

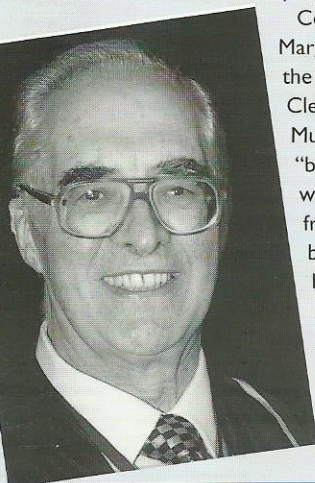
The anniversary CD's cover picture is also the Company's 1999 Christmas card

Life Fellowship four years later. The recording also features the singing of liveryman John Carol Case (who had the dubious distinction of being my music master at school more than 40 years ago).

Pastmaster Sir Vivian Dunn's stirring rendition of Alford's march brings immediately to mind his military bearing and imposing presence – he is unsurpassed in this repertoire, and how good it is that he recorded so much of it during his long career. The only piano solo (composed by Collard-Fellowship holder Constant Lambert) is played in appropriately moody style by Richard Rodney Bennett; it would have been good to have included more instrumental music on the disc had space permitted.

Also appearing is *Musicians of the Millennium* [ISBN 095371800X], the first-ever complete register of members of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, originated and edited by Assistant Norman Tribble (below) and described as "all you never knew about the current members of the Company".

Compiled by Margaret Alford, the Assistant Clerk to the Musicians, the "birthday book" will be available free to members of the livery from the company office.



THE MAKING OF THE COMPANY'S CD

Festival Organiser George Derbyshire writes: During his tenure as Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Assistant John Hosier produced, at the request of Sir Alan Traill, an LP album – *The City Celebrates* – to mark Sir Alan's mayoralty of the City of London (1984-1985).

On taking the chair of the Musicians' Quincentenary Committee, Sir Alan drew up a list of ways in which the Company's 500th anniversary might be marked. High on that list was the production of a CD; and it was to Dr Hosier that Sir Alan again turned for help to select the music.

In making his selections, John Hosier adopted the concept that every piece should have some connection with the Company or

the City. In some cases, the composer or the performer have been the recipient of an award from the Company, or is or has been a member of the Company. In other cases, the works chosen reflect aspects of the City's history, of which the Musicians' Company has been an integral part.

As I researched the music on the CD for the booklet that accompanies it, a number of interesting facts emerged to reinforce the basis on which John Hosier made his selections. It is hoped that both the CD and the booklet will provide a useful historical resource for the Company.

Significant technical help and support was given by EMI in the production of the CD, and was of course invaluable.

A real joy is the contribution from Dame Cleo Laine – two songs from Shakespeare, with music composed by liveryman John Dankworth, whose quartet also accompanies. The words are familiar, the composition refreshingly untraditional.

Of the other works, mention must be made of liveryman Sir Malcolm Arnold's, illustrating a never-failing gift for melody in his *English Dances*. The four extracts from *Variations on Sellenger's Round* (commissioned by Britten for the 1953 Aldeburgh Festival) represent composers who were involved with the Company.

It is a shame that the variations by Humphrey Searle and Arthur Oldham were excluded. While they may not have had close connections with the Company, their omission does give us rather short measure in this commemorative work.

A final mention must be of Elgar's *Elegy*

(composed for the Company in 1909), the manuscript score of which is one of our great treasures. Barbirolli conducts simply and with affection, and the New Philharmonia provides a fine memorial to these two honorary freemen of our Company.

The notes to the CD, informatively and enthusiastically written by George Derbyshire, are well illustrated by archival photographs. Indeed, the presentation of the whole project is excellent, and copies of the CD will make splendid gifts – worthy and lasting souvenirs of 500 years of the Musicians' Company.

I hope only to discover before long that a companion CD (perhaps including Andrew March's commissioned work for next year's Proms) is to be issued to celebrate the closing of our quincentennial celebrations and to commemorate yet more of our past and present members.

FIRST PEEP AT MILLENNIUM BOOK

Liveryman Anne Griffin writes: Helping to compile biographies for *Musicians of the Millennium*, the Company's birthday book, has given a privileged but not intrusive insight into the lives and achievements of fellow liverymen.

The Company throws its net wider than other organisations to which musicians belong though, obviously, music in some form is an important factor in all our lives, whether as performers, makers or restorers of instruments, composers, teachers, administrators or simply music-lovers – seeing us through joyous times and difficult times.

It has been fascinating to discover what liverymen like to do in their leisure-time. Inevitably, music overlaps here. But what a wealth of other activities come to light!

Among more unusual pursuits are the collecting of early Chinese ceramics, books on

and pictures of Adam and Eve, historic video film-making, beagling, decorative cake-making and tap-dancing.

Members of the Musicians are also keenly interested in other art forms – theatre, sketching and painting, architecture, cinema and photography. We are also avid readers and travellers, and many of us have enthusiasm for food and wines, cooking, entertaining and dining out. There is at least one locator of rare malts; and a member of the Chianti League.

Perhaps it's just as well that our most popular pastimes are gardening, walking and golf.

