

# 'SERENADE OF FEAR'

'MUSIC HATH CHARMS TO SOOTHE A SAVAGE BREAST' wrote William Congreve in 1697, but spare a thought for the musician who provides this gentle consolation, for his gift may cost him more than we realise.

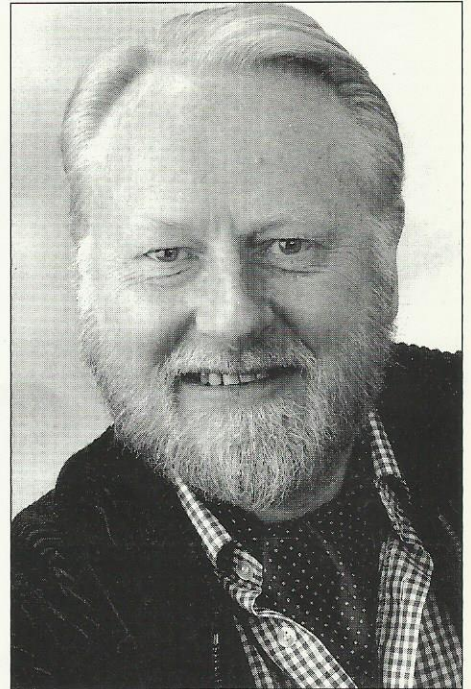
When Liveryman Ross-Russell gained an exhibition to study at the Royal College of Music in the fifties, he soon became aware that nerves were part of the musician's lot, and that his instrument – the trumpet – was notorious for revealing them. He understood very well the effect of such stress on others and, indeed, on himself on many occasions.

Later, as a conductor, he discovered that the increase in responsibility was not more nerve-wracking, but rather less. The baton made no sound, and constant physical movement quickly dispelled any pre-concert tension. But then conducting is a strange job; what other performance activity will allow one's back to face the audience, and one's eyes to be closed to everything in sight? Pace von Karajan!

Some years ago, when teaching at McGill University in Montreal, Noel Ross-Russell began studying psychology, and eventually received accreditation as an Adlerian counsellor. More recently he has become involved with the British Performing Arts Medicine Trust, and he has found it most rewarding to be in a position to help with difficulties which cannot be left off-stage, but must still remain hidden from the audience.

It was, to a great extent, the insights that have resulted from these disciplines that stirred him to write a novel 'Serenade of Fear', which deals with some of the less frivolous aspects of a musician's life, but is nevertheless a love story. Its setting is the present world of music in England and its plot is drawn from the author's personal experience of life and work in an orchestra – a life of both stress and achievement – which will surely make fascinating reading.

"Serenade of Fear" is being promoted by W.H. Smith as "The Music Novel of the Year" and is published by Open Gate Press at £6.99.



Noel Ross-Russell Photo: Mike Goss

## MAISIE LEWIS CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE



The Master and Pastmaster David Loeb with the original members of the Chillingirian String Quartet at the special Silver Jubilee Concert on 31st May together with artists Phillippa Davies, Ann Mackay and Julius Drake.

### INFORMED OPINION

Said of a prospective candidate for the Court:  
"Considering how many letters he has after his name,  
he is quite a good musician!"

## OF MUSIC

By the time this journal is printed, tributes to the several Liverymen who have passed away this year will have already appeared elsewhere. However, at the suggestion of Pastmaster Hubble, both for all of them and for you, we are reproducing the following extract from the Memorial Service held on 7th July for Sir Vivian Dunn read by the Master:

"Although music is not a religion, I think its importance and its appeal also depend upon its being a way of ordering human experience.

Great music both arouses our feelings and provides a framework within which our emotions enjoy themselves.

Music exalts life. Music enhances life. Music gives life meaning.

Great music outlives the individual who created it. It remains a fixed point of reference in an unpredictable world.

Music is a source of reconciliation, exhilaration and hope which never fails.

Let me end by affirming that, for me, music has been "something for the sake of which it is worthwhile to live on earth".

Music has incomparably enriched our lives.

Music is an irreplaceable, undeserved, transcendental blessing."

From "Music & the Mind"  
by Anthony Storr