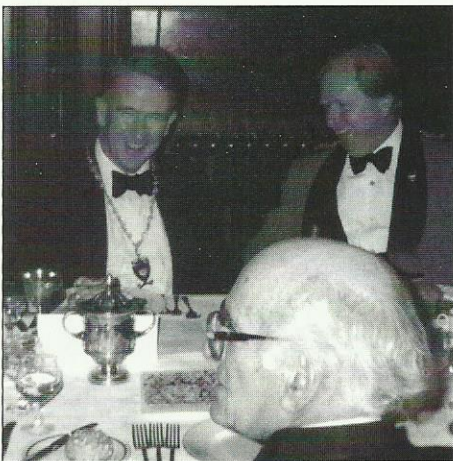


My year of office was launched at the Installation Dinner in the Stationer's Hall with a specially composed fanfare. It was played by representatives of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall with which the Company has had such a long association, fostered by the present Commandant, Colonel Tim Hoggarth, a member of the Company. For the Midsummer Banquet at the Drapers' Hall, the fanfare was commissioned by the Dunn family in memory of Pastmaster Sir Vivian Dunn. These two new musical offerings symbolised the close connections of the Company with the musical organisations of the Army and the Royal Marines. On successive nights in June, I was fortunate to be able to attend, in wonderful weather, the summer concert at Kneller Hall and Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines on Horse Guards Parade. In the autumn I was invited to the Prize Day at Kneller Hall and I, together with the Clerk and other Liverymen, represented the Company at the memorial concert for Sir Vivian Dunn at the Guildhall. Particularly memorable was Beating Retreat under a full moon in Guildhall Yard, miraculously cleared of any sign of the building work which was in progress. Earlier in the year, in February, my family were very appreciative that a representative of Kneller Hall provided a powerful and moving trumpet descant for the final two hymns at the memorial service at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy for my father who had been Master in 1981-2.

St Paul's Cathedral plays an important



**The Installation Dinner with Liveryman Col. Tim Hoggarth, Commandant of Kneller Hall and Pastmaster David Loeb.**

Photo: Pikeriver Films.

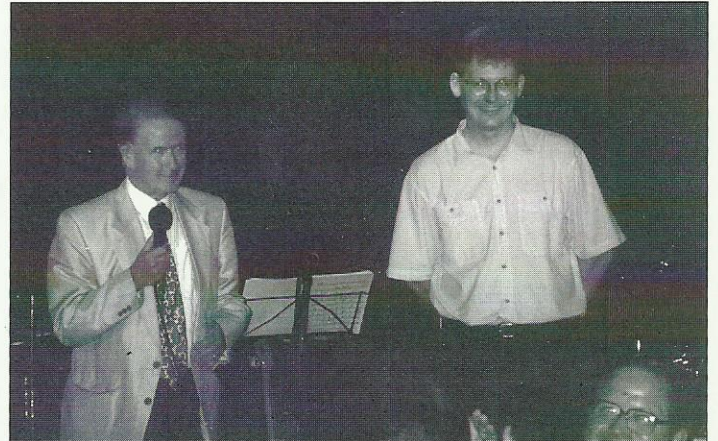
part in any Master's year, beginning with the St Cecilia Service at which the Master traditionally reads a lesson. The music is at present overseen by Liveryman John Scott who conducted the choristers for the Company grace at our Midsummer Banquet, a performance of haunting beauty which I can still hear in my mind as I write. This year, I was invited to join the procession for two special occasions at St Paul's. The first was the installation of the Bishop of London, when Masters of the

City Companies processed under the impressive leadership of Philip Chancellor, our former Beadle, who had retired after the Installation Dinner on his appointment as Verger of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. My particular memories of that service are of the enormous gathering of representatives of diverse churches, all in their particular ceremonial dress, and the formidable figure of the new bishop at the altar robed in a cape decorated with representations of St Paul's and other London places of worship. The other event was a sad occasion: the memorial service for Eric Evans, the former Dean, who, with his wife Linda, had been our principal guests at the Midsummer Banquet in Drapers' Hall. In anticipation of his retirement, he gave a delightful account of his time in office in London and Gloucester. We had hoped that his health would have improved upon his retirement, but sadly that was not to be.

The informal lunches, started during my predecessor Adrian Davis' year, in the offices that the Company shares with the Honourable the Irish Society, were continued. Due to the generosity of Liveryman Stephen Barrett, the lunches continued to be successful and popular. Thanks to the arrangements made by the Clerk, Hilary and Margaret, members of the Livery were able to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and, incidentally, to discuss ideas for the future activities of the Company. These were considered more formally in another of Adrian's initiatives – the Working Party on the Future of the Company which continued its work during my year under the conscientious chairmanship of John Hosier and produced recommendations which were put to the Court in the autumn. Among other things, these identified the 'wilderness years', the first years in a young musician's career, as a field where expansion in the scale of the Company's potential for support could be particularly valuable. The numerous musical performances and occasions I attended as Master reinforced my admiration for the vitality and talent of young musicians in this country and the importance of any support we can give them. The association of the proposed Millennium celebrations under the leadership of Sir Alan Traill, with fundraising for the intended Musicians' Company Foundation for Young Musicians, is now being pursued.

I was keen that the Company should play its part in the campaign launched by the Friends of the City Churches to inject new life into those of the City churches which have been under threat of closure.

Marcus Binney, the Chairman of SAVE Britain's Heritage and of the Friends spoke at the Installation Dinner. This was a cause of particular significance for the Company because of the recent closure for regular worship of St Sepulchre's Church, the home of the Musicians' Chapel, with which the Company has had a close connection. I associated the Company with their plans to get St Sepulchre's to open regularly so that it could be seen and appreciated by visitors. Some noble members of NADFAS



**On stage at the Pizza on the Park, The Master with Jazz Medallist Mark Nightingale and an enthusiastic Assistant Terry Pamplin.**

undertook to open the church every Wednesday and to be available to help visitors. In the middle of winter, this was quite an undertaking as the central heating can no longer be afforded. The Company sponsored a concert in the church in May in support of the Friends' campaign. At Liveryman Laurie Goodwin's instigation, the church was also the site of the memorial concert for Kenn Golightley in June. The Friends organised and publicised walking tours of City Churches which were well attended and, as Master, I joined Marcus to introduce the first of these at St Mary Aldermary. My fellow Court member, Jonathan Rennert, who is Director of Music of St Michael's, Cornhill (where he conducted the choir for the Musicians' Company carol service just after I had handed on the Mastership to Anthony Burnett-Brown) has been a great champion of the City churches and again organised a successful Open Day. I hope we have been able to play a small part in rekindling the Church of England's and the public's faith in the special quality and potential of these wonderful buildings.

I have been concerned that the Company's charitable donations should be used as effectively as possible. The Donations and Awards Committee reviewed the Company's policy on charitable giving and decided to concentrate a significant part of our donations on three particular projects; for the provision of music tuition and education in 'inner city' areas of London: music classes at St George in the East, the holiday music classes held at Morley College and the educational work in the East End of London of the Spitalfields