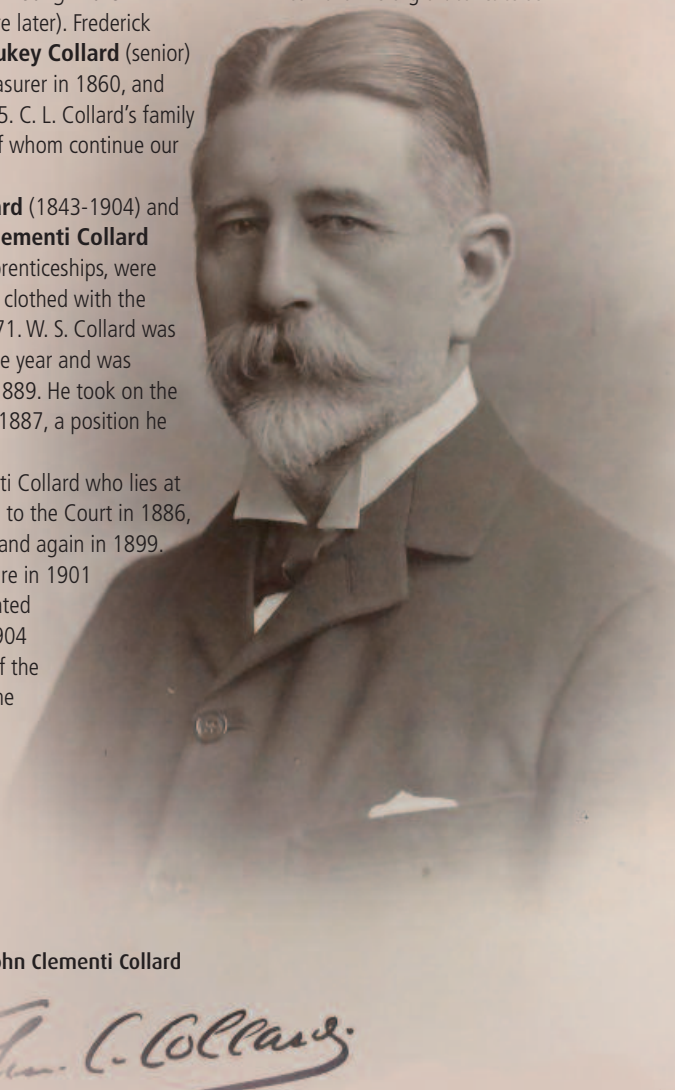
years became one of Britain's greatest and longest-lived conductors and a distinguished member of our Livery.

In 1911 **Cecil Collard** (J. C. Collard's brother) presented back to the Company the silver snuffbox given to his great uncle Frederick William in 1834 – a treasure still owned by the Musicians' Company today.

To close this family history, J. C. Collard's son was **Charles Lukey Collard** (junior) (1879–1931). He was Senior Warden in 1915 and it was his suggestion that led to the Company's presentation of inscribed gold watches to professional musicians who won the VC in World War One (see *PH Issue 52*, pp. 12-13). It is with C.L.C. that the links between the Company and the Collard family come to an end – but we have much to remember and to be grateful for, considering their outstanding service to music and the Company.

Liveryman **DAVID HERBERT**

NB: The Company's Archive Group welcomes comments from Company members and researchers and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in helping with its work. Contact us via the dedicated archive website: www.wcomarchive.org.uk/contact-us



John Clementi Collard